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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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RAIN WITH RISING PRESSURE

A recent number of "Punch" pictures an irascible gentleman, whose barometer has been rising for days, throwing it out into the rain, with a "Here, get out in the rain and see for yourself."

Rain with rising pressure Tuesday and Wednesday, rain with stationary high pressure Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and rain with falling pressure Sunday and Monday - such was the wetness that befell the south Atlantic and part of the east Gulf states a few weeks ago. If steady rain begins with rising pressure one may expect the rain to continue till the pressure not only stops rising but gets through falling afterwards. If, however, the rain is of a showery type or has continued from a period of falling barometer into one of rising, the wetness is likely to come to an end shortly.

With the steady rain type there is usually a northeast wind blowing from a cool or cold high pressure area and running under a warmer, moist wind from about the opposite direction. The warm wind rising continuously on the wedge of cool air is constantly being cooled and thereby having some of its moisture precipitated. The rising pressure is the result of a temporary approach of the "High" on the north which becomes deadlocked with a "low" on the south. Later as a low pressure area develops or approaches the "high" gives way, and the pressure falls as the "low" draws nearer. As soon as the "low" passes, drier air from the northwest is likely to stop the rain. When the rain is showery and occurs just after the barometer has fallen and is beginning to rise, it is usually the result of overturning of the lower atmosphere as a cold, heavy wind is displacing the warmer wind previously prevailing.

(Tomorrow: How Our Atmosphere Is Warmed and Cooled)

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