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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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MOON NO FORECASTER

In the days of astrologists, heavenly bodies were supposed to exercise a control over earthly events. Astrology has few adherents now, yet many people believe that the phase or position of the moon and stars affect our weather. It has been pointed out that heat received from the sun is the fundamental force determining weather. But the amount of heat received from all other heavenly bodies is so small that it can be measured only with most delicate instruments. It is not surprising, then, that the moon, planets, and stars cannot be blamed for our weather, unless, perhaps, through tidal action.

Yet the appearance of the moon and stars tells something of the condition of the atmosphere through which we look. Marked twinkling of stars often indicates a coming storm and obviously

"When the stars begin to hide
Soon the rain will betide."

So, too, we may say

"Pale moon doth rain
Red moon doth blow
White moon doth neither rain nor snow".

(Tomorrow: City and Country Climates)

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