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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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INDIAN SUMMER LACKING

Nearly every autumn has at least one "Indian Summer", a spell of warm balmy weather, undisturbed by storms. It seems like a faint return of summer after the first chilly and blustery periods of autumn. The origin of the name is uncertain; it is commonly believed that the American Indians used this mild period for storing their crops and completing their preparations for winter. Another suggestion is that the name refers to the dry hazy weather of the cool season in India.

This year we seem to have been cheated out of our usual Indian Summer. Storms have passed in such rapid succession that they left little time between for enjoying the beauties of autumn foliage and harvest fields. One particular low, or storm area made an astonishingly quick trip, covering the distance from coast to coast in scarcely more than 2 days, instead of the usual 4 or 5. Our barometers have been up one day and down the next, then up the third, with corresponding kaleidoscopic weather changes. Indian Summer comes when highs and lows stagnate, blocked apparently by a high in the East and Southeast. This makes light to moderate southerly to westerly winds in the northeast, with dry and pleasant days after cool nights.

(Tomorrow: Normal Temperatures)

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