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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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NOVEMBER WEATHER

Few of the British and American poets have a good word for November weather. Tom Hood writes in his characteristic vein:

"No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member,
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds, No-venber."

Tom Moore, in his "Odes of Anacreon", calls November "Noptune's sullen month";

Walter Scott says that

"November's sky is chill and drear"

Bryant writes of "bleak November winds"; Bayard Taylor declares that in this month,

"the Day, like a Puritan, standeth
Stern in the joyless fields, rebuking the lingering color." And so forth.

Our American Novembers, however, are not cheerless. In the northern United States and Canada the month is likely to be wintry, but it is no more dismal and uncomfortable than the two or three months following; rather less so, in fact, because the interludes in the program of wintry weather are generally dry, hazy and Indian-summery, instead of bringing thaw and rain.

In the southern United States this month belongs to autumn. It is a second October, but cooler and more serene. The transcontinental storm tracks have not yet swung far to the southward, as they will do a little later. The West India hurricane season is over. Thunderstorms are rarer than in any other month of the year. Rain is light and infrequent. There is a preponderance of dry, sunny days, when the air is a delight to lungs and nostrils.

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