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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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THE WEATHER OF ST. ANDREW'S DAY

There are several Old World sayings about the weather of November 30 -- St. Andrew's Day. It is proverbial in Germany that "Andrew brings the cold frosts", and there is another German proverb to the effect that "on the feast of St. Andrew it is truly winter, but afterward, on St. Nicholas' Day, we see it before all our doors"; evidently meaning that by the end of November the cold weather has set in, but snow comes a little later, St. Nicholas' Day being December 6.

According to the "Shepherd's Kalendar":

"If on St. Andrew's Day in the evening much dew or wet remains on the grass, it betokens a wet season to follow; if dry, the contrary."

Among the country people of Belgium, Germany and some other Continental countries there is a quaint custom of predicting the weather of the year on St. Andrew's Day. On the preceding evening a glass is filled to the brim with water and allowed to stand all night. If any water has run over by the next morning, a wet year is expected; if none has done so, the year is expected to be dry.

Of course this is an idle superstition, like the many other beliefs according to which the weather of certain days is an indication of the kind that will prevail during subsequent seasons.

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