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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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BLODGET'S "CLIMATOLOGY"

Lorin Blodget, the American statistician, was born in 1823 and died in 1901. Though his activities covered a wide range, he is remembered almost exclusively as the author of a work published in 1857, entitled "Climatology of the United States and of the Temperate Latitudes of the North American Continent," etc., commonly referred to as "Blodget's 'Climatology'". It was for many years the only comprehensive account of the climates of the United States and Canada, and is still useful for reference. It has been described as "a real treasure-house of the meteorological observations made before about 1850."

Prof. R. De C. Ward writes of this work:

"Out of the confused mass of scattering observations which had been accumulating from different sources at the Smithsonian Institution, at the office of the Surgeon-General, and from 'gentlemen at distant points distributed over the country,' Blodget brought, so far as was then possible, both order and accuracy. His book is still a valuable summary of many of the outstanding facts of American climate."

This pioneer treatise doubtless did a great deal to crystallize the ideas that prevail today concerning the distinctive features of climate in different parts of the country, characteristic weather types, etc. It devotes much space to comparisons between the climates of temperate North America and temperate Eurasia.

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