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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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Authority on Meteorology.

CHIEFS AS RAIN-MAKERS

Among savages the business of rain-making is usually entrusted to priests and magicians, but in Africa there are many tribes whose kings or chiefs are the official rain-makers. The popularity of these rulers generally depends upon their success in this art, and many a black potentate has been deposed because he failed to break a drought.

S. S. Dorian, writing of the Bechuanas of South Africa, says that "the highest compliment the natives can pay to the memory of a departed chief is to say that he was a great rain-maker." In the Kaba province of Northern Nigeria, says C. R. Niven, "the most prominent feature of the Yoruba-speaking tribes living west of the Niger is the honorable craft of rain-making. All independent chiefs and every chief of importance, except some in Igbedde, are held to have powers of creating or calling rain."

J. Roscoe tells us that in the central district of Busoga, on the north side of Lake Victoria Nyanza, the chief is supposed to be able to bring rain or sunshine at will. In time of drought the people go in a body and beg rain from him. "Should it come in a few days, they are happy; but, should it still delay, they re-assemble and abuse the chief roundly for his callous behavior, and demand that he shall exert himself and cease to be so idle."

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