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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed August 28, 1930.

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SOME WEATHER SAYINGS

In Yorkshire, England, people sometimes say at the approach of twilight, "I think there is going to be a Peg Walker shower." The tradition is that Peg Walker went out to make hay and after dinner fell asleep under a haycock till dusk. When she awoke, having no idea how long she had been sleeping, and noting the darkening of the sky, she exclaimed, "I think there is going to be a shower."

There is, or once was, a saying among sailors that when the sun gets up his backstays it is the sign of a storm--the "backstays" being sunbeams streaming down from breaks in the clouds through a hazy atmosphere. There is a French nautical proverb to a similar effect:

"Soleil avec haubans,  
Pluie et vent."

("Sun with shrouds, rain and wind.")

Some springs are early and some are late, but the Indians found it a safe rule to plant corn when the leaf of the white oak was the size of a mouse's ear. Compare the following English saying:

"When elm leaves are as big as a shilling,  
Plant kidney beans, if to plant 'em you're willing;  
When elm leaves are as big as a penny,  
You must plant kidney beans, if you mean to have any."

And here is one of several sayings about the supposed relations of trees to lightning:

"Beware the oak, it draws the stroke;  
Avoid the ash, it courts the flash;  
Creep under Thorn, 'twill save from harm."

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