

A Science Service Feature

Released upon receipt
but intended for use
March 10, 1931.

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

Mailed March 3, 1931

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THE PERENNIAL WEATHER WIZARD

The weather-maker is taken seriously by savage tribesmen. He was taken seriously by a certain section of the American press and public during last year's drought; and apparently his claims were viewed respectfully in England in the year 1807, when the following paragraph appeared in the London Times:

"A man at Thorn has announced a discovery made by him of a certain method by which he can procure a constancy of 'settled pleasant, healthy and fruitful weather,' and he adds that he hopes 'the great nation will attend to it.' This undoubtedly deserves attention. Such an experiment is certainly beyond that of Dr. Franklin and others, who made lightning by poking at the clouds; or those of a late writer, who proposes enormous mills and machines in this country, 'only to abate the rigor of the seasons' by the effect of their friction on the atmosphere; or that of Jacques Bernardin St. Pierre, who suggests the erection of pyramids, losing themselves in the skies, in countries where there are no mountains to attract vapor, create clouds and make showers of rain descend upon the plains beneath. It is suggested that we might as well buy up the secret as let France get it, for we want it, both at home and in our colonies. 'Tis, however, rather an awkward circumstance for this sagacious citizen that he did not discover his secret while Napoleon was struggling in his neighborhood with all the rigors of a winter climate in his campaigns against the Russians."

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