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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed October 7, 1933

AUTUMN AND SPRING

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Just why autumn and spring -- the two transition months between winter and summer -- should be so unlike in our climate is not altogether clear. A strong contrast between them undoubtedly exists, but this contrast is probably much enhanced by our personal impressions. The feeling of exhilaration and spiritual uplift that we experience on a fine autumn day, while partly due to the state of the atmosphere, is probably also in part a reaction to the sumptuous colors of the landscape, the soft haze in which all distant objects are bathed, and the aroma of leaf-dust and smoke that pervades the air. Then, again, the crisp coolness of autumn is a welcome relief from the rigors of winter to beasts and birds living in a state of nature, but for civilized human beings -- warmly clad and warmly housed -- winter is not, in general, an uncomfortable season.

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