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A Science Service Feature

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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ICE TRANSFORMS THE TREES

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology.

"In this clear air and bright sunlight the ice-covered trees have a new beauty; especially the birches, bent quite to the ground in every kind of curve. At a distance they look like the white tents of Indians. The birch is thus remarkable, perhaps, from the feathery form of the tree, whose numerous small branches sustain so great weight, bending it to the ground; and, moreover, because, from the color of the bark, the core is less observable.

"Far in the horizon the pine tops are turned to fir or spruce by the weight of the ice bending them down, so that they look like a spruce swamp. No two trees wear the ice alike. The short plumes and needles of the spruce make a very pretty and peculiar figure. I see some oaks in the distance, which, from their branches being curved and arched downward and massed, are turned into perfect elms."

The place is near Concord, Massachusetts. The date is January 2, 1853.
The writer is Henry D. Thoreau.

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