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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed Dec. 22, 1934

RHYMED WEATHER WISDOM

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Authority on Meteorology

Many familiar weather proverbs are in the form of doggerel verse: e.g.:

"A rainbow in the morning
Is the shepherd's warning;
A rainbow at night
Is the shepherd's delight."

"A sunshiny shower
Never lasts half an hour."

"Mackerel sky and mares' tails
Make lofty ships carry low sails."

Such rhymes are as common in other languages as they are in English. Here are a few specimens which I shall not spoil by translating:

French

"Temps rouge au matin
Met la pluie en chemin.

German

"Morgenrot -- schlecht Wetter droht;
Abendrot -- gut Wetterbot."

Latin

"Si sol splendescat Maria purificante,
Major erit glacies post festum quam fuit ante."

The last proverb embodies the well-known superstition about the weather of Candlemas Day (commemorating the Purification of the Virgin Mary).

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