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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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LONG-RANGE WEATHER PROVERBS

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Weather folklore contains many superstitious and nonsensical rules for predicting the character of coming seasons; but there are some well-founded proverbs that, while not serving to predict distant weather, merely assert that such weather, if it prevails, will have certain effects. Among these are

"Year of snow,  
Fruit will grow"

and "A year of snow, a year of plenty." These sayings only mean that a continuous or nearly continuous snow cover in winter delays the blossoming of fruit trees until after the danger of killing frost is about over and also prevents the alternate thawing and freezing of the ground that is ruinous to wheat and other winter grains. Dr. Humphreys, in his book on weather proverbs, cites further in this connection the sayings

"A cold April  
The barn will fill"

and "A late spring never deceives." Equally valid, he says, are the proverbs stating that an unseasonably early growth of vegetation is a sign of scarcity later in the year. Such are:

"January warm the Lord have mercy!"

"If you see grass in January,  
Lock your grain in your granary."

"A February spring  
Is worth nothing."

"March damp and warm  
Does farmer much harm."

These sayings are likely to hold good because of the effects of frost on prematurely developed plants.

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