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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SEA NOISES BEFORE STORMS

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Dwellers on seacoasts are familiar with a murmuring or roaring noise that comes at times from the ocean and, in calm weather, may be heard several miles inland. This sound, known as the "calling of the sea," is the subject of many superstitions and is generally regarded as the sign of a coming storm. Closely related to it is the "moaning of the bar," to which Tennyson refers in one of his best known poems. This sound of the surges sweeping over a reef or bar outside a harbor is likewise supposed to herald an approaching tempest. The grain of truth in these notions is that great swells, caused by a distant storm, often precede the arrival of the latter on a coast by hours or days. Thus they may arrive when the air is perfectly still and is a good carrier of the combined noises of the waves.

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