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"The old moon in the arms of the new
Is a sign of fine weather."

The moon with her changing phases has been associated with weather from the earliest times. The aborigines of this continent were "great observers of the weather by the moon." She was the goddess of water, and had influence on the rains. The aborigines thought the moon by her appearance not only foretold rains and fogs, but was the actual cause of these phenomena. Festivals were held at full moon to propitiate the deities of water. Now we look upon the phases of the moon as simply a result of its position in relation to the earth and sun. The appearance indicated in the above proverb is the earth-shine dimly lighting the dark part of the moon as the sunshine does the light part.