SOME STRANGE WINTERS.

SOMETHING ABOUT YEARS WITHOUT WINTER OR SUMMER.

Warm Winters as Heralds of Disaster Cyclones Which Have Come in Their Wake-Snow and Ice in June-Records of Old Times.

On the second page of Vennor's "Weather Buthetia" for January, 1889, was found the following: "During December, 1877, a western newspaper recember, 1877, a western newspaper re-marked that not since 1887 has any De-cember sensor been known so mild. have grasses are growing finely and dandelions are in bloom: navigation is perfectly open.". Commenting on this, Mr. Vennor says: "Now, again, in 1881, we have to record a very similar state of affairs for the same month of the year." The St. Paul Pioneer Press of Dec. 22, 1877, contained an editorial of which the following is an extract: following is an extract: "This remarkable weather knocks the

Old Settle: association on their beam ends. * * * Here it is the 22d of December, with the mercury dancing on its silver heels to the music of 50 degs. above in the shade. * * * Ten boats of the St. Paul Boat club, each occupied of the St. Fam bont club, each occupied with scullers or crews of oursmen, sport-ing upon the placid bosom of the ances-tor of meandering streams—all this and more, too, is the result of the remark-able weather which now prevails in Min-nesota. * * * This is a fact worthy of being nucced on greach for the banoff of being placed on record for the benefit of being placed on record for the benefit of all coning investigation of climatic facts and theories in Minnesota." The winter of 1877-78 is not the only one of exceptional mildness from which the writer has anthority to draw. A WARN CHRISTMAS. The winter of 1881-82 was as phenom-enal, as far as unseasonable weather was

enal, as far as unseasonable weather was concerned, as that of 1877-78. On Christ-mas day, 1881, the mercury stood at from 45 to 55 degs, above zero throughout the Mississipi valley, merging into sum-mer heat from the mouth of the Ohio southward. The day was clear and bright, with wind south to southwest. In Ohio, Indiana, filmiois, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska the farmers plowed every month during the winter. The illao buds swelled into full leaf. in February, 1882 month during the winter. The like buds swelled into full leaf in February, 1882, in nearly all the states named. On Jan. 26, 1882, the best tested ther-

mometers stoud at 42 degs, above in the morning, at 57 degs, in the afternoon, and did not fall below 50 degs, for over thirty-six hours. February showed twen-ty-one days upon which the mercury rose above 40 in the shade, and upon sixteen of these the temperature was above 50 degs, some time during the day. On the 5th, 6th, 10th, 11th, 12th and 15th it marked 60 or above, and upon, one occa-sion, the 12th, stood between 75 and 80 degs, for five hours.

The thermometer responsible for this The thermometer responsible for this seeming inconsistency failed to reach the high water mark of Feb. 12 again until after the end of the first week in June, with a single exception; May 4, when it marked 82. I mention this fact for the benefit of the reader who may think the instrument with which the readings were taken one of inferior grade, and, in consequence, very susceptible to fluc-tuations of heat and cold.

mations of heat and cold, Southern people who get nervous when they hear yellow fever mentioned in connection with the warm winter of 1877-78 can gain some consolation by watching the change which comes over the face of the western and northern man when he is informed that the spring like charge and hungry and Echapters. like character of January and February, 1882, indirectly brought about the many cyclones and prairie twisters of the sum-mer following. Many scientists, living and dead, the late Mr. Vennor among the number, believe and believed that years waters are very likely to be folwarm winters are very likely to be followed by a summer of destructive wind storms. As far as 1882 is concerned, the coincidence is remarkable,

A SUMMER OF CYCLONES. The twisters began to exhibit that year down in Louisiana early in March, about two or three weeks after the remarkable two or three weeks after the remarkable hot February day, leveling several towns and killing off the negro population at an alarming rate. Next, in April, a prairie terror sprang up, all unlooked for, in Rice county, Kan., traveled in a northeast direction, killing everybody in its track. On the same day three sep-arate evelones crossed the state of Michi-gan, k'lling in the aggregate seventeen persons and a great deal of stock, besides, destroving an immense amount of proestroying an immense amount of prop-rty. From that time forward cyclones erty hatched out like tadpoles in June. They were acce, there and every place for a-couple of months, doing great damage to property, but sparing human life, ex-cept now and then an isolated family.

man, who lived at Essex, Mass., at the

man, who lived at Essex, Mass., at the time, gives the following interesting facts concerning "the year without asumner" to The Jamestown Journal: "December, 1815, and January, 1816, were very warm, indeed, so mild that fires were seldom lighted in our rooma. February was also mild as spring time, with the exception of one or two cold days. March was cold and boisterous the first half, then mild to the middle of April, when winter set in with ice and deep snows, which continued till June. "June was bitter cold, the coldest ever known; frost, ice or snow almost every night, destroying almost everything that frost could kill. Snow fell ten inches deep in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, three inches in the inferior of New York state and in a part of Penn-sylvania and Massachusetts. July was cold and frosty. Ice formed as thick as window glass throughout New England. August was worse still. Ice formed as August was worse still. Ice formed a half inch thick and killed almost every green thing in this country and in Eu-rope. Corn for seed in 1817, that raised in 1815, sold for \$5 a bushel."

Not until December, according to Mr. Bishop, did the sun shine out warm, like spring. It seemed as if the seasons had en entirely reversed. -John W. Wright in St. Louis Republic.

Old Age Then and Now. I am afraid that old people found life rather a dull business in the time of King David and his rich old subject and friend, Barzillai, who, poor man, could not have told a teal from a can could not nave tong a teat from a can-yas back, nor enjoyed a symphony con-cert if they had had those luxuries in his day. There were no chimneys. There were no daily newspapers for the old man to read, and he could not read them if they were with his dim sees, nor hear them were, with his dim eyes, nor hear then read, very probably, with his dulled ears. There was no tobacco, a soothing drug, which in its various forms is a great solace to the many old men and to some old women—Carlyle and his mother used to smoke their pipes together, you remember.

remember. Old age is infinitely more cheerful, for intelligent people at least, than, it was two or three thousand years ago. It is our duty, so far as we can see, to keep it so. There will always be enough about it that is solemn, and more than enough about the is caddening. But how rands alas! that is saddening. But how much there is in our times to lighten its bur-dens! If they that look out at the win-dows be darkened the optician is happy

dows be darkened the optician is happy to supply them with eye glasses for use before the public, and spectacles for their hours of privacy. If the grinders cease because they are few, they can be made many again by a third dentition, which brings no toothache in its train. By temperance and good habits of life, prop-er clothing, well armed, well drained and well ventilated dwellings, and sufficient, not too much, exercise, the old man of our time max keep his muscular strength our time may keep his muscular strength in very good condition.—Dr. Holmes in Atlantic.

Looking on the Bright Side.

Uncle Billy Dawson, who lived in the house where Mr. Crounze was reared, was a kind hearted man, who never lost a chance to hold out hope to the despair-ing and sympathy to the suffering. He was always ready with the proof that however hard a neighbor's lot was, it might have been many fold worse; and his ingenuity at finding a recompensing gain for every loss that any one might suffer was a matter of local wonder-

One day somebody told Uncle Billy that his neighbor, Thomas Darrow, had that his heighbor, Indona Darrow, had fallen under the cars and lost a leg. Uncle Billy stood in silence several minutes, looking at the ground. Then, raising his eyes, he said: "Well, Fin awful sorry for poor Ton, but the several several time in the

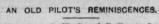
but there's some consolation in the thought that a pair o' socks'il last him twice as long a they ust to, and to a man as poor as he is that's a good deal." The next day Uncle Billy called on the injured man, and to his surprise learned that Tom had lost both legs. A little disconcerted, Uncle Billy stood by the bed in soletan consideration. Presently, however, his face brightened, and he said:

Well, Tom, if you had to loose one leg it's a mighty good job that you lost two. "O, Uncle Billy," said Tom, "how can

you say such a thing?" "'Cause it's true, Tom, true as gospel

"Cause it's true, Tom, true as gospel, You see if you'd only lost one leg you'd be thinkin' about it an' worritin' about it all the time, but now, you see, the loss of each one'll sorve to keep your mind off n the loss of the other. It's a great blessin' you' lost 'en both, Tom, 'stead o' only one,"-Washington Post.

The Chinese God of Literature.



AN OLD PILOT'S REMINISCENCES. What Capt. J. W. Campbell Has to Say About the Upper Minissippi. Capt. J. W. Campbell, of Fort Madi-ion, Ia., a pioneer pilot of the upper Mis-sissippi, writes thus about the past and present: "I emerged from the hazel brush in northeast Missouri in 1844 to take a first peep at the wide world be-youth with the cat fish and drift log bus-ings, it was but natural I should seek a nautical pursuit. Consequently I drift-ed on board an upper Mississippi steam-boat and began to serve as a cub pilot along shore between St. Louis and Fort Snelling. The first daty of a cub is to designate the difference between fore and aft-larboard and starboard-and with brains enough to determine if the current of the river runs to the north or current of the river runs to the north or

"The is then permitted to enter the pi-lot house and take the wheel, while his senior lights his pipe, and being consti-tutionally tired seats himself on an ele-vated bench in the rear and looks complacently on. Presently, under the ma-nipulation of the verdant cub, the wheel begins to spin from right to left-left to right-hard up and hard down; he strikes right—hard tip and hard down; he satisfies with his clunaxy paws at the revolving wheel with the awkwardness of his ma-tured namesake and involuntarily his pedal extremities come in contact with the spokes of the inner circle of the wheel below, thereby illustrating the re-sults of centrifug: I force by throwing him outside of the nilt house. him outside of the pilot house.

"But after a few more experiments of a similar kind he becomes more skillful, and with less exertion guides the boat steadily along, and then begins his great-est task by learning the shores that he may distinguish unerringly one locality from another in the darkest night, after which he is directed to observe the fol-lowing landmarks: 'Head of Island, Foot of Bend, Cut Bank, Willow Towhead, Big Hollow, High Bluff, Point-no-Point, Dead Cottonwood Tree, Tall Syca-more,' with many more, all of which by association become indelibly painted upon the panorama of the mind, and when they are recognized by the cub they become welcomed companions to him in the darkness of the night-a warning sentinel by which he avoids the breakers and reefs ahead.

"He is now prepared to stand a watch, is no longer dubbed the cub, but is en-titled to promotion and receives the cog-

nomen of 'star gazer.' "It was much harder when I began for one to learn than at present, for the country above Prairie du Chien was uninhabited, except by Indians and a few white traders, but now we have villages and cities from ten to twenty miles anart, with government lights located at every difficult crossing on the river. While on my first voyage I was directed on passing the head of Coon slough to hold her on Wild Cat bluff, where now nestles beneath its shadows the prosper-ous village of Brownsville, and on asous village of Brownsville, and on as-cending ten uiles farther up we land on the east side of Prairie La Crosse, con-taining then but two louses. The upper one was occupied by a Mr. Mirick, used jointly as a residence and warehouse, and 100 yards below stood a log hut tenanted by a Mr. White, while the bar-ren sand banks intermediate were dotted with Winnebago wigwams. "On this bleak and lonely sand prairie of the past we behold at present a mag-

"On this bleak and lonely sand prairie of the past we behold at present a mag-ical change. The name is abbreviated to plain La Crosse. Instead of two resi-dents, we find here now a population of over 20.000 people. We hear the sound of the buzzing saw of nills less than a hundred yards apart for over five nills up and down the river, while in front along the share and saw logs await-ing to be towed down the river to supply ing to be towed down the river to supply the increasing demands of the great southwest.

"In place of one solitary steamboat landing here semi-monthly, we see them come and go by the dozen every twenty-four hours, for more of them are owned in La Crosse than at any other point be In Lit Crosse than at any other point be-tween St. Louis and St. Paul, and my companions in days of yore, with the fledgings of today, have organized a pilot association here with over 150 mem-bers, who question the propriety of the government in appointing an inspector whom they down inspredenced

whom they deem inexperienced. "Again we are under way, passing upon our left majestic bluffs arising sevral hundred feet above the water's edge. while upon our right we view for miles in the distance the valley of Black river, whose pine timber has since added millions to the wealth of the pioneer settler. After steaming eighteen miles farther up this rock bound mountain shore ${\bf I}$ observed pine trees growing upon a ledge of rocks, and on the the face below was



Next came the appalling calamity at Grinnell, Ia., in which fifty-six persons lost their lives. On the same night cy-clones of minor size visited Kanasa, Mis-souri, Nebraska, Illinois and Minesota, killing from three to twelve in each state. s of thestates just mention-e list given above, in which ed, and a that plowing continued to winter. After the Grin-sent a fortnight of compar-tigned. Then came the Tex-men, of nell hor ative q

t reigned. Then came the Tex-duality, in which nincteen hu-vere blotted out of existence, man y does not take into con-t the evolone at Brownsville, at Fayette, Pa., both of which it April of the same year, nor at McAllister, I. T., and at ery, Ark., in May, each of atimed a bloody record. One estains it tekes into considera-ga to show that "phenomenal" ceather is a boon not to be ap-

OLD TIME WEATHER.

The record for the summers of 1878 and 1882 it must be admitted, strength-ens that opinion; but what are we to think of the summer of 1816, which brought neither cyclones or yellow fever, and which, in fact, brought a summer colly in name. The winter of 1815-16 who can was as remarkable for its unseasonable weather as that of 1857-08, 1877-78, 1881-82. E. Bishop, an intelligent old gentle-but not

The Chinese Recorder of Shanghai con-tains a paper on the "Life and Writings of the God of Literature." This being, it appears. lived through seventeen dif-ferent lives as scholar and official, al-though the records of only nine lives now exist, the remaining eight never having been preserved. In his own per-son he completed the perfection of the three religions of China. One of his works contains a chapter on ghosts and men, of which the following is the sub-stance: "A ghost is the corrupt part of man, and man is the pure part of a ghost. A man can be a ghost, and a ghost, a mutualle related: why separate man and

A DMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE Notice is hereby given that letters of fullen, atte of the longest of Charles, it is neveled and state of Pennsylvania, deceased, are been grantest to during states are requested to mands will make know the same without de-mands will make know the same without de-terms without the same without de-terms without de-mands will make know the same without de-terms without de-terms without de-terms without de-terms without de-mands without de-terms without de-

.