

only a serene, but a *calm* night, when so near the full as to appear round to the eye—a tendency of which we have assured ourselves by long continued and registered observation. This, however, is more than a “simple connotation.” The effect in question, so far as the clearance of the sky is concerned, is traceable to a distinct physical cause, the warmth radiated from its highly heated surface; though why the effect should not continue for several nights after the full, remains problematic.

(8.) Lunar prognostics about the weather may be classed under three several heads,—viz., 1st, Simple connotations of the appearance of halos, coronas, lunar rainbows, and “a watery” moon, as prognostics of wet. No doubt they do indicate the presence of vapour, passing into cloud, in the higher regions of the air (in that of the rainbow, actual rain not far away), and so may be put on a par with the indications which may sometimes be gathered from the behaviour of birds, especially such as fly high, and make long excursions, and which may convey to us some notion of *their* cogitations as to the coming weather; which are perhaps more likely to be right than our own, as founded on a wider range of perception. 2d, Purely arbitrary *laws* or *rules* founded on the hour of the day or night at which the changes of the moon take place. There is (or was a few years ago, for we believe the race is dying out) hardly a small farmer or farm-labourer who had not some faith in certain “weather-tables” in the “Farmer’s Almanac,” ascribed (we need hardly say falsely) to the late Sir W. Herschel, and which went on this principle. Others, again, pressed