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JAMAICA.

NOVEMBER 26, 1885.

No. 59.

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# WEATHER REPORT

FOR THE MONTH OF

OCTOBER, 1885.

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W34  
1885  
[Oct.-Dec.]

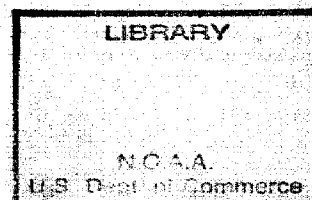
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JAMAICA:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING AND STATIONERY ESTABLISHMENT, 79 DUKE STREET, KINGSTON.

1885.



# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

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## METEOROLOGICAL RESULTS FOR OCT., 1885.

KINGSTON :—

	7 a.m.	3 p.m.	11 p.m.	Mean.
	in.	in.	in.	in.
Barometric pressure ...	29.954	29.883	29.962	29.933
Temperature of the air ...	77°.6	86°.5	76°.6	80°.2
Dew-point ...	72.4	72.5	72.1	72.3
Humidity ...	84	64	86	78
Maximum Temp. ...				88°.8
Minimum Temp. ...				73°.0
Range of Temp. ...				15.8
Direction of the Wind ...			S.E. by S.	
Velocity of the Wind in Miles per hour ...				1.4
Percentage of Cloud ...				46

Total Rainfall—0.62 inches.

Average Weather :—Fair dry any still.

The highest temperature was 90.5 recorded on the 5th & 15th; the lowest was 70.3 recorded on the 21st 23rd & 24th; extreme range was therefore

## CINCHONA PLANTATION :—

		in.
Barometric Pressure	7 a.m. ...	25.237
"	3 p.m. ...	25.212
Temperature of the air	7 a.m. ...	63°.3
"	3 p.m. ...	65°.5
Dew-point ...	7 a.m. ...	58.1
"	3 p.m. ...	63.4
Maximum Temperature		69°.5
Minimum Temperature		59°.5
Direction of the Wind		E.
Velocity of Wind in Miles per hour the		5.1
Temperature 6 feet below ground		65°.

## BLUE MOUNTAIN PEAK :—

The Maximum, Minimum, and Rainfall registered at any time refer to the interval since the preceding registration; the Temperature of the air and the Weather were noted at the time of registration :—

1885.	Hour.	Max.	Min.	Rain-fall.	Temp.	Weather.	Ob-server.
		°	°	in.	°		
April 4		53	48	0.79		N. light, foggy	
" 18		63.5	42	1.72		W. light, foggy	
May 2		74	49	3.52		E. strong, foggy	
" 16		76	46	0.00		S. light, foggy	
		66.5	48.5	5.90			
July 10		68	49	0.40		E. light, clear	
" 25		67	47	4.34		N. strong, clear	
Aug. 8		70	47	4.22		N. light, clear	
Sept. 26	3.30 p.m.	78	49	1.76	60	Cloudy	B.S.G.
Oct. 29	10. a.m.	71	42.5	9.65	63.5	Fine	C.F.S.

The instruments were put in their place by Mr. D. Morris, March 26th 1885.

NOTE—The Barometric pressure is the reading of the Barometer corrected for instrumental error and reduced to 32°, that of Kingston being farther reduced to the sea-level. The Thermometers are similarly exposed at the three stations; their readings have all been corrected. The following are the elevations of these stations above the sea-level ;—

Kingston (Rae Town)	5 feet
Cinchona Plantation	4,850 "
Blue Mountain Peak	7,335 "

At New Haven Gap (in the Blue Mountain Range elevation about 5,600 feet) the mean maximum and minimum temperatures were 73°.8 and 54°.0 respectively.

At King's House (in the plains of Liguanea, elevation about 400 feet) the mean maximum and minimum temperatures were 88°.2 and 71°.5 respectively.

## THE HEALTH OF KINGSTON.

The following table shows the number of deaths in Kingston during the month from a few groups of diseases, compared with the average number for the month for a few years past :—

	OCTOBER.	
	1885.	Average.
Infantile diseases not otherwise specified	18	13
Lung diseases ...	11	12
Fever ...	10	5
Dysentery and Diarrhoea	10	3
Various ...	64	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>79</b>

The unusually large number of deaths from Fever, Dysentery and Diarrhoea is due to the rains which fell in September and the subsequent drying-up of the ground.

## RAINFALL FOR OCTOBER 1885.

The first columns contain all the Rainfall returns sent in for publication up to the date of this report, the second columns contain the corresponding average Rainfall according to the Tables published in October, 1883, as Nos. 31 and 33 of the present series of reports; and to an unpublished supplementary Table of the average Rainfall at certain places where gauges have been registered for at least five years. In obtaining the mean Rainfall for the month from the numbers in the first columns, only those stations are considered for which the average Rainfall has been given in the second columns; so that the results of these two columns are directly comparable. These results are more clearly shown in the Comparative Table at the end of these Rainfall returns :—

## NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION.

		OCTOBER.	
		1885.	Average.
		In.	In.
Morant Point L. H.	St. Thomas	4.88	13.40
Hordley	...	3.55	14.55
Holland	...	2.12	...
Elmwood (Long Bay)	Portland	2.63	...
Boston	...	3.95	...
Port Antonio	...	1.68	...
Cinchona Plantation	St. Andrew	5.75	20.58
New Haven Gap	...	10.22	...
Newton	...	6.13	...
Stony Hill Reformatory	...	4.56	15.60
Castleton Gardens	St. Mary	3.73	12.49
Dover	...	2.20	...
Water Valley	...	5.89	8.69
Quebec	...	7.69	...
Port Maria	...	10.49	...
New Ramble	...	7.26	7.08
Gayle	...	8.86	13.98
Goshen	...	...	...
Rio Hoe	St. Ann	5.37	13.07
Unity Valley	...	6.32	7.85
Albion	...	10.33	7.88
Bradfield	...	4.03	7.67
Drax Hall	...	5.30	7.80
Seville	...	3.77	6.86
Richmond Estate	...	8.89	9.28
Llandoverly	...	6.40	8.17
<b>Means</b>		<b>5.93</b>	<b>10.87</b>

## NORTHERN DIVISION.

OCTOBER.

1885. | Average.

		In.	In.
Lillyfield	St. Ann	12.42	9.76
Home Castle	...	9.47	...
Richmond Pen	...	7.60	...
Colchis Pen	Trelawny	7.47	...
Mahogany Hall	...	11.13	5.02
Hopewell	...	11.06	6.08
Brampton Bryan	...	3.59	5.28
Bryan Castle	...	5.10	5.18
Braco	...	7.40	4.81
Arcadia	...	7.46	...
Harmony Hall	...	8.56	4.14
Lancaster	...	10.14	5.16
Duncans	...	8.50	...
Vale Royal	...	9.63	5.91
Hyde	...	10.04	7.59
Georgia	...	11.00	5.29
Steelfield	...	9.03	5.98
Oxford	...	9.02	...
Cambridge	...	8.38	4.86
Spring	...	9.41	5.21
Lottery	...	5.68	6.12
Falmouth	...	6.54	6.07
Holland Pen	...	6.92	...
Golden Grove	...	4.15	6.66
Hampstead	...	...	...
Fontabelle	...	7.46	...
Pembroke	...	7.85	5.17
Green Park	...	...	...
Phoenix	...	11.22	...
Tilston	...	8.09	6.69
Orange Valley	...	7.49	5.31
Kent	...	6.74	5.65
Dundee	...	6.66	5.70
Gale's Valley	...	4.60	7.43
Greenwood	St. James	5.85	...
Guilbro'	...	8.10	...
Spring Vale	...	...	...
Latium	...	12.87	9.52
Cinnamon Hill	...	...	...
Rose Hall	...	...	...
Running Gut	...	2.00	5.63
Tryall	...	1.80	...
Irwin	...	...	...
Ironshore	...	4.29	5.25
Providence	...	4.62	...
Montego Bay (Market)	...	6.14	...
Catherine Hall	...	7.55	6.73
Catherine Mount	...	6.69	7.67
Fairfield	...	7.81	...
Means		7.79	6.06

## WEST CENTRAL DIVISION.

OCTOBER.

1885. | Average.

		In.	In.
Linstead	St. Catherine	5.16	9.16
Whitney	Clarendon	...	...
Cave Valley	St. Ann	10.23	10.41
Marshall's Pen	Manchester	...	...
Barten Isles	St. Elizabeth	12.03	...
Appleton	...	8.74	12.10
Windsor Pen	Trelawny	5.12	...
Maroon Town	St. James	9.96	...
Holland	St. Elizabeth	...	...
Kepp	...	5.55	11.30
Mount Edgecombe	Westmoreland	4.72	8.93
Windsor Forest	...	8.32	...
Woodstock	...	6.13	...
Kew Park	...	...	...
Hermitage	...	12.25	...

## WEST CENTRAL DIVISION, continued.

OCTOBER.

1885. | Average.

		In.	In.
Chester Castle	Hanover	8.15	...
Copse	...	6.25	10.94
Haughton Grove	...	8.89	...
Kempshot	St. James	8.91	...
Bandon	...	...	...
Anchovy	...	7.12	7.13
Wiltshire	...	6.73	7.90
Eden	...	5.45	...
Round Hill	Hanover	4.60	5.45
Cacoon Castle	...	10.99	8.11
Golden Grove	...	9.59	9.74
Tryall	...	5.29	6.85
Sweet River	Westmoreland	4.41	...
Shrewsbury	...	...	...
Paradise Pen	...	3.30	...
Mackfield	...	7.22	...
Windsor (Sav-la-Mar)	...	5.52	8.42
Fontabelle	...	...	...
King's Valley	...	...	...
Retreat	...	...	...
Haughton Court	Hanover	2.37	...
Orange Cove	...	4.00	9.06
Abingdon	...	1.43	...
Means		6.75	8.96

## SOUTHERN DIVISION.

OCTOBER.

1885. | Average.

		In.	In.
Albion Hospital	St. Thomas	...	...
The Abbey	...	...	...
Halberstadt	St. Andrew	3.55	...
Hope Plantation	...	3.52	...
Hope Reservoirs	...	3.28	9.56
Cherry Garden	...	4.82	...
King's House	...	3.84	12.19
Monaltrie	...	2.69	11.64
Public Works Office	Kingston	1.94	10.28
Franklyn Town	...	0.84	...
Rae Town	...	0.62	...
Palisadoes Plantation	...	0.71	12.56
Plumb Point L. H.	...	0.91	9.96
Spanish Town	St. Catherine	5.27	8.52
Windsor Park	...	2.82	...
Hog Hole Pen	...	5.08	8.09
Headworks, R. C. C.	...	5.26	10.24
Roden Pen	...	4.67	...
Old Harbour	...	4.32	...
Springfield	Clarendon	5.50	...
Denbigh	...	...	...
Farm Plantation	Manchester	...	...
Stone's Hope	...	8.83	...
Pepper	St. Elizabeth	10.70	10.07
Long Hill	...	7.18	8.85
Potsdam	...	6.63	...
Gilcock Hall	...	7.23	...
Santa Cruz (Poor House)	...	6.65	...
Black River	...	5.54	9.32
Means		4.36	10.10

At the Plumb Point Light House, the upper gauge is 68 feet above the lower; these gauges registered 0.69 and 0.81 respectively.

COMPARATIVE TABLE.  
(Based upon the "Average" Stations only.)

	OCTOBER.	
	1885.	Average.
North Eastern Division	In. 5.93	In. 10.87
Northern "	7.79	6.06
West Central "	6.75	8.96
Southern "	4.36	10.10
The Island	6.20	8.99

The Rainfall for October was therefore less than the average, especially in the North Eastern and Southern Divisions. The largest fall, namely 12.87, was recorded at Latham in St. James; the smallest, 0.62 occurred at Rae Town, Kingston.

The forecast was verified, the difference being within one-fourth of the average.

ISLAND RAINFALL.

	Forecast.	Rainfall recorded.	Average Rainfall
	In.	In.	In.
1885—January	2.00	1.30	4.47
February	0.75	1.46	2.13
March	1.50	0.94	3.13
April	4.50	4.62	3.59
May	8.00	4.63	8.76
June	1.50	2.85	5.39
July	3.50	2.48	4.35
August	5.00	5.61	7.00
September	7.00	6.14	6.82
October	8.00	6.20	8.99
	41.75	36.23	54.63
November	4.00	...	...

EARTHQUAKE.—On the morning of the 2nd October, a smart shock of Earthquake was felt in the interior of the Parishes of St. Elizabeth, St. James and Hanover.

*Slick, St. Elizabeth*.—Smart shock, 8.40 a.m., calm and clear, apparent direction North to South; sound heard before the shock.—Rev. E. Bassett Key.

*Appleton St. Elizabeth*.—Sharp shock, 8.45 a.m.—Mr. William Hill.

*Marrow Town, St. James*.—Severe shock between 8 and 9 a.m.

*Glasgow, St. James*.—Very severe shock at 8.32 a.m., preceded by a loud rumbling noise, apparently from S.W., calm and clear. The shock was much stronger although of less duration than that on 30th August last.—Rev. J. A. Garcia del Rio.

*Kempshot, St. James*.—Very slight shock between 8.40 and 45 a.m., faint rumbling sound.

*Chester Castle, Hanover*.—Earthquake, 8.40 a.m., S.W. to N.E.—Mr. A. Cooke.

*Haughton Grove, Hanover*.—Slight shock reported.—Hon. A. Watson-Taylor.

THE NEW STAR in the Great Nebula of Andromeda has gradually diminished, is now very small, and may possibly fade entirely away.

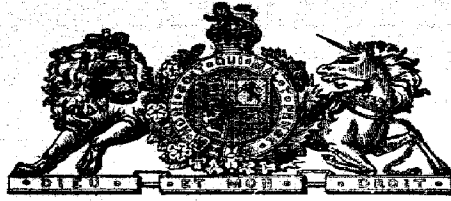
A similar circumstance occurred in 1860 when on May 28th Mr. Norman Pogson saw a star in the middle of the small circular nebula in Scorpio, known as 80 M., where no star had ever been seen before; and the effect was such that Mr. Pogson thought that the nebula had been condensed into the star! The star faded away in a month or so, and the nebula has since remained unchanged.

And then the great variations which during the first half of the present century affected the star *Eta Argus*, involved in an enormous nebula which takes its name from that star, oblige us to take into consideration other irregular variations elsewhere noticed before we can make any suggestion as to the cause of these changes. In the October number of "The Observatory," Prof. Monck has suggested "that as shooting stars are known to be dark bodies rendered luminous for a short time by rushing through our atmosphere, new stars are dark or faintly luminous bodies which acquire a short-lived brilliancy by rushing through some of the gaseous masses which exist in space."

MAXWELL HALL.

Kempshot Observatory,  
November 14th, 1885.

\* Mr. Hill also writes respecting the shock on 30th Aug. "the time of occurrence was by my clock 7h. 18' or 19 m. p.m. There were two distinct shocks with an interval of a few seconds, the vibrations lasting from the first almost if not quite to the second. My opinion was that the Earthquake travelled from the S.S.E to the N.N.W."



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JAMAICA.

DECEMBER 29, 1885.

No. 60.

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# WEATHER REPORT

FOR THE MONTH OF

NOVEMBER, 1885.

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**Published by Authority.**

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JAMAICA:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING AND STATIONERY ESTABLISHMENT, 79 DUKE STREET, KINGSTON.

1885.

**METEOROLOGICAL RESULTS FOR NOV., 1885.**  
**KINGSTON:—**

	7 a.m.	3 p.m.	11 p.m.	Mean.
	in.	in.	in.	in.
Barometric pressure ...	29.980	29.903	29.979	29.951
Temperature of the air ...	76°.6	86°.2	76°.8	79°.9
Dew-point ...	71.6	71.7	71.8	71.7
Humidity ...	84	63	85	77
Maximum Temp. ...	...	...	...	88°.9
Minimum Temp. ...	...	...	...	73.4
Range of Temp. ...	...	...	...	15.5
Direction of the Wind ...	...	...	...	Var.
Velocity of the Wind in Miles per hour ...	...	...	...	1.4
Percentage of Cloud ...	...	...	...	55

Total Rainfall—0.66 inches.

Average Weather:—Fair and still; "norther" on the 25th.

The highest temperature was 95.2 recorded on the 6th; the lowest was 68.8 recorded on the 11th; the extreme range was therefore 26°.4.

**CINCHONA PLANTATION:—**

		in.
Barometric Pressure	7 a.m. ...	25.255
"	3 p.m. ...	25.215
Temperature of the air	7 a.m. ...	62°.7
"	3 p.m. ...	65.2
Dew point	7 a.m. ...	57.7
"	3 p.m. ...	62.5
Maximum Temperature	...	69.2
Minimum Temperature	...	59.1
Direction of the Wind	...	E.
Velocity of the Wind in Miles per hour	...	4.9
Temperature 6 feet below ground	...	64°.5

**BLUE MOUNTAIN PEAK:—**

The Maximum, Minimum, and Rainfall registered at any time refer to the interval since the preceding registration; the Temperature of the air and the Weather were noted at the time of registration:—

1885.	Hour.	Max.	Min.	Rain-fall.	Temp.	Weather.	Ob-served.
		°	°	in.	°		
April 4		53	48	0.79		N. light, foggy	
" 18		63.5	42	1.72		W. light, foggy	
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" 16		76	46	0.00		S. light, foggy	
		66.5	48.5	5.90			
July 10		68	49	0.40		E. light, clear	
" 25		67	47	4.34		N. strong, clear	
Aug. 8		70	47	4.22		N. light, clear	
Sept. 26	3.30 p.m.	78	49	1.76	60	Cloudy	B.S.G.
Oct. 29	10 a.m.	71	42.5	9.65	63.5	Fine	C.F.S.
Nov. 13	2.40 p.m.	70.3	47.2	4.00	64	Showery } night	D.M.
" 14	7 a.m.	...	47	...	51	Fine } clear	"
" 15	3 p.m.	64	...	...	56.5	Showery	"
" 15	7 a.m.	...	47	...	51	Fine	"
" 20	11 a.m.	71.5	46	1.35	62	Fine, but misty	B.S.G.

The instruments were put in their place by Mr. D. Morris, March 26th 1885.

Note—The Barometric pressure is the reading of the Barometer corrected for instrumental error and reduced to 32°, that of Kingston being further reduced to the sea-level. The Thermometers are similarly exposed at the three stations; their readings have all been corrected. The following are the elevations of these stations above the sea-level;—

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Blue Mountain Peak	7,335 "

At New Haven Gap (in the Blue Mountain Range elevation about 5,600 feet) the mean maximum and minimum temperatures were 71°.5 and 53°.5 respectively.

At King's House (in the plains of Liguanea, elevation about 400 feet) the mean maximum and minimum temperatures were 90°.2 and 70°.9 respectively.

**THE HEALTH OF KINGSTON.**

The following table shows the number of deaths in Kingston during the month from a few groups of diseases, compared with the average number for the month for a few years past:—

	NOVEMBER.	
	1885.	Average.
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Lung diseases	12	14
Fever	17	8
Dysentery and Diarrhoea	6	3
Various	51	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>94</b>

**RAINFALL FOR NOVEMBER 1885.**

The first columns contain all the Rainfall returns sent in for publication up to the date of this report, the second columns contain the corresponding average Rainfall according to the Tables published in October, 1883, as Nos. 31 and 33 of the present series of reports; and to an unpublished supplementary Table of the average Rainfall at certain places where gauges have been registered for at least five years. In obtaining the mean Rainfall for the month from the numbers in the first columns, only those stations are considered for which the average Rainfall has been given in the second columns; so that the results of these two columns are directly comparable. These results are more clearly shown in the Comparative Table at the end of these Rainfall returns:—

**NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION. NOVEMBER.**

		NOVEMBER.	
		1885.	Average.
		In.	In.
Morant Point L. H.	St. Thomas	5.20	8.72
Hordley	...	7.16	10.19
Holland	...	4.91	...
Elmwood (Long Bay)	P. ...	13.72	...
Boston	...	17.60	...
Port Antonio	...	11.58	...
Cinchona Plantation	St. Andre	6.07	13.66
New Haven Gap	...	3.70	...
Newton	...	3.66	...
Stony Hill Reformatory	...	3.48	8.65
Castleton Gardens	St. Mary	6.60	10.08
Dover	...	9.00	...
Water Valley	...	3.13	9.82
Quebec	...	5.89	...
Port Maria	...	7.25	...
New Ramble	...	7.12	11.69
Gayle	...	9.00	10.04
Gosten	...	4.88	8.77
Rio Hoe	St. Ann	5.94	8.83
Unity Valley	...	8.79	7.59
Albion	...	10.14	10.23
Bradfield	...	11.24	13.16
Drax Hall	...	9.58	11.06
Seville	...	11.41	9.31
Richmond Estate	...	11.84	8.45
Llandoverly	...	8.10	7.51
<b>Means</b>		<b>7.60</b>	<b>9.90</b>

NORTHERN DIVISION.		NOVEMBER.	
		1885   Average.	
		In.	In.
Lillyfield	St. Ann	15.16	10.23
Home Castle	...	5.87	...
Richmond Pen	...	2.95	...
Colchis Pen	Trelawny	...	...
Mahogany Hall	...	4.96	4.19
Hopewell	...	4.32	7.97
Brampton Bryan	...	2.96	6.43
Bryar Castle	...	4.82	6.61
Braco	...	3.74	6.13
Arcadia	...	6.20	...
Harmony Hall	...	5.17	6.46
Lancaster	...	6.57	6.76
Duncans	...	4.40	...
Vale Royal	...	5.67	7.05
Hyde	...	2.72	7.52
Georgia	...	3.72	6.10
Steelfield	...	3.42	5.71
Oxford	...	4.50	...
Cambridge	...	4.80	4.64
Spring	...	5.11	4.63
Lottery	...	5.32	4.93
Falmouth	...	6.32	4.93
Holland Pen	...	5.52	...
Golden Grove	...	5.95	5.71
Hampstead	...	...	...
Fontabelle	...	4.62	...
Pembroke	...	4.60	5.29
Green Park	...	5.93	6.15
Phoenix	...	6.19	...
Tilston	...	6.08	5.04
Orange Valley	...	7.25	5.24
Kent	...	7.42	4.00
Dundee	...	4.46	7.55
Gale's Valley	...	5.50	4.73
Greenwood	St. James	6.79	...
Gullsbro'	...	4.70	...
Spring Vale	...	7.90	5.03
Laticum	...	9.35	5.41
Cinnamon Hill	...	4.85	...
Rose Hall	...	4.76	...
Running Gut	...	3.52	4.95
Tryall	...	4.90	...
Irwin	...	...	...
Ironshore	...	3.37	3.20
Providence	...	3.60	...
Montego Bay (Market)	...	2.00	...
Catherine Hall	...	1.70	3.40
Catherine Mount	...	2.17	4.16
Fairfield	...	2.19	...
Means		5.34	5.65

WEST CENTRAL DIVISION.		NOVEMBER.	
		1885   Average.	
		In.	In.
Linstead	St. Catherine	4.49	4.89
Whitney	Clarendon	...	...
Cave Valley	St. Ann	4.59	5.26
Marshall's Pen	Manchester	...	...
Barton Isles	St. Elizabeth	2.85	...
Appleton	...	4.31	6.02
Windsor Pen	Trelawny	3.44	...
Maroon Town	St. James	4.52	...
Holland	St. Elizabeth	...	...
Kepp	...	5.06	5.93
Mount Edgecombe	Westmoreland	1.56	4.72
Windsor Forest	...	...	...
Woodstock	...	4.20	...
Kew Park	...	3.99	...
Hermitage	...	...	...

WEST CENTRAL DIVISION, continued.		NOVEMBER.	
		1885   Average.	
		In.	In.
Chester Castle	Hanover	3.12	...
Copse	...	1.72	7.61
Haughton Grove	...	2.79	...
Kempshot	St. James	1.71	...
Bandon	...	3.05	...
Anchovy	...	1.91	3.77
Wiltshire	...	2.24	5.58
Eden	...	0.60	...
Round Hill	Hanover	0.70	3.50
Cacao Castle	...	2.54	5.89
Golden Grove	...	...	...
Tryall	...	1.06	3.61
Sweet River	Westmoreland	0.92	...
Shrewsbury	...	...	...
Paradise Pen	...	1.35	...
Mackfield	...	4.01	...
Windsor (Sav-la-Mar)	...	0.91	4.52
Fontabelle	...	0.94	...
Bellisle	...	2.03	...
King's Valley	...	...	...
Retreat	...	...	...
Haughton Court	Hanover	...	...
Orange Cove	...	2.14	4.84
Abingdon	...	1.12	...
Means		2.55	5.09

SOUTHERN DIVISION.		NOVEMBER.	
		1885   Average.	
		In.	In.
Albion Hospital	St. Thomas	2.00	...
The Abbey	...	2.63	...
Halberstadt	St. Andrew	3.01	...
Hope Plantation	...	1.46	...
Hope Reservoirs	...	...	...
Cherry Garden	...	4.72	...
King's House	...	2.14	2.44
Monahie	...	0.45	5.71
Public Works Office	Kingston	...	...
Franklyn Town	...	1.01	...
Rae Town	...	0.66	...
Palisades Plantation	...	0.26	3.23
Plumb Point L. H.	...	0.75	3.50
Spanish Town	St. Catherine	2.37	2.56
Windsor Park	...	3.05	...
Hog Hole Pen	...	5.30	3.52
Headworks, R. C. C.	...	2.08	5.00
Roden Pen	...	...	...
Old Harbour	...	6.08	...
Springfield	Clarendon	2.05	...
Denbigh	...	...	...
Farm Plantation	Manchester	6.01	5.40
Stone's Hope	...	3.99	...
Pepper	St. Elizabeth	...	...
Long Hill	...	9.28	3.83
Potsdam	...	6.35	...
Gambek Hall	...	7.92	...
Santa Cruz (Poor House)	...	8.60	...
Bloomsbury	...	3.10	...
Black River	...	2.91	5.43
Means		3.20	4.96

At the Plumb Point Light House, the upper gauge is 63 feet above the lower; these gauges registered 0.60 and 0.75 inches respectively.



## COMPARATIVE TABLE.

(Based upon the "Average" Stations only.)

	NOVEMBER.	
	1885.	Average.
	In.	In.
North Eastern Division	7.60	9.90
Northern "	5.34	5.65
West Central "	2.55	5.09
Southern "	3.20	4.06
The Island	4.67	6.18

The Rainfall for November was therefore less than the average, especially in the West Central Division. The largest fall, namely 17.60 inches, was recorded at Boston at the extreme north-east of the Island; the smallest, 0.26 occurred at the Palisadoes Plantation near Kingston.

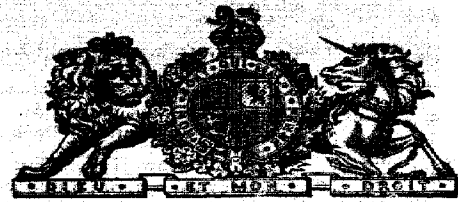
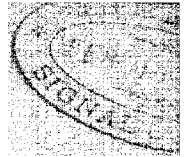
The forecast for November was verified.

## ISLAND RAINFALL.

	Forecast.	Rainfall recorded.	Average Rainfall.
	In.	In.	In.
1885—January	2.00	1.30	4.47
February	0.75	1.46	2.13
March	1.50	0.94	3.13
April	4.50	4.62	3.59
May	8.00	4.63	8.76
June	1.50	2.85	5.39
July	3.50	2.48	4.95
August	5.00	5.61	7.00
September	7.00	6.14	6.82
October	8.00	6.20	8.99
November	4.00	4.67	6.18
	45.75	40.90	60.81
December	3.00	...	...

Kempshot Observatory,  
December 16th, 1885.

MAXWELL HALL.



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JAMAICA.

JANUARY 26, 1886.

No. 61.

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# WEATHER REPORT

FOR THE MONTH OF

DECEMBER, 1885.

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**Published by Authority.**

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JAMAICA:

GOVERNMENT PRINTING AND STATIONERY ESTABLISHMENT, 79 DUKE STREET, KINGSTON.

1886.

**METEOROLOGICAL RESULTS FOR DEC., 1885.**  
KINGSTON:—

	7 a.m.	3 p.m.	11 p.m.	Mean.
	in.	in.	in.	in.
Barometric pressure ...	30.009	29.938	30.014	29.987
Temperature of the air ...	73° 1	82° 3	73° 6	76° 3
Dew-point ...	63.4	69.4	68.6	68.8
Humidity ...	85	66	85	79
Maximum Temp. ...	...	...	...	85° 2
Minimum Temp. ...	...	...	...	70.1
Range of Temp. ...	...	...	...	15.1
Direction of the Wind ...	...	...	...	Var.
Velocity of the Wind in Miles per hour ...	...	...	...	3.1
Percentage of Cloud ...	...	...	...	48

Total Rainfall—11.23 inches.

Average Weather:—Strong "Northerly" on 2nd and 3rd, and again on 26th and 27th; otherwise fair.

The highest temperature was 90° 5 recorded on the 16th; the lowest was 58° 2 recorded on the 29th; the extreme range was therefore 32° 3.

**CINCHONA PLANTATION:—**

		in.
Barometric Pressure	7 a.m. ...	25.255
"	3 p.m. ...	25.221
Temperature of the air	7 a.m. ...	58° 4
"	3 p.m. ...	62.4
Dew point	7 a.m. ...	55.9
"	3 p.m. ...	58.4
Maximum Temperature	...	65.7
Minimum Temperature	...	55.5
Direction of the Wind	...	Easterly
Velocity of the Wind in Miles per hour	...	8.4
Temperature 6 feet below ground	...	63° 5

The highest temperature was 71° 6 recorded on the 10th; the lowest was 42° 8 recorded on the 27th; the extreme monthly range was therefore 28° 8.

On the 21st there fell about 17.80 inches of rain; and during the month there fell about 34.50 inches.

**BLUE MOUNTAIN PEAK:—**

The Maximum, Minimum, and Rainfall registered at any time refer to the interval since the preceding registration; the Temperature of the air and the Weather were noted at the time of registration. The instruments were put in their place by Mr. D. Morris, March 26th 1885.

1885.	Hour.	Max.	Min.	Rain-fall.	Temp.	Weather.	Ob-server.
		°	°	in.	°		
April 4	...	53	48	0.79	...	N. light, foggy	W.C.
" 18 9	a.m.	63.5	42	1.72	...	W. light, foggy	"
May 2	8.30 a.m.	74	49	3.52	...	E. strong, foggy	"
" 16	...	76	46	0.00	...	S. light, foggy	"
" 30	...	71	48	8.25	...	S. strong, foggy	"
June 13	...	73	49	4.00	...	N. strong, foggy	"
" 27	...	60	48	1.90	...	N. light, clear	"
July 10 9	a.m.	68	49	0.40	...	E. light, clear	"
" 25	...	67	47	4.34	...	N. strong, clear	"
Aug. 8	...	70	47	4.22	...	N. light clear	"
Sept. 11 10.	a.m.	66.5	48.5	5.90	...	E. cloudy	D.M.
" 26 3.30	p.m.	78	49	1.76	60	Cloudy	B.S.G.
Oct. 23 10	a.m.	71	42.5	9.65	63.5	Fine	C.F.S.
Nov. 13 2.40	p.m.	70.3	47.2	4.00	64	Showery	D.M.
" 14 7	a.m.	...	47	...	51	Fine	"
" 3	p.m.	64	...	...	56.5	Showery	"
" 15 7	a.m.	...	47	...	51	Fine	"
" 20 11	a.m.	71.5	46	1.35	62	Fine, but misty	B.S.G.
Dec. 9 12	noon	73	44	13.07	55	Fine but cloudy	B.S.G.
" 31 10	a.m.	73.5	39.5	52.02	60	Fine, and warm	F.D.M.

Note.—The Barometric pressure is the reading of the Barometer corrected for instrumental error and reduced to 32°, that of Kingston being farther reduced to the sea-level. The Thermometers are similarly exposed at the three stations; their readings have all been corrected.

The following are the elevations of these stations above the sea-level;—

Kingston (Rae Town)	5 feet
Cinchona Plantation	4,850 "
Blue Mountain Peak	7,335 "

At New Haven Gap (in the Blue Mountain Range elevation about 5,600 feet) the mean maximum and minimum temperatures were 67° 7 and 47° 3 respectively.

At King's House (in the plains of Liguanea, elevation about 400 feet) the mean maximum and minimum temperatures were 80° 3 and 67° 4 respectively.

**THE HEALTH OF KINGSTON.**

The following table shows the number of deaths in Kingston during the month from a few groups of diseases, compared with the average number for the month for a few years past:—

	DECEMBER.	
	1885.	Average.
Infantile diseases not otherwise specified	16	17
Lung diseases	19	14
Fever	7	10
Dysentery and Diarrhoea	7	5
Various	48	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>101</b>

**RAINFALL FOR DECEMBER 1885.**

The first columns contain all the Rainfall returns sent in for publication up to the date of this report, the second columns contain the corresponding average Rainfall according to the Tables published in October, 1883, as Nos. 31 and 33 of the present series of reports; and to an unpublished supplementary Table of the average Rainfall at certain places where gauges have been registered for at least five years. In obtaining the mean Rainfall for the month from the numbers in the first columns, only those stations are considered for which the average Rainfall has been given in the second columns; so that the results of these two columns are directly comparable. These results are more clearly shown in the Comparative Table at the end of these Rainfall returns:—

**NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION. DECEMBER.**

		DECEMBER.	
		1885.	Average.
		In.	In.
Morant Point L. H.	St. Thomas	23.18	6.78
Hordley	...	27.23	8.57
Holland	...	...	...
Elmwood (Long Bay)	Portland	35.48	...
Boston	...	33.52	...
Port Antonio	...	43.58	...
Cinchona Plantation	St. Andrew	34.50	13.83
New Haven Gap	...	55.17	...
Portland Gap	...	55.62	...
Newton	...	17.15	...
Stony Hill Reformatory	...	16.92	3.71
Castleton Gardens	St. Mary	28.50	13.7
Dover	...	31.10	...
Water Valley	...	...	...
Quebec	...	25.58	...
Port Maria	...	25.41	...
New Ramble	...	26.65	10.58
Gayle	...	24.60	10.14
Gosten	...	17.83	10.79
Rio Hoc	...	20.88	11.49
Unity Valley	St. Ann	17.31	10.74
Albion	...	15.96	8.07

\* Gauge overflowed on the 21st and 6 inches were added.

NORTH-EASTERN DIVISION, *continued.*

		DECEMBER.	
		1885   Average.	
		In.	In.
Bradfield	...	14.80	10.91
Drax Hall	...	25.91	8.57
Seville	...	23.60	8.10
Richmond Estate	...	34.74	7.14
Llandovery	...	30.71	8.47
Means		23.93	9.44

## NORTHERN DIVISION.

		DECEMBER.	
		1885   Average.	
		In.	In.
Lillyfield	St. Ann	28.73	13.61
Home Castle	...	16.25	...
Richmond Pen	...	9.80	...
Colchis Pen	Trelawny	16.01	...
Mahogany Hall	...	16.37	3.76
Hopewell	...	15.81	9.75
Brampton Brynn	...	10.03	7.24
Bryar Castle	...	15.30	7.61
Braco	...	13.71	7.20
Arcadia	...	17.63	...
Harmony Hall	...	15.64	7.24
Lancaster	...	18.89	7.57
Duncans	...	16.00	...
Vale Royal	...	15.38	9.29
Hyde	...	12.13	8.08
Georgia	...	14.15	8.41
Steelfield	...	12.72	7.99
Oxford	...	14.25	...
Cambridge	...	12.01	6.01
Spring	...	17.49	5.51
Lottery	...	10.17	5.83
Falmouth	...	13.39	5.05
Holland Pen	...	13.48	...
Golden Grove	...	10.00	5.33
Fontabelle	...	11.85	...
Pembroke	...	10.10	...
Green Park	...	11.53	5.87
Phoenix	...	14.64	...
Tilston	...	12.85	5.67
Orange Valley	...	12.16	6.99
Kent	...	13.28	4.57
Dundee	...	11.74	6.46
Western Favel	...	11.38	...
Gale's Valley	...	10.50	5.00
Greenwood	St. James	13.64	...
Gullsbro'	...	14.10	...
Spring Vale	...	22.26	6.67
Latium	...	15.35	5.98
Cinnamon Hill	...	23.52	...
Success	...	26.84	3.86
Rose Hall	...	22.07	...
Running Gut	...	23.12	5.71
Tryall	...	26.05	...
Ironshore	...	22.00	3.18
Providence	...	22.60	...
Montego Bay (Market)	...	18.25	...
Catherine Hall	...	17.30	3.32
Catherine Mount	...	15.63	6.74
Fairfield	...	15.87	...
Means		15.54	6.54

## WEST CENTRAL DIVISION.

		DECEMBER.	
		1885   Average.	
		In.	In.
Linstead	St. Catherine	12.61	2.44
Cave Valley	St. Ann	8.25	2.77
Barton Isles	St. Elizabeth	6.96	...
Appleton	...	8.58	3.34

WEST CENTRAL DIVISION, *contd.* DECEMBER.

		1885   Average.	
		In.	In.
Windsor Pen	Trelawny	11.68	...
Maroon Town	St. James	9.21	...
Holland	St. Elizabeth	5.68	...
Kepp	...	6.59	2.98
Mount Edgcombe	Westmoreland	5.92	3.23
Windsor Forest	...	...	...
Woodatock	...	...	...
Kew Park	...	8.50	...
Hermitage	...	9.05	...
Chester Castle	Hanover	10.47	...
Copse	...	12.51	4.67
Houghton Grove	...	9.36	...
Kempshot	St. James	14.64	...
Bandon	...	...	...
Anchovy	...	11.54	2.48
Wiltshire	...	12.88	2.81
Eden	...	13.96	...
Round Hill	Hanover	15.69	1.96
Cacao Castle	...	13.48	6.76
Golden Grove	...	11.11	2.93
Fryall	...	15.32	2.08
Sweet River	Westmoreland	7.90	...
Paradise Pen	...	8.50	...
Mackfield	...	5.36	...
Windsor (Sav-la-Mar)	...	7.69	2.27
Fontabelle	...	8.38	...
Bellisle	...	9.28	...
Houghton Court	Hanover	14.60	...
Orange Cove	...	15.47	4.66
Abingdon	...	19.17	...
Means		11.47	3.20

## SOUTHERN DIVISION.

		DECEMBER.	
		1885   Average.	
		In.	In.
Albion Hospital	St. Thomas	10.83	...
The Abbey	...	14.66	...
Halberstadt	St. Andrew	12.43	...
Hope Plantation	...	11.06	...
Hope Reservoirs	...	...	...
Cherry Garden	...	10.84	...
King's House	...	10.19	0.37
Monaltrie	...	9.76	2.37
Public Works Office	Kingston	10.08	2.33
Franklyn Town	...	10.29	...
Rae Town	...	11.23	...
Palisadoes Plantation	...	12.52	1.79
Plumb Point L. H.	...	12.36	1.57
Spanish Town	St. Catherine	9.72	1.66
Windsor Park	...	11.31	...
Hog Hole Pen	...	8.74	2.00
Headworks, R. C. C.	...	8.85	1.76
Roden Pen	...	...	...
Old Harbour	...	7.74	...
Springfield	Clarendon	13.74	...
Farm Plantation	Manchester	16.96	2.46
Stone's Hope	...	11.80	...
Pepper	St. Elizabeth	7.71	1.90
Long Hill	...	7.87	3.40
Potsdam	...	8.81	...
Black Hall	...	6.36	...
Santa Cruz (Poor House)	...	7.73	...
Black River	...	...	...
Bloomsbury	...	6.11	...
Means		11.48	2.16

At the Plumb Point Light House, the upper gauge is 68 feet above the lower; these gauges registered 10.36 and 12.36 inches respectively.

COMPARATIVE TABLE.  
(Based upon the "Average" Stations only.)

	DECEMBER.	
	1885.	Average.
	In.	In.
North Eastern Division	23.93	9.44
Northern	15.54	6.54
West Central	11.47	3.20
Southern	11.48	2.16
The Island	15.60	5.24

The Rainfall for December, 1885 was therefore three times the average, and it is the largest on record; as a monthly rainfall it is exceeded only by May 1870, October 1870, and October, 1879, when there fell 17.38, 16.74, and 15.96 inches respectively.

These excessive rains in December were due to two "Northers," or winter storms of cold wind and rain from the north. Coming after a long spell of dry weather, with regard to the greater part of the Island, the rains were highly beneficial in replenishing the springs and ponds, but in other respects they did much damage and caused the loss of a few lives.

The gauge on the Blue Mountain Peak is specially constructed and will contain 60 inches, otherwise it would have been impossible to have registered the enormous quantity of rain which fell between November 20th and December 31st, namely 65.02 inches; and assuming that 1.02 inches fell between November 20th and the end of the month, we have 64 inches as the highest monthly rainfall on record in Jamaica.

Leaving the Blue Mountains we next come to Port Antonio with a total of 43.58 inches, of which the particulars are here given.

	In.		In.
Dec. 1	5.32	Dec. 16	0.35
2	3.08	20	1.70
3	0.50	22	5.50
6	2.06	23	4.70 9 a.m.*
7	2.00	"	2.40 12.30 p.m.
8	0.58	24	4.58 9 a.m.
9	0.25	"	4.47 3 p.m.
10	0.14	25	3.78
13	1.65	29	0.31
15	0.21		
		Total	43.58

Following Port Antonio there are several places in the North-Eastern and Northern Divisions where the rains were excessive. In the West Central and Southern Divisions they were moderately heavy; and the smallest rainfall of 5.86 inches was recorded at Mackfield in Westmoreland.

Further notes respecting the rainfall will be found in connection with

THE NORTHERS.

I. DECEMBER 2ND, 1885.—On the morning of November 30th, the barometer pressure gave way, the sky was covered with cirro-stratus which was drifting from the S.W., and the weather (at Montego Bay) was particularly close and warm. On the morning of December 1st, the barometer pressure and cloud-drift were the same as before; during the day the pressure further diminished and reached its lowest that afternoon; and the weather was still very close and warm. On the morning of the 2nd rain and wind set in from the N., the pressure rose, the temperature fell, the wind backed as far as N.N.W., and blew hard all that day and night. On the 3rd, the wind veered to the N., again; the weather was fine, and the Barometer reached its highest. The wind remained in the N. all that night; but on the 4th, it veered to the N.E., its normal quarter, and the "Norther" was over.

The following were the readings of the barometer at

\* Time of Registration.

Kingston and Montego Bay corrected and reduced, and also cleared of Diurnal Variation:—

		KINGSTON.		MONTGO BAY.	
		In.	In.	In.	In.
Nov. 30th	7 a.m.	29.900		29.873	
Dec. 1st	7 a.m.	29.902		29.865	
"	3 p.m.	29.869		29.816	
"	11 p.m.	29.864		29.838	
"	2nd 7 a.m.	29.928		29.910	
"	3 p.m.	29.922		29.999	
"	11 p.m.	29.954		30.023	
"	3rd 7 a.m.	30.015		30.059	

In Kingston four inches of rain fell on the 2nd; about the same amount fell at Montego Bay, and elsewhere west of Kingston. The Rainfall was small at places east of Kingston, as at Hordley, and the Morant Point Light House.

The following were the lowest temperatures at the places indicated:—

Kingston	...	Dec. 4th	68
Kings House	...	" 3rd	65
Montego Bay	...	" 4th	68
Kempshot	...	" "	60
Cinchona Plantation	...	" 3rd	50
Blue Mountain Peak	...	" ?	44

At Colon the wind rose from the N.W. on the afternoon of the 2nd; it blew hard from the N. all that night and abated on the 3rd. Fourteen vessels were wrecked, all the wharves were damaged, and one dock was destroyed.

This "Norther" was clearly a shallow and widely extended Barometric depression which passed to the west of Jamaica on a course from N.N.W. or N.W. to S.S.E. or S.E.; that is to say its course was exactly opposite to the usual course of autumnal Cyclones. It will be noticed that as the depression approached Jamaica, the South-westerly winds due to rotation round the centre would be counteracted by the prevailing North-easterly winds, so that the weather on November 30th and December 1st, was calm and close; and that as soon as the depression had passed our meridian, the pent-up winds were let loose and joined the northerly winds due to rotation. And again as the depression moved towards the S, there followed a rush of air from the N, which being cold and heavy would doubtless be chiefly confined to the surface of the sea and land. This after rush is a marked feature of our West Indian Cyclones, and is rendered very conspicuous in the case of "Northers" by the fall in temperature.

II. DECEMBER 26TH AND 27TH, 1885.—The second "Norther" was preceded by heavy rains. Mr. J. H. Dodd. has thus described the commencement of the action at Port Antonio:—

"The heavy floods are directly traceable to the winds. On Sunday December 20th, they commenced to blow, and lasted all that and the following day, piling up mass after mass of clouds against the Blue Mountain Range, when down came the deluge which continued for three days without intermission."

Thus on the 21st there were very heavy rains at the Cinchona Plantation and its neighbourhood which were not experienced elsewhere in the Island:—

	In.
Castleton Garden	12.30 in the 24 hrs.
Cinchona Plantation	17.80 "
Portland Gap	22.88 "

On the morning of the 23rd heavy rains set in over the greater part of the Island and continued all that day and the next. A few examples are here given:—

	23rd		24th	
	In.	In.	In.	In.
Morant Point Light House	14.00		4.00	
Hordley	14.80		8.55	
Cinchona Plantation	4.00		1.89	
Kingston	4.77		0.64	
Kempshot	6.00		0.00	

On the morning of the 24th the barometer pressure gave way; the sky was clear, or nearly so, and a little cirro-stratus showed that the upper-drift was from the the W., or against the wind which was E. The Barometer reached its lowest at about 7 a.m. on the morning of the 25th; the sky was then over-cast, and the clouds were coming up from the N.N.E. At 3 p.m. as the Barometer rose, the wind sprang up from the N. and blew freshly all that night and the following morning. On the morning of the 26th a break in the clouds showed that the upper-drift was from the S.W., but the wind blew freshly from the N. N. W. all that day. The morning of the 27th was remarkably cold; the wind from the N. was strong, and the barometer high. And the following day the "Norther" passed off leaving us with an E.N.E. wind and a very low temperature.

A few examples of the temperature are here given:—

Location	Temperature	Date
Kingston*	62	Dec. 27th.
King's House	55	"
Montego Bay	65	"
Seville	65	"
Kempshot	56	"
Cinchona Plantation	43	"
Portland Gap	42	"
Blue Mountain Peak	39.5	"
New Haven Gap	37	"

Mr. D. Morris writes, "there is no doubt that on the grass there was a slight hoar-frost, as the vegetation is nipped severely as if by cold; although possibly during the prevalence of such a storm the presence of salt in the air must not be altogether ignored. Be that as it may, the grass on our lawns, the tender leaves of *coleus*, and young shoots of coffee and cinchona are very distinctly shrivelled up and blackened."

Now for 25 months a minimum thermometer placed upon the grass near the other thermometers in their screen was daily read in Kingston, with this result, that the effect of free radiation reduced the temperature 6°.0 below the temperature of the air as shown by a screened thermometer. We can therefore easily believe that frost occurred on the ground above the Plantation where the temperature of the air fell to 37° as in the screen at New Haven Gap.

The following were the readings of the Barometer corrected and reduced, and further cleared of Diurnal Variation:—

Date	Time	KINGSTON.		MONTEGO BAY.	
		In.	In.	In.	In.
Dec. 24th	7 a.m.	29.837	29.805		
"	3 p.m.	29.807	29.780		
"	11 p.m.	29.799	29.778		
25th	7 a.m.	29.798	29.773		
"	3 p.m.	29.800	29.802		
"	11 p.m.	29.808	29.847		
26th	7 a.m.	29.849	29.892		

KINGSTON, JAMAICA—MEAN RESULTS FOR THE YEAR 1885.

Month.	Barometer: corrected and reduced to 32° and sea level.				Thermometers. (F.)						
	7 a.m.	3 p.m.	11 p.m.	Mean.	7 a.m.	3 p.m.	11 p.m.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Diff.
	In.	In.	In.	In.	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
January	30.097	30.022	30.108	30.074	70.1	88.0	72.0	75.0	85.4	67.3	18.1
February	30.089	29.973	30.062	30.021	71.3	81.6	73.0	75.3	84.0	68.7	15.3
March	30.074	30.002	30.086	30.054	72.7	82.7	74.7	76.7	85.5	68.6	16.9
April	30.028	29.945	30.028	29.999	76.4	82.9	74.1	77.7	85.0	69.5	15.5
May	29.992	29.930	30.004	29.975	82.6	84.3	77.2	80.6	86.2	72.7	13.5
June	30.056	29.992	30.076	30.041	80.8	85.1	77.3	81.1	87.0	74.0	13.0
July	30.051	29.989	30.062	30.033	80.7	85.5	78.0	81.4	88.9	73.3	15.6
August	30.004	29.936	30.015	29.985	80.3	85.0	78.2	81.5	89.3	73.8	15.5
September	29.977	29.903	29.990	29.956	77.1	85.8	75.3	81.0	88.7	74.2	14.5
October	29.954	29.883	29.962	29.948	77.6	86.5	76.8	80.3	88.8	73.0	15.8
November	29.930	29.903	29.979	29.951	76.6	86.2	76.8	79.9	89.9	78.4	15.5
December	30.009	29.938	30.014	29.987	73.1	82.3	73.6	78.3	85.2	70.1	15.1
Means.	30.021	29.951	30.031	30.001	76.6	84.3	75.8	78.9	86.9	71.5	15.4

\* On the 29th the minimum was 58° at Kingston and 63° at King's House! On the 28th both places had 59°.

KINGSTON. MONTEGO BAY.

26th	3 p.m.	29.874	29.935
"	11 p.m.	29.913	...

At Colon had weather set in on the 25th and lasted three days, but particulars have not reached me.

"Norther" No. II therefore followed nearly the same course as No. I, and confirmed the theory as briefly expressed above.

These two "Northers" were followed by a third but milder one on January 10th and 11th, 1886, thereby giving us a very remarkable winter in Jamaica. The three spells of stormy weather rendered some system of daily forecasts apparently necessary: but when it is remembered that the last "Norther" which preceded the first of the three occurred in 1876, it seems doubtful whether it would be worth while to attempt a Daily Service, especially in these days of retrenchment.

ISLAND RAINFALL.

Year	Forecast.		
	In.	Rainfall recorded.	Average Rainfall.
1885—January	2.00	1.30	4.47
February	0.75	1.46	2.13
March	1.50	0.94	3.13
April	4.50	4.62	3.59
May	8.00	4.63	8.76
June	1.50	2.85	5.89
July	3.50	2.48	4.85
August	5.00	5.61	7.00
September	7.00	6.14	6.82
October	8.00	6.20	8.99
November	4.00	4.67	6.18
December	3.00	15.60	5.34
1886—January	48.75	56.50	66.15

The forecast for May and December, 1885, were not verified; this gives 10 out of 12 which were verified; and while a proportion of 80 per cent. is encouraging, yet causes beyond our reach, such as Cyclones and "Northers", will at times completely upset the Forecast, as occurred in December this year. It is hardly necessary to say that these forecasts are based upon the general march, and interdependent variations of the Rainfall as recorded in our Registers from 1870 to date, and do not, or rather cannot, take into consideration any such disturbing causes.

In 1884 there were 6 forecasts which were verified out of 8, giving a total up to the end of 1885 of 16 out of 20, or 80 per cent as before.

EARTHQUAKE.

A very slight shock was felt at Montego Bay at about 7.15 p.m. on the 14th of December.

A large number of notes have been sent me respecting a shock which was felt over the whole Island on the evening of January 1st, 1886, which will duly appear in the January Report.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA—MEAN RESULTS FOR THE YEAR 1886, *continued.*

Month.	Wind		Dewpoint and Humidity.		Cloud per cent.	Rainfall.	Absolute Temperature.			Remarks.
	Direction (from)	Miles per hour					Max.	Min.	Diff.	
January ...	S.E.	3.9	67.4	78	29	0.11	89.5	61.3	28.2	Fine and dry—squally in middle of month.
February ...	S.E.	3.5	69.8	84	23	0.01	86.9	65.8	21.1	Fine and dry.
March ...	S.E.	3.2	69.9	81	24	0.29	92.2	64.3	27.9	Dry and clear.
April ...	S.E.	1.2	70.4	79	38	0.47	88.5	64.5	24.0	Fine and dry.
May ...	S.E.	2.1	72.3	76	48	2.72	91.5	69.1	22.4	Fair.
June ...	S.E.	5.7	73.0	77	53	0.46	92.0	70.0	21.4	Dry—strong winds.
July ...	S.E.	4.1	72.1	73	43	1.03	93.2	70.8	22.4	Dry and clear.
August ...	S.E.	3.4	73.0	75	50	0.84	92.5	71.4	21.1	Fair and dry.
September ...	S.E.	2.2	73.3	78	61	5.11	91.6	71.6	20.0	Close and cloudy.
October ...	S.E. by S.	1.4	72.3	78	46	0.62	90.5	70.3	20.2	Fair, dry and still.
November ...	Var.	1.4	71.7	77	55	0.66	95.2	63.8	26.4	Fair and still—"Norther" on 25th.
December ...	Var.	3.1	68.8	79	48	11.23	90.5	58.2	32.3	Strong "Northers" on 2nd, and 3rd, and on 26th and 27th—otherwise fair.
Mean Total.	S.E.	2.9	71.2	78	43	23.55	91.2	67.2	24.0	

## ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

*Eclipses in the Year 1886.*

There can never be less than two Eclipses in any year, and then they will both be Solar Eclipses, as in the year 1886.

I. An annular Eclipse of the Sun, March 5th, visible in Jamaica as a partial Eclipse.

At the Kempshot Observatory the Eclipse will commence March 5th, 5 hours 48 minutes 22 seconds p.m. Kingston mean time, or about 18 minutes before sunset; and this Kingston mean time of first contact may be assumed for the whole Island. The point of contact will be a very little to the left of the lowest point of the Sun's disc; and the sun will set before one-half of its disc is obscured.

II. A total eclipse of the sun, August 29th, visible in Jamaica as a partial eclipse.

The sun will rise in Jamaica partially eclipsed at 5

hours 46 minutes a.m. on the morning of August 29th and the time of greatest obscuration will occur about 17 minutes after sun-rise. At this moment nearly three-fourths of the Sun's disc will be obscured.

The end of the Eclipse will occur at the Kempshot Observatory at 7 hour 1 minute 48 seconds a.m. Kingston mean time; and this Kingston mean time of last contact may be assumed for the whole Island.

At the Island of Grenada the Eclipse will be total, and the total obscuration will there last for 3 minutes 51 seconds; and that West Indian Island will doubtless have many visitors from Europe and the United States to view the magnificent phenomena which are only to be seen during a total Eclipse of the Sun.

MAXWELL HALL.

Kempshot Observatory,  
January 18th, 1886.