

SUPPLEMENT TO THE MESSENGER.

CLIMATIC REVERIES.

The extraordinary cold winter we have had this year in Texas is still the general subject of conversation. It has given a great deal of dissatisfaction to man and beast, excepting, of course, those who sell fuel and winter clothing. As a general thing, a good natured man can go through a Texas winter without having to use much bad language, but we have been assured by a church member, who is proverbially abstemious in the use of profanity, that he has had to use more of the article this winter than any five previous winters since he came to Texas, and there are several weeks yet, during which he will have to use strong language.

All classes of citizens have suffered more or less from the cold wave, but the stockmen have undergone more mental anguish than any other, as a great many sheep and cattle have died. It was suggested in the Stockman's Convention that as the mortality among the cattle has been principally among the yearlings, that a bill be introduced in the Legislature to advance the minority of yearlings, making them two years old, thus enabling them to better stand the new kind of norther that is being imported into the State.

Our houses in Texas are not constructed with a view to keep out the ice fiend. Texas houses are designed to allow the summer breezes to come in and out as much as they please. They are very well ventilated, which is an undesirable architectural peculiarity in winter, when an icy blizzard is howling on the outside for free admission. It was so cold that some of our citizens sent off for their wives' mothers to come and pay them a visit, in order to make the house hot enough for everybody in it. The weather was so cold that unless a person in front of the fire revolved on his own axis, as our planet does, there was danger of such person becoming well done on his front side, while ice a quarter of an inch thick accumulated on his other or reverse side. We have never known a cold spell to last as long as the last one did. It was intensely

cold, below the freezing point, for almost a week. The theory is that the mercury fell so far, that it crippled itself badly, and could not get up again, all at once.

By the way, we got even with that oldest inhabitant, of which there are fifty or sixty in every community. He came in and took a chair, and as soon as he thawed out, he began talking to us about the big freeze in 1832, when all the trees on Buffalo Bayou broke down with ice. After he had almost persuaded us that the freezing weather we had just had was tropical compared with that he had gone through, we asked him.

"Colonel, do you remember the time that the Thames was frozen over three feet thick, and it snowed forty days without stopping?"

"Remember it? I should say I did. That was the year me and Sam Houston came to Texas together. We had a bottle of pure whiskey, but it froze solid. We broke the bottle and chipped off our drinks with a hatchet."

"Do you remember when the Adriatic was frozen over, and the trees burst open with reports like cannon?"

"Of course I do. I had a plantation on the Adriatic, and lost ever so many niggers."

"Then you must remember when the Dardanells and the black Sea were frozen over, and the snow was piled 100 feet high."

The Colonel remembered it, and said that he helped to shovel away the snow.

"How old are you, Colonel?"

"I'm a young man yet; only 83 this coming spring."

"Colonel, the only time the Straights of Dardanelle were frozen over was in the year A. D. 408, so you must be mistaken in your age. You must be nearly 1,475 years old."

The old man said it was astonishing how "tempus fuget," and walked off as balmy as a spring morn.

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Nov 2—tf

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