XVIII. *Abstract of a Register of the Barometer, Thermometer, and Rain, at* Lyndon *in* Rutland; *by* Thomas Barker, *Esq.*; *with the Rain in* Surrey *and* Hampshire; *for the Year* 1790. *Communicated by* Thomas White, *Esq. F.R.S.*

Read June 2, 1791.

		Barometer.			Thermometer.						Rain.			
					In the House.			Abroad.				Surrey.	Hampshire.	
		Highest	Lowest.	Mean.	High.	Low.	Mean	High.	Low.	Mean	Lyndon	S. Lambeth.	Selbourn.	Fyfield.
		Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	°	°	°	°	°	°	Inch.	Inch.	Inch.	Inch.
Jan.	Morn.	29,97	28,48	29,55	49	36	41	50½	26½	37	1,871	1,49	1,99	1,72
	Aftern.				49	36	41½	52½	34½	41				
Feb.	Morn.	30,05	29,20	29,71	48	40	43½	48	30	38½	0,236	0,20	0,49	0,43
	Aftern.				49½	41	44½	57	40½	47				
Mar.	Morn.	30,13	29,31	29,77	50½	42½	46	48½	31	39½	0,259	0,24	0,45	0,38
	Aftern.				51	44	47	60	42½	50				
Apr.	Morn.	29,85	29,01	29,42	51	40	44	49½	32	38½	0,676	2,54	3,64	1,27
	Aftern.				52½	41	45	61	38	49				
May	Morn.	29,80	28,93	29,45	58	50½	54	57	43½	49½	2,911	3,70	4,38	3,66
	Aftern.				59½	51	55	72	52½	61				
June	Morn.	29,86	28,98	29,56	71	54½	59	65½	48½	55½	2,385	0,64	0,13	0,55
	Aftern.				75½	55½	60½	85	56	67½				
July	Morn.	29,73	29,90	29,35	64	57	60	62	49½	57	2,246	2,42	3,24	1,71
	Aftern.				66	58	61	78½	62	69				
Aug.	Morn.	29,68	29,17	29,49	66	56	60½	62½	49	56	1,735	2,26	2,30	1,97
	Aftern.				67½	57	62	80	57	69				
Sept.	Morn.	29,95	28,88	29,53	62	52	55½	59½	42	49½	1,566	0,52	0,66	0,62
	Aftern.				61	53	57	72½	55½	61				
Oct.	Morn.	29,81	28,89	29,43	57	45½	52	55	36	45½	0,991	1,72	2,10	1,25
	Aftern.				59	45½	53	65	46	55				
Nov.	Morn.	29,88	28,49	29,35	49½	37½	44	48	30	40	3,145	3,40	6,95	5,11
	Aftern.				49½	38	45	51½	32	44½				
Dec.	Morn.	29,87	28,32	29,33	46	36	40	48	25½	38½	3,608	3,18	5,94	3,38
	Aftern.				47	36	40½	49	31	43				
											Inches 21,629	22,31	32,27	22,05

The

The thermometer abroad being broken in December, that month is defective in that article.

THE winter proved a remarkably open one; no froſt of two whole days together, nor any ſnow; ſo that there were young artichokes in the garden all winter, where they were ſhort and among the leaves; and the ſecond crop of figs, which are generally killed in winter, eſcaped this year, and ripened in the ſummer, but did not grow large. It was ſaid there were young hares in winter, and birds' eggs laid, ſome of which were perhaps hatched. Several people ſaid they ſaw a covey of young partridges near Oakham in February; but I cannot affirm it, for others ſuſpected ſome miſtake. January was ſhowery and mild, but often windy; as the days grew longer, it became dryer, finer, and forward. A ſwarm of bees roſe and ſettled at Tixover, March 2.; but it was rather a ſhifting of their hive for want, than a regular ſwarm, which could not have been bred ſo early. The owner, having a deſerted hive with combs and honey in it, put them into that, where they lived, and grew ſtrong in the ſummer. The forwardneſs of the ſeaſon continued till the N.E. winds of March made it colder and more froſty; the growth of all things was then ſtopped, and the firſt fortnight in April was ſeverer than any part of the winter, with the only ſnow this ſeaſon.

The ſeed time was dry, and in general good; but, for want of froſt in the winter, the ground ploughed ſtiff, and required a great deal of working; and the ſeaſon continued dry and backward till after the middle of May, when rain and warmer weather made every thing grow as faſt as they were ſlow before. The ſummer was chiefly cloudy and windy, and after

the middle of May very ſhowery and cool, except ſome few violent hot days; and a very growing ſeaſon, ſo that grounds laid at the end of May had good crops of hay on them, which in general was well got, for the rains in this country were not great, though frequent; and ſo much land was laid late, and ſo much over-eaten graſs cut, that there was hardly ever more good hay made than there was this year. The harveſt alſo was ſhowery, yet not ſo much but that thoſe who were not too haſty got it well, and it was plentiful, though very rank, and pretty much laid, yielding well to the acre, though not to the flail.

The autumn was dryer, fine, and pleaſant, ſo that the ground began to burn. The wheat ſeed time was remarkably good; for it was dry at firſt for ſowing the clay land; then rain came in good time to bring it up, and that made the ground moiſt for ſowing the dry fields. There was a good deal of rain at times in November, yet ſo much fine weather between, that it was pleaſant and not dirty; but moſt part of December and January was uncommonly ſtormy and uncertain weather, changing ſometimes two or three times a day; ſevere ſtorms, much rain, great floods, and remarkable thunder, on ſeveral different days, and in many different places. Near a fortnight's froſt at Chriſtmas, with clear weather at firſt, but afterward one great rain, and ſeveral leſſer, which yet did not take away the froſt till January the 6th.

Chalk

Chalk found in a new place.

There is a great deal of chalky ground in the ſouthern part of England; I think it begins at the ſea in Devonſhire, and one vein of it runs all along the ſouthern counties to Dover. Another vein parts off from that about Reading in Berkſhire, goes by Dunſtable, Baldock, and Gogmagog Hills, and ſo on to the ſea in Norfolk; the whole croſſing the kingdom in a Y. Along theſe two diſtricts it is almoſt all chalk to a great depth in the ground; but out of them chalk is ſeldom found. I believe it may be met with in many places in the countries between theſe two diſtricts, and ſometimes deep in the ground, where it does not come up to the ſurface; but beyond the northern limits of them, which are at Wantage in Berkſhire, and over the river from Shillingford in Oxfordſhire, and at Maddingley by Cambridge, chalk is hardly any where to be found; no where in any conſiderable quantity, unleſs it be much farther north, in the wolds of Yorkſhire, beyond Pocklington toward Scarborough.

I did not know till lately that we had any chalk nearer us than Maddingley; but ſeveral years ago, the people of Ridlington in Rutland, digging for ſtone to mend the roads, met with a bed of chalk; at which they were much ſurprized, and did not know what it was, having never ſeen a chalk pit before. After I had heard of it, I went to examine the place, and found it a regular chalk pit, with rows of flints lying in it as is uſual in the ſouth of England. The chalk is not ſoft like that they write with, but very much like that they dig about Baldock; nor are the flints ſo black as thoſe in the ſouth of England, but veined, of a light-coloured flint, and white,

ſome parts much mixed with chalk; and are broken, not whole ones. They may have dug the pit ſix yards long and two deep; but how far the chalk reaches I do not know. The ground about it has plainly been formerly dug, perhaps thirty yards ſquare, but completely turfed over again, with the ſame ſtrong turf as the reſt of the cloſe, which is rich paſture land, and feeds oxen for Smithfield market, not like the ſhort graſs on the chalky downs.

Riding laſt autumn along the turnpike road near Stukeley in Huntingdonſhire, I ſaw a little patch of chalk, a few yards long, in a bank which had been dug away by the road ſide; ſo that though we did not know there was any chalk at all in this country, and there certainly is very little, yet here are now two places where it has been met with.