

VII. *An Account of the late mild Weather in Cornwall, of the Quantity of Rain fallen there in the Year 1762: In a Letter from the Rev. William Borlase, M. A. F. R. S. to Mr. Henry Baker, F. R. S.*

Dear Sir,

Ludguan, Jan. 22, 1763.

Read Feb. 10, 1763. I AM very sorry to hear of your distress at London, by the rigour of the season. —Our winters in Cornwall are indeed generally more mild than any where in this island, but I do not remember so wide a difference as that of the present season with you and us. —In November, on the 12. 13. 14. our frost began, mostly attended with hoar frosty mornings: here and there a pool of still water had a film over it, scarce strong enough to bear an egg, not a large pebble: and the frost was always over before noon.—Frost of the same degree on the 18th, and 20th,—hoar frost only the 26th.—Frost, but of no greater degree, Dec. 5. 6. and 7th.—Hoar only on the 11th.—On the 14th and 15th, frost, but of the above degree only: a little sleet on the 31st post merid.—To this day no frost or snow. On these coldest days the Thermometer was never so low as 38° but on three days only, viz. Dec. 14 and 15th, and Jan. 9th.—I must not conceal from you, however, that some allowance must be made for the height of the Quicksilver, because my Thermometer is not with doors; but yet it stands in a little stair-case far from any fire, where the Sun in

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the midft of fummer never reaches till 6 o'Clock P. M. and in winter never: and the cafe in which the tube of Quickfilver is fixed communicates with the open air, by three holes lined with tin, pierced through the munnion of the window to which it is fixed; fo that tho' it is not in the open air, yet muft the Quickfilver be expofed to every extremity of the Atmosphere by conftant intercourfe.

You will judge that our cold was no ways exceffive, when I add, that the balm of Gilead, in the natural open ground, has not fuffered: the myrtles are in perfect health: the mignonettes in flower: the cluster rofe and white Violet in bloom at Chriftnas; and at the fame time I had the fcarlet double ranunculus full blown given me by a neighbour. The double hyacinths have formed their bells, and fome are now ready to unfold.

It has not (I believe) been remembered in the age of man, that in the weft of Cornwall we have ever had fuch a long continuance of eafterly winds.

About the middle of Nov. for 14 days the wind had its prevailing turn from the eaft. — It was eafterly, with a variation now and then (a point or two) to the north or fouth, every day of December, excepting the 21^{ft}, when it blew W. S. W. and S. S. W. — and to this 22^d day of January it has blown every day from the eaft, varying half a point or fo to the S. or N.

Since I have entered into thefe latter difquifitions on the feafon, give me leave to add the quantity of water fallen here in the year 1762.

Inches. Tenths. Parts of a Tenth.

January	—	—	4	—	3	—	0
February	—	—	2	—	1	—	0
March	—	—	2	—	8	—	0
April	—	—	1	—	0	—	$\frac{1}{2}$
May	—	—	1	—	0	—	0
June	—	—	0	—	2	—	0
July	—	—	0	—	5	—	0
August	—	—	3	—	5	—	0
September	—	—	4	—	3	—	0
October	—	—	5	—	6	—	0
November	—	—	3	—	2	—	$\frac{1}{8}$
December	—	—	1	—	4	—	0
In the whole			29	—	9	—	$\frac{4}{8}$

If you, Sir, or any of your acquaintance keep an ombrometer, and register of the rain at London, I should be glad to know how much fell there, for by such observations it might in time be known where the quantity exceeds. I think round Paris they reckon but at 19 inches, but in islands, and near the Sea coast it must be more.

I remain, Sir,

your most obedient servant

William Borlase.