THE TECH.

the mean for these same months was 29.2°. If we compare the months separately, we shall find that last December was 1.1° colder, January 2.8° colder, February 3.0° warmer, and March 0.9° colder than the normals for those months. It may be said, incidentally, that January is ordinarily our coldest month, having a mean temperature of 26.5°. The above shows that the cold has been nearly that of an average Boston winter. If we take the extremes of temperature we shall also see that no records have been broken, though it is true that the minimum temperature is within a degree of the lowest observed since the establishment of the Signal Office. The lowest temperature during these thirteen years was—13° in January, 1882, and the highest during the four cold months of the same period was 72° in March, 1880. This winter the minimum was —12° in December, and the maximum 60.5° in March.

Let us also examine the precipitation as a matter of interest. The snow fall at the Signal Office is measured as water, ten or twelve inches of snow being equivalent to an inch of rain. The average amount of snow and rain for the time before mentioned is 16.40 inches. For the same months of the past winter the total is 20.58 inches, which is a very large excess. Generally the wettest winter month is March, with an average of 5.19 inches; but this year the greatest precipitation, 6.27 inches, occurred in January.

A feature of the past winter was the extremely low barometer which occurred in February. A corrected reading of 28.97 inches was obtained, and this has only once been exceeded since 1871. This great barometric depression was not attended by a storm of corresponding severity. The greatest velocity of the wind was 48 miles an hour from the southeast in January, which is unusually high, though for a short time it is said that a velocity of 72 miles an hour has been recorded here.

One marked characteristic of the winter, and one which everybody has complained of, has been the great number of gloomy days. Thus, during the month of February, there were 18 cloudy days, 10 fair days, and but 1 clear day, while rain or snow fell on 20 days. It is also stated that out of 197 days since September 1, there had been 105 stormy days and only 45 clear ones. Thus it seems that the winter of 1883–84 may be not inappropriately called the “Dark Winter.”

Daniel Pratt.

The illustrious Daniel Pratt, that famous orator, poet, and philosopher, has been once more in our midst. His late lecture on “Evolution, Revolution, and Poetry, or the Immutable Circumlocution of Scientific Volubility,” has attracted much attention from the press, and an intelligent public impatiently waits for the new edition of his “Poems a la Rhapsodie Chelseanea.” By special favor we have been allowed to transcribe a few choice selections for the readers of THE TECH, for whom the gallant general has still a feeling “sui generis.” The first lines are replete with a hidden sentiment of melancholy:

"Some years ago, — an hundred, more or less, —
When Prattville, Chelsea, was a wilderness,
When Woodlawn Graveyard was a pasture shade,
Its virgin soil unbroken by pick or spade,"
Great Daniel Pratt was born!

Space will not permit us to trace all the meanderings of genius in his life, and we pass rapidly to a point where he is compared to —

"Susan B. Anthony, Mrs. Lucy Stone,
Old Horace Greeley, or the ‘favorite son,’
Richard the Third, or Richard, Duke of York,
The Witch of Endor, and Joan of Arc."

We heartily concur in the sentiment expressed in the closing “feet” that —

"A grateful country will record his name
In golden letters on the scroll of fame."

We cannot leave this inspiring subject without submitting with pride the following tribute to THE TECH, which fell, or rather walked, off the end of Gen. Pratt’s pen:

A BRIEF TRIBUTE TO THE TECH.
The Tech is Rapidly growing into Popularity