

Agriculture.

VITALITY OF SEEDS.—The Country Gentleman describes some experiments which the editor made to ascertain the vitality of seeds:

"Fresh seed wheat was sown in pots in autumn, one inch deep, and kept properly moist. In another pot, subjected to the same temperature and the same degree of moisture, was sown wheat kept over one year. In other pots, seed five years old was sown under similar circumstances. The first or fresh seed came up in eleven days, the weather being rather cool; the second seed, one year old, came up in thirteen days. The five-year seed in the other pots came up irregularly, the first in eighteen days, and afterward for nearly a month. The grains of all were counted when placed in the earth, and the result was that all the fresh seed grew; all or nearly all the one year; but not one half the five-year seed ever grew at all. From these limited experiments, we may infer that fresh seed is always the best, if only a year old it may do well, although the plants will hardly have the vigor of the first; but seed several years old should be employed only for preserving or securing some desirable variety. We hope some of our readers will repeat the experiment on oats, barley, etc., by accurately counting, measuring depth, recording dates, etc."

DEPTH TO PLANT SEEDS.—The proper depth to plant seeds is a question of considerable importance, and one which, like many other similar questions relating to plant growth, cannot receive a definite answer that would be of general or universal application. In dry sandy soils, situated in dry climates, a deeper covering will be required than would be judicious where both soil and climate indicate the reverse of these conditions. For instance, it has been shown that peas continue longer in bearing condition, on sandy soils, when sown at a depth of 6 inches, than they do when placed nearer the surface; and it is said that the Indians upon the table lands of the Colorado plant corn 10 to 12 inches below the surface, with the best results; but if planted with only 1 or 2 inches of covering, the crop fails. Seeds also vary in their ability to penetrate depths of soils in germinating. Leguminous seeds, and some of the largest seeding gramineae, can be planted deeper than those of a lighter character. It has been given as a general rule that all seeds germinate most speedily when covered with a depth of soil equal to their own thickness, and where the constant presence of sufficient moisture for germination can be maintained; this rule is, perhaps, as nearly correct as any that can be given.

APPLE SOUFFLE.—Stew the apples with a little lemon-juice; sweeten them; then lay them pretty high round the inside of a dish. Make a custard of the yolks of two eggs, a little cinnamon, sugar and milk. Let it thicken over a slow fire, but not boil; when ready, pour it in the inside of the apple. Beat the whites of the eggs to a strong froth, and cover the whole. Throw over it a good deal of pounded sugar, and brown it of a fine brown.

HORTICULTURAL HINTS.

- 1. When fruit trees occupy the ground nothing else should—except very short grass.
2. Fruitfulness and growth of the tree cannot be expected the same year.
3. If you don't know how to prune, don't hire a man from the other side of the sea who knows less than you do.
4. A tree with the limbs coming out near the ground is worth two trees trimmed up five feet, and is worth four trees trimmed up ten feet, and so on until they are not worth anything.
5. Trim down, not up.
6. Shorten in, not lengthen up.
7. When anybody tells you of a gardener that understands all about horticulture and agriculture, and that can be hired don't believe a word of it, for there are no such to be hired. Such a man can make more than you can afford to give him; and if he has senses enough to understand the business, he will also have enough to know this.—Selected.

The hot-beds should now be set to work without delay.

Revenge, at first thought sweet. Bitter, ere long, back on itself recoils.—Milton.

Scientific.

ALARM ABOUT A COMET.

By our latest English mails we see that the people of Europe and the British Islands have been sadly alarmed touching the advent of a comet, which is expected the ensuing autumn. It seems that a learned man of Switzerland—Professor Plantamour by name—has prophesied that on the 12th of August next, a gigantic comet will come into collision with our earth. Whether or not he infers that the result of the collision will be disastrous to our earth, does not appear. But at all events popular ignorance and fear combined have excited over Europe the greatest apprehensions, lest in the encounter of the comet and our earth the latter should be scorched, shrivelled up, or sent into fragments through space.

The English astronomers have taken the matter up, and have done their best to quiet apprehension. Once a year they are called upon to perform the same task. They were obliged, last winter, to show that the Pigmy comet which displayed its attenuated curve in the Northern heavens, could have no effect on our earth supposing that both came into collision.

But there is this consolation in the matter for the benefit of nervous people. Let the comet be never so large and let it come into collision with our earth whenever it pleases, the effect upon our planet would be like a puff of steam striking on the front of a locomotive at full speed. Such was the opinion of the great French Scientist, Arago; such is the opinion of the astronomers of our own day. Our earth would make short work of any comet crossing its orbit.

The comet of 1770 got so near to the planet Jupiter that it became entangled among his moons. The diameter of the smallest of these moons is only some 2,000 miles; but they proved too much for the comet. They kept their courses as usual; but the comet was twisted out of its path, and retreated into space by a different road from the one on which it had originally started towards the sun. There is reason to believe that in 1861 our earth did actually pass through a comet; but nothing resulted to show whether the event took place.—Globe.

ABOUT SMOKING.—The Food Journal says: "A man with a bad appetite will, if he smoke, most assuredly eat still less—a noteworthy fact for smokers or others recovering from wasting illness or 'off their feed' from whatever cause. This effect of tobacco, by the way, while an evil to the sick man who cannot eat enough, becomes a boon to the starved man who cannot eat; and ample illustration of this was furnished among the French and German soldiers in the recent war. Again, no man should smoke who has a dirty tongue, a bad taste in his mouth, or a weak or disordered digestion. In any such case, he cannot relish his tobacco. It should be a golden rule with smokers, that the pipe or cigar which is not smoked with relish had better not be smoked at all. Indigestion in every shape is aggravated by smoking, but most especially that form of it commonly known as a colic and accompanied with flatulence. Diarrhoea, as a rule, is made worse by smoking."

COLD.—Contrary to an old theory, a popular writer gives the following one how to manage a cold: Eat nothing but a piece of toast, drink freely of cold water, walk twice a day until you are in a gentle perspiration and go to bed early.

FELON.—Take a pint of air-slack lime that is of the consistency of glazier's putty. Make a leather thimble, fill it with this composition, and insert the finger, and the cure is certain.

It is impossible to make people understand their ignorance; for it requires knowledge to perceive it; and therefore he that can perceive it hath it not.—Bishop Taylor.

Brevity is in writing what charity is to all the other virtues. Righteousness is worth nothing without the one, nor authorship without the other.—Sydney Smith.

Many people labor to make the narrow way wider. They may dig a path into the broad way; but the way to life must remain a narrow way to the end.—Cecil.

HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL 10, 1872.

MESSENGER ALMANACK.

APRIL, 1872.

New Moon, April 7th, 8h. 17m. after noon. First Quarter, " 15h. 5h. 57m. afternoon. Full Moon, " 23rd, 9h. 25m. morning. Last Quarter, " 30th, 4h. 7m. morning.

Table with columns: Day, SUN., MOON., High Tide. Rows include dates from April 1st to 30th with corresponding astronomical data.

FOR TIDES.—The column of the Moon's Southings gives the time of high water at Pictou, Cornwallis, Horton, Hantsport, Windsor, Newport, and Truro.

High water at Pictou and Cape Tormentine, 2 hours and 11 minutes later than at Halifax. At Annapolis, St. John, N. B., and Portland Maine, 3 hours and 25 minutes later, and at St. John's, Newfoundland, 20 minutes earlier, than at Halifax. At Charlottetown, 2 hours 56 minutes later. At Westport, 2 hours 54 minutes later. At Yarmouth, 2 hours 20 minutes later.

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE DAY.—Add 12 hours to the time of the sun's setting, and from the sum subtract the time of rising.

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE NIGHT.—Subtract the time of the sun's setting from 12 hours, and to the remainder add the time of rising next morning.

Hats and Caps.

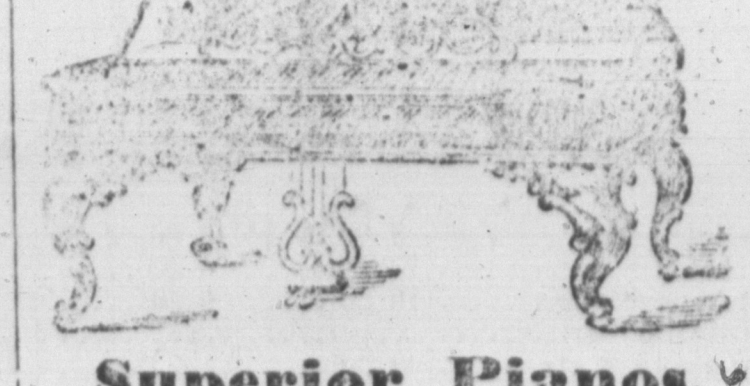
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WINDSOR AND ANNAPOLIS RAILWAY.

TIME TABLE No. 10.

COMMENCING IN JANUARY, 1873.

Table with columns: STATIONS, DOWN TRAINS, UP TRAINS. Rows include stations like Halifax, Four Mile House, Bedford, Rocky Lake, Windsor Junction, Beaver Bank, Mount Uniacke, Stillwater, Ellershouse, Newport, Three Mile House, Windsor, Falmouth, Mount Denison, Hantsport, Avonport, Horton Landing, Grand Pre, Wolfville, Port William, Kentville, Coldbrook, Berwick, Avonport, Morden Road, Kingston, Wilmot, Middleton, Lawrencetown, Paradise, Bridgetown, Roundhill, Annapolis, St. John by Steamer.

UP TRAINS.

Table with columns: STATIONS, UP TRAINS. Rows include St. John, N. B. (by Steamer), Annapolis, Roundhill, Bridgetown, Paradise, Lawrence town, Middleton, Wilmot, Kingston, Morden Road, Aylesford, Berwick, Waterville, Coldbrook, Kentville, do leave, Port William, Wolfville, Grand Pre, Horton Landing, Avonport, Hantsport, Mount Denison, Falmouth, Windsor, do depart, 3-Mile Plains, Newport, Ellershouse, Stillwater, Mount Uniacke, Beaver Bank, Windsor Junction, do arrive, do depart, Rocky Lake, Bedford, Four Mile House, Halifax.

N. B.—Trains meet and pass where the is marked. Trains Nos. 1 and 6 will be run as soon as steamer arrangements, now in progress, are complete, and will stop when flagged for Passengers for the steamer from all Stations. Trains No. 2 and 5 carry Local Freight between Kentville and Halifax, and intermediate Stations. Trains No. 3 and 4 carry Local Freight between Kentville and Annapolis, and intermediate Stations, and Through Freight to Halifax.

VERNON SMITH, Manager. Halifax, 1st January, 1872. Jan. 10.

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The Publishers have no paid agents in the field to visit and impart the praises of their book in the way of paid-for newspaper puff, etc., nor can they afford to pay for several column advertisements in the various denominational papers. Their exhortation to all desirous of procuring a new book therefore is "BE NOT DECEIVED." READ, EXAMINE, COMPARE, and BE SURE YOU "GET THE BEST."

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GEORGE S. YATES, Halifax, N. S., April 24, 1871. May 3.

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