

Scientific.

ARE THE PLANETS INHABITED?

The Evening Mail contains, under the above head, an argument tending to an affirmative answer to this question; but it is founded more on poetical imagination than on sober truth.

The answer to this question is that in all other respects the conditions required for organic life are exceedingly complex. One of them is a temperature between 32° and 100° Fab., and this condition prevails only on two of the planets, the Earth and Mars; all the others are too hot, and their moons are too cold; at least, it is probable that the moons of Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus are as thoroughly cooled off as our own moon, which is as totally unfit for the existence of organic life as the tops of our Himalayas.

We say at the same time; the moon may have been inhabited millions of years ago, when the surface of the earth was as red hot as that of Jupiter is now; and when by further cooling during thousands of centuries our earth will have become desolate, it may be the turn for Jupiter and other planets to become the scene of the most luxurious organic life.

A German saying is: "God works slowly, because He is eternal." No doubt the universe was not created in a hurry; planets have been revolving around central suns for millions of centuries and according to unalterable laws have their periods of preparation, disturbance, evolution, organization, then their period of full organic development, and finally of decay; it is already, a priori, very unlikely that these different periods of their history should exactly coincide, as the planets differ individually and are placed in different conditions; the larger ones must cool slower than the smaller, and those further from the sun faster than those nearer to that orb.

How far we see.—Herschel was of the opinion that, with the telescope he used in those researches in the heavens which immortalized his name in the annals of Science, he could penetrate 497 times farther than Sirius, assumed to be at least so far distant that the sun is near at hand in comparison. While exploring with that instrument, 115,000 stars flitted by the object glass in one quarter of an hour, and that subtended an angle of only 15°. So all the worlds are moving rapidly in space. Reckoning from the limited zone thus inspected, the whole celestial region could be examined by giving time enough to the enterprise; and judging from a few sections only within the scope of assisted vision, more than five billions of fixed stars might be reasonably supposed to be recognizable, and could be seen by modern improved instruments. But more are beyond, vastly beyond, and we are hoping and expecting that, when Mr. Clark, the self-made astronomer of Cambridge, Mass., and the most progressive telescope manufacturer now known to scientists, has completed his great work, far more amazing discoveries will be made in the firmament. Surely, the mechanism of the heavens demonstrates the existence of

an Intelligent First Cause, since such magnificent displays of unnumbered worlds, regulated by laws which secure order in the universe, could not have originated themselves. God surely reigns and directs.—Scien. American.

FROZEN APPLES.—If apples freeze in barrels, or heaps, or wherever they may happen to be, there is no use in thinking that they are practically ruined. If allowed to thaw rapidly, or as fast as the temperature of the atmosphere changes, they will not, probably, command a very remunerative price. If, however, they are covered over with straw, or whatever is convenient, so as to exclude light and air, or if the room where they are darkened, or if they are removed to a dark cellar where the temperature is moderately cold they will thaw gradually, and will be almost as good as ever. The frost must be drawn out slowly, or the apples will be spoiled. When in a frozen state, apples would be handled very carefully or not at all. If they are poured out of a barrel or basket, or if they are shoveled from one place to another, they will be covered, on thawing, with slight bruises, which will quickly decay. Apples may remain frozen all winter or may freeze and thaw an indefinite number of times during the winter, if only the thawing is regulated as described above. If apples are frozen in the barrels on the way they should be kept headed, and covered as closely as possible from the air. They will open after a gradual thawing, almost as if they had never been frost-bitten.

A NEW LANGUAGE FOR JAPAN.—M. Mori, the Japanese chargé d'affaires, has written a remarkable letter to Professor Whitney, the distinguished orientalist at Yale College, in which he states that the present language of Japan is inadequate; and that it is the opinion of the best educated men and most profound thinkers of that country that, in order for their nation to keep pace with the age, some copious, expensible European language must be adopted, which must be taught in the schools and gradually made the common vernacular. The present Japanese dialect is merely a spoken one, having little or no relation to the written language, which is a corruption of the Chinese.

The English language, the writer states, would be adopted in preference to another tongue, were it not for its many irregularities and the absence of law, rule, or order in its orthography. Mr. Mori's idea is to invent a new language or, rather a modification of an old one. In other words, he proposes to compile spelling books, dictionaries, grammars, and other text books teaching what may be termed "simplified English." The terms "spoken, bited, thinned, buyed, comed, beared," will be substituted for the commonly received preterites and participles, and all plural will be made regular. Spelling will be reduced to a purely phonetic basis, and in fact the entire language will be recast.

GUN COTTON.—The surprising discovery has recently been made that gun cotton will explode as readily when damp, or even saturated with water, as when dry, the only condition necessary to its explosion being its connection with a portion of the dry substance. The practical advantages of this discovery are that it may now be placed in magazines without danger, and be carried in its saturated state anywhere and by any mode of conveyance without the slightest chance apparently of disaster, since, so far as we know, no explosion can possibly take place unless dry gun cotton be near. It will also facilitate many mining and torpedoing operations, as no precautions to keep it dry will be necessary, and it may be rammed home into its chambers without fear of danger. In military operations mines can be laid long before they are wanted and their action can be depended on with the greatest confidence.

CURRENCY WANTED.—A newspaper of Iowa city gives a rather discouraging account of what the farmers in those "diggings" are doing, or rather not doing. Here is the price current:—pair of winter boots costs two loads of potatoes; a night's lodging a load of oats; the wife wears five acres of wheat; the children each ten acres of corn; the price of an overcoat is a good four year-old steer; of a Sunday suit; twenty fat hogs. The farm, too, wears a mortgage that is worse than hard-pan to the soil, and the annual tax rots the roof faster than rain.

GOOD ADVICE. If you wish to save money, and at same time keep your HORSES and CATTLE in good condition during the present season of the year, we would recommend you to use the "NORTH BRITISH COMPANY'S" NUTRITIOUS CONDIMENT, we hear it spoken of very highly by those who are using it regularly, as being the cheapest and best SEASONER and INVIGORATOR ever introduced into this province—especially for HORSES, COWS, OXEN and PIGS.—Just get one of the small bags, and you will also be satisfied. It is sold in bags at \$1.25, \$2.50, \$4.25, and \$8. with a Pamphlet, and full directions in each bag. Address—The "North British Cattle Food Co.," 83 Lower Water Street, Halifax, Im.

Joyful news of the Afflicted. GATES' Life of Man Bitters.

Dear Sir,—I feel it my duty to send you the following information both from gratitude to you and for the benefit of those suffering as I was in the winter of 1865. I was taken with jaundice. I was recommended to take such a medicine and I would soon be well. I took almost every thing that was recommended but grew worse. In February of 1866 I was confined to my bed; then the physician was sent for and was almost helpless; the case grew more serious and the doctor said it was Chronic Liver Complaint. It would be impossible for me to describe my suffering for seven months. Many a time I prayed to die. I became a skeleton, no living being could be more so, every thing that medical skill could do was done to no purpose. At last the Doctor said he could do no more, my case was beyond reason, the neighbors and friends came to see me, weeping at the bed side, nothing to look for but death I had read in the Western News, of a lady getting cured of the Liver Complaint by using Gates' medicine. I told mother I wanted my husband to go and procure the medicine and I commenced to take them for three or four weeks I vomited almost constantly and then the vomiting ceased. I soon began to feel better. My spasms less severe and not so often; in about eight months I could stand on my feet and walk a few steps. I gained strength quite fast and am now able to do considerable work, my appetite is good, sleep well and feel well, for which I feel devoutly thankful to God. And I think I would be doing you injustice if I did not send you this certificate. Mrs. MATILDA ROCKWELL. Personally appeared before me and maketh oath to the above certificate ALBERT BECKWITH, J. P. Cornwallis, March 13, 1870.

This is to certify that George A. Parker, of Annapolis in the County of Annapolis and Province of Nova Scotia, maketh oath that he has been afflicted for about six months with dyspepsia in its severest form and also with disease of the Lungs, and has tried different physicians and found no relief and very little or no success, and finally using Mr. Caleb Gates' medicine and using it about two months, is now healthy, well, and strong and would thus wish to make known to suffering humanity the healing virtues of such a boon. Sworn to at Wilmet, this 4th September, 1866, before me JAMES WARELOCK, J. P. Feb. 26.

Price. Bitters \$1 per quart; Syrup 50 cents per pint bottle; Lotion 20 cents per bottle and the ointment 30 cents per box. Address CALEB GATES & CO., Farmington, Wilmet, Annapolis Co. A large number of certificates, similar to the above, have been received and will be published at times for the information of the afflicted and the people generally. AGENTS.—George V. Rand, Wolfville, John Webb, Windsor, J. E. Newcomb, Hantsport, J. L. Cogswell, Kentville, Sheffield & Wickwire, Canning. GENERAL AGENT, JOHN K. BENT, 126 Granville Street, Halifax. Feb. 26.

Superior Pianos, IN VARIOUS STYLES. UPRIGHT, OBLIQUE, SQUARE, Etc. With all the latest improvements, manufactured by the subscribers, and especially adapted to this climate. An assortment of THE "SILVER ZEPHYRUS." A very fine toned CABINET ORGAN, by Carhart and Needham, N. Y. The above are offered to a discriminating public at moderate prices. WM. FRASER & SONS, June 1. 70 & 72 Harrington St. To Parents and Sabbath School Teachers JUST PUBLISHED. SECOND EDITION—REVISED. A SCRIPTURE CATECHISM, for the Family, the Bible Class, and the Sabbath School, BY S. SELDEN. Price 8 cents or 25.00 per 100.

HALIFAX N. S. FEBRUARY 26, 1873. MESSNGER'S ALMANACK. FEBRUARY 1873. Table with columns for Day, SUN, MOON, High Tide, and Low Tide.

THE TIDES.—The column of the Moon's Southings gives the time of high water at PARSBURY, CORNWALLIS, HORTON, HANTSPOET, WINDSOR, NEWPORT, and FROB. 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.

WINDSOR & ANNAPOLIS RAILWAY. CONDENSED TIME TABLE. DECEMBER, 1872. HALIFAX TO ST. JOHN. Table with columns for Stations, Exp, Pass, P.

ST. JOHN TO HALIFAX. Table with columns for Stations, Exp, Pass, P.

N. B.—The Express Trains run on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday only. Steamer "Scud" leave St. John on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, at 8 a. m., for Annapolis and return same day on arrival of 8 a. m. Express Train from Halifax. International Steamers leave St. John every Thursday at 8 a. m., for Eastport, Portland, and Boston. European and North American Railway Trains leave St. John at 8.00 a. m., and 3 p. m. for Woodstock, Fredericton, St. Stephens, Hantsport, Portland, Boston, and all parts of the United States and Canada.

H. O. LAURILLIARD, TAILOR, GENTLEMEN'S DRESS MATERIALS, AND Furnishing Goods constantly on hand. Agent for the NEW YORK FASHION PLATES. 331 HOLLIS STREET, HALIFAX, N. S. May 17. 1yr.

MARGESON'S CALCULIFUGE. This valuable Medicine is now before the public. Sure cure for the Gravel, Stone in the Bladder, and all diseases of the Kidney; in some cases it has cured the Dropsy—the worst or weakest case may use it; perfectly vegetable and in almost all cases it is a sure remedy. Try one bottle. Over 200 cases have been cured in Halifax. It is equally effectual with cattle or Horses, if taken in large quantities. Directions for use will be found on the wrapper or label. Sold wholesale by Avery Brown & Co. R. O. MARGESON & CO., Halifax. Halifax, December 5th 1872.

R. C. MARGESON & Co. Dear Sir—Having been afflicted with Gravel and finding that the doctors could do nothing for me, I was induced to buy your medicine called Calculifuge. I am happy to say after the second trial I was perfectly cured. Recommending it highly to any fellow sufferer with the same complaint. I remain, your humble servant, EDWIN F. CUTLER. Yours, with regard, J. B. SMITHERS. Dec. 18. Im.

PARKS COTTON WARP. WHITE, BLUE, RED, ORANGE & GREEN. Nos. 5s to 10s. WARRANTED to be full length and weight, STRONGER and BETTER in every respect than any other English or American Warp. Beware of Imitations, none is genuine without our name on the label. FOR SALE BY ALL DEALERS. WM. PARKS & SON, New Brunswick Cotton Mills, ST. JOHN, N. B. Dec. 18. Hats and Caps. WE have now on hand a full Stock of all kinds, including the NEWEST STYLES, to which we invite the attention of our friends, both at Wholesale and Retail. Our prices are as low as any in the city. Silk Hats made to order by Conformateur Measure, without extra charge. EVERETT BROTHERS, 100 Granville St. May 3.

British American Book and Tract Depository. 65 GRANVILLE ST., HALIFAX, N. S. Constantly on hand a good supply of Standard Religious, Theological and S. S. Books, Illustrated Papers, Reward Cards, Tracts, &c., &c. The following are offered at about one-third less than the publishing prices in London. In order to extend their circulation as widely as possible. Many of them have been extensively owned by the Spirit of God in the salvation of souls. The prices are given, with the postage on each when ordered by mail.

Table with columns for Title, Price, Postage. Includes items like Personal Religion, Consider it, Boardman, \$0.25, \$0.06; God's Way of Peace, Bonar, 0.25, 0.07; Pilgrim's Progress, Bunyan, 0.25, 0.07; Way of Life, H. Hope, 0.25, 0.07; Guide for Young Disciples, Pike, 0.25, 0.08; Salute Rest, Baxter, 0.25, 0.09; G. H. Treasury, Bonitzky, 0.25, 0.07; Rise and Progress of K. H. in the soul, Doddridge, 0.20, 0.09; Early Religion, Pike, 0.20, 0.04; Early Pict., Pike, 0.20, 0.04; Call to the U converted, Baxter, 0.15, 0.03; Anxious Inquirer, James, 0.15, 0.06; blood of Jesus, 0.20, 0.06; Christian Hero: Life of Robert Annon, 0.20, 0.04; Comm to Jesus, by Newman Hall, 64 pages, two cents; The Sinner's Friend, by John Vine Hall, two cents; Postage on the two last at the rate of 8 cents for 12 copies. Orders to be sent to A. McBEAN, Secty. July 31.

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