

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N. S., FEBRUARY 11, 1874

ALMANAC FOR FEBRUARY

Full Moon, February 1, 7h. 21m. mor. 10g. Last Quarter, " 9th. Oh. 14m. afternoon. New Moon, " 16th. 8h. 1m. a.m. noon. First Quarter, " 23-d. 6h. 31m. morning.

Table with columns for Day, SUN., MOON., High Tide, and Low Tide. Rows list days from 1st to 28th with corresponding times and tide heights.

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

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 in the morning.

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January 6th, 1874. Jan. 14. 3m.

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Will find our Terms Liberal, and we assure them that their interests will receive our best attention. GEORGE S. YATES, Halifax, N. S., April 24, 1871.

Scientific.

PETROLEUM AS FUEL.

The other day the Great Western Railway company tested the practicability of using petroleum as fuel on railroads. An engine was sent to Petrolia fitted up with the burner and tested, giving perfect satisfaction. On the first trial trip Mr. Harrison, Local Superintendent at London, drove the engine himself, Mr. Addison directing the fires. Mr. Ribbighal and a number of his friends were on the tender as the locomotive steamed out amid considerable enthusiasm. On the return of the engine Mr. Harrison expressed himself perfectly satisfied with the invention. Subsequently the apparatus was subjected to a more trying test, the locomotive being placed upon the Hamilton oil train en route for London with a train of fifteen cars and a passenger car—seven iron tank cars and seven box cars, all laden. The Advertiser, in alluding to the test, says:—The introduction of the burner generally is now only a question of time. That the oil is cheaper and better in every way than coal or wood is an undisputed fact, and when this is clearly proven, upon the necessarily imperfect tests of a new invention, what may we not expect when experience has improved and simplified it, as surely will be the case.

FECUNDATION OF VEGETABLES.—M. Buer announces that he has put Houbreuk's process for the fecundation of vegetables in successful practice in the Botanic Garden of Vienna.

This process, which it would seem, achieves important results, consists simply on touching the extremity of the pistil (the stigma) of the flower, just before it blooms, with a pencil dipped in honey, or better still, with honey mingled with the pollen of the same plant on which the operation takes place. The process has succeeded admirably, it is stated, on fruit trees and even on certain particular branches of trees which had never borne. On the portions thus treated, fruit formed in natural course while other parts remained in their normal condition.

CHARCOAL AND TAR AS A SURGICAL DRESSING.—The London Lancet strongly recommends the use of a mixture of charcoal and coal tar, containing 33 per cent of the latter, in pulverized form, as a dressing for wounds. The powder exercises no irritative action, and is easily removed by lotions of cold water. The charcoal absorbs gases due to fermentation, coagulates the albumen, and prevents decomposition, in this respect materially aiding the action of the carbolic acid contained in the coal tar. For wounds which cannot bear the contact of the powder, 100 parts of pulverized coal tar are macerated for some hours in 400 parts of rather weak alcohol. The solution is said to be very efficacious.

WASHING LIGHT-COLORED CALICOES.—Take a tablespoonful of alum, and dissolve it in enough luke warm water to rinse a print dress. Dip the soiled dress into it, taking care to wet thoroughly every part of it, and then wring it out. Have warm soapuds all ready (but only pleasantly warm to the hand—hot water always fades calicoes) and wash out the dress quickly; then rinse it in cold water. Have the starch ready—but not too hot, only warm—rinse the dress in it, wring it out, and hang it to dry, but not in the sun.

Always place your line where the wind strikes it rather than the sun. When dry enough to iron, bring in and iron directly. Prints should never be sprinkled, but if allowed to become rough dry, they should be ironed under a damp cloth. It is better to wash them some day by themselves, when washing and ironing can be done at once.—Country Gentleman.

There is said to be a daily production of over twenty three tons of oleomargarina, a commercial substitute for butter, and during the past eight months eight million pounds have been consumed in the United States.

EXPLANATION.—"How is it, Miss, that you gave your age to the registrar as only twenty-five? I was born the same year with yourself, and, being thirty-nine, must be—" Young Lady; "Ah you see, Mr. Assessor, you have lived much faster than I."—Christian Register.

Faults are thick, where love is thin.

Agricultural.

ABOUT HORSES.

PROMOTING GROWTH OF MANE.—Midy Morgan gives this recipe for accelerating the growth of hair on the manes and tails of horses. She says: "Take corrosive sublimate (hyd. bichloride), oxymercurate of mercury, each four grains in one ounce of distilled water. Wash the parts where the hair is thin with warm water and soap, then rub with a linen cloth, and immediately after rub in some of the above liniment. If the hair has been rubbed off by the animal's own endeavors to allay cutaneous irritation, then dress with the following ointment: One ounce of fine flour sulphur, one ounce of pulverized salt-petre, made into a soft ointment, with fresh butter or fresh-rendered hog's lard; rub in at night and wash out in the morning with warm water and soap; repeat three or four times. If the hair is scant from natural debility of the capillary organs, then simply use cold water applied with a soft sponge; avoid all combing or brushing, and clean the mane and tail as Arabs do, with a coarse flannel rubber."

PIGEON-TOED—HOW DR. DUNBAR MAKES A HORSE TOE OUT—A WONDERFUL OPERATION.—Yesterday afternoon (Nov. 19), Dr. Alexander Dunbar, of Woodstock, Canada, whose reputation is very extended, performed an interesting operation on a horse in Adams' blacksmith establishment, on Second Street. The harness was pigeon-toed, so much so in fact, that he could not travel with ease or grace. When standing square on his forward feet, with his knees four inches apart, his hoofs would nearly touch each other in front. The operation appeared very simple. The hoof was pared to the quick, and a shoe fastened on. Then a spreading jack was inserted in the hoof, and widened gradually by means of a screw, until the leg bone was twisted to its proper place. After one operation, which the horse did not seem to mind, his hoofs, when standing in the same position as before, where three and one-quarter inches apart. The difference was perceptible without the use of a rule. Horsemen generally will not believe this statement, or they will assert that the horse is ruined for life. Such is not the case. The horse is worth to day \$100 more than yesterday. Messrs. George Clason, Geo. Stevens, and M. B. Medbury, were present during the operation, and were convinced that it was a successful one.—Milwaukee News.

TREATMENT OF HORSES.—The New England Farmer contains the following:—A horse kept soft and pliable with hoofs' foot oil, will last nearly a lifetime. It is stronger, because slightly elastic, and will seldom wear off the hair. Your horses' shoes will hold on longer if the clutches are not weakened by the file in finishing. Insist that the file does not touch the end of the nail where turned over. An over-reaching horse—one whose hind feet are frequently hitting the forward shoes—should wear heavy shoes forward, and light ones behind. The theory is that the heavier hoof will be thrown a little farther ahead at each step than the lighter one.

To prevent horses from rubbing the hair off their mane and tail, take half a teacupful of sharp cider vinegar, pour on the spot where the rubbing is done, and card it while pouring on, and it will be found that this simple thing will stop rubbing down fences, or spoiling the looks of the tail in the stable.

ABOUT BEES.—He may be regarded as a master in bee-culture who knows how to winter his stocks in a healthy condition, with the least loss of bees, the smallest consumption of stores, and with the combs unsoiled.

The average weight of workers is 4850 to a pound, and workers. 1600 drones weigh about the same.

As a supply for the winter, a strong stock should, on the first of November, contain at least one pound of honey for every thousand bees; and a weak stock should then have a pound and a half for every thousand bees.

In a favorable year an acre of buckwheat in blossom can furnish 25 lbs. of honey daily; and a strong stock of bees, not having over half a mile to fly, can carry from six to eight pounds a day.

A large natural swarm of bees carries with it four or five pounds of honey when leaving.

Some experienced bee-keepers are wintering their stocks in dark closets and other above-ground apartments, finding that they thus escape damp. If this course is adopted, the honey boards must be removed and a blanket or other porous covering substituted so that there may be circulation of air and escape of moisture. Bees will make more wax when fed on sugar syrup, than when fed on honey, and will winter better on it.

ABOUT MANURES.—ON SURFACE MANURING.—A correspondent of the New York Tribune, writing from Livingston County N. Y., on experiments in manuring, says: About nine years ago I became the owner of a small farm near where I reside, and in one of the fields I discovered a side hill, or knoll, unproductive. After plowing it for wheat I scattered over it a thin coat of manure, then harrowed it, and drilled in the wheat. The consequence was that the wheat was there as stout as it could stand. The clover that followed was just the same, and to this day, though no manure has been added, it is the most productive part of the field. I have tried it in other places with the same results. This year, though we have not half a crop of wheat, wherever surface manure has been spread there is a full crop. Hay had dwindled down to about one-fourth of the usual crop, but where I scattered manure over the surface, during the winter, no better or more abundant grass ever grew. To this experience I will add that I have several times plowed under manure for corn and beets, but have never discovered any effect, except to get it out of sight.

Andrew S. Fuller, author of the 'Small Fruit Culturist,' says that with him coal ashes are worth three or four dollars a load, especially on sandy land.

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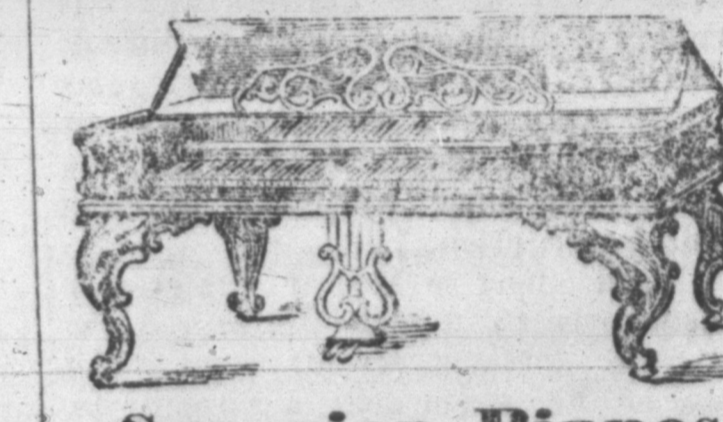
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