

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL 1, 1874.

ALMANAC FOR APRIL

Table with columns for Day, SUN, MOON, and High Tide. It lists dates from 1st to 30th of April with corresponding astronomical data.

THE TIDES.—The column of the Moon's Southern gives the time of high water at Pairsboro', 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.

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GEORGE S. YATES.

Halifax, N. S., April 24, 1874.

Agricultural.

TEN RULES FOR FARMERS.

- 1. Take good papers and read them. 2. Keep an account of farm operations. 3. Do not leave implements scattered over the farm, exposed to snow, rain, and heat. 4. Repair tools and buildings at a proper time and do not suffer a subsequent threefold expenditure of time and money.

BUTTER IN FRANCE.

If our dairy-men need a spur, an eye-opener, a lesson which speaks volumes in three words, here is one at the head of this article. Butter is actually brought from France and sold by the New York dealers.

CULTIVATION OF FISH IN DITCHES AND PONDS.

Experience proves that young fish are much more easily cultivated than has been supposed. Much attention is now being paid in Germany to their cultivation in ponds and ditches, and it has been found contrary to the generally received opinion in reference to such localities, that they are more favourable for the purpose than other large bodies of water apparently fresh and pure in their character.

COAL ASHES AS A PHOSPHATIC FERTILIZER.

On the basis of numerous analyses of many varieties of coal from different localities, it is again asserted that coal ashes exert a beneficial effect on land, not only by reason of their mechanical action on some soils but also on account of their mineral ingredients: a ton of ashes containing about 33 pounds of phosphoric acid besides sulphate of potash and alkali.

The oyster beds of Virginia cover an area equal to six hundred and forty thousand acres, and those great mines of submarine wealth are estimated to yield an annual money value of ten millions of dollars.

A girl hearing her mistress ask her husband to bring "Dombey and Son" with him when he came to dinner, set two extra plates for the expected guests.

Scientific.

SCIENTIFIC AMUSEMENTS.

The following will afford, perhaps, an occasional hour's amusement around the evening lamp, and stimulate scientific research among the young folks. Wet a thick piece of wrapping paper or half a sheet of heavy foolscap paper; dry it thoroughly over the register, or on top of the stove; while warm, lay it down upon a varnished table or dry woolen cloth, and rub it briskly with a piece of india rubber. It will become electrified and if tossed against the wall or the looking-glass, will adhere for a long time.

ONE HUNDRED AND TWELVE MILES AN HOUR ON THE ICE.

The Poughkeepsie Eagle gives an interesting account of an example of such movement which recently took place on the Hudson river at Poughkeepsie. The wind blew very fresh from the south, and the owner of the new ice boat Cyclone determined to take advantage of the favorable opportunity for timing his yacht. The Hudson at this point is very wide, and at the course selected its breadth is one mile. Having made every preparation for the feat to be accomplished, the reef points were shaken out of the sails, and every stitch of canvas spread to the gale.

The Scientific American think the above statement of velocity needs further verification.

Allowing that the breeze which propelled the boat was a high wind, its velocity could not have exceeded thirty five miles per hour, while the boat moved at the rate of one hundred and twelve and a half miles per hour, which is faster than a tornado. The wind of the latter reaches a velocity of one hundred miles an hour, pressing with a force of fifty pounds to the square foot upon whatever object it touches, sweeping away buildings and trees in its fearfully rapid progress.

GIZZARDS OF INSECTS.

Everyone knows that turkeys, fowls, geese and many other birds that take their food by the peck, are supplied with gizzards and that such birds swallow grains of sand, small pebbles, and other hard substances with their food. The action of the gizzard upon this mixture may be easily understood; the hard substance are made to do the duty of teeth by crushing and grinding the softer ones to a pulp, so that teeth in the mouth of a fowl would be out of place. Many who know all this may not be aware that several insects have gizzards too, and still more wonderful. The gizzards of insects are much more complicated affairs than those of birds.

it will be found lined with rows of formidable teeth—a good substitute, you will say, for the sand and pebbles taken into the gizzards of birds at every meal; and as these teeth are permanent, they no doubt save the possessor of them a vast deal of trouble, unless indeed the cricket should ever be subject to the toothache. The gizzards of insects are not all alike; some are lined with teeth, some with plates, some with boras, and some with bristles; but in every instance the apparatus is a very wonderful one. In a pretty little beetle not uncommon in some localities, and with a name much longer, perhaps than the longest to be found in the register, the gizzard is about the size of a common pin's head, and is armed with more than 400 teeth; imagine what the number of muscles must be to set all this machinery in motion, and keep up its action upon the food. In some species it amounts to many thousands.

Captain Fraser, who lately brought away from the Earnsclough Cave in the south of New Zealand, the entire neck of a moa with the skin of the gigantic bird still on it, has been lecturing on the subject of his discovery. The floor of the cave, he states, is covered with a fine dust, in which lie bones and many rolls resembling pieces of the bark of a tree, but which, on examination, proved to be fragments of the reddish brown moa skin. While he was searching among these, his companion found under a ledge the distinct remains of a large nest of grass with the fragments of eggs and the bones of young birds in it; from which it appears that the extinct bird not only took refuge in but bred in such places, of concealment as this now famous cave.

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