

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N.S., DECEMBER 16, 1874.

ALMANAC FOR DECEMBER.

New Moon, Dec. 8th, 7h. 52m. afternoon. First Quarter, " 16th, 8h. 10m. morning. Full Moon, " 23d, 0h. 42m. morning. Last Quarter, " 30th, 10h. 22m. morning.

Table with columns for Day, SUN, MOON, High Tide, and Low Tide. Rows list days of the month with corresponding times and tide heights.

THE TIDES.—The column of the Moon's Southings gives the time of high water at PARSBORO', CORNWALLIS, HORTON, HANTSPOUR, 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, 30 minutes earlier, than at Halifax.

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 24 hours, and to the remainder add the time of rising.

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Send for Circular, July 15.

BETCHER'S PECTORAL MIXTURE

FOR Coughs, Colds, Whooping Cough, Asthma, &c. CERTIFICATES.

This article has been known to give immediate relief in Chronic Coughs when other Syrups have utterly failed, and for temporary coughs and colds it is invaluable, for which assertions abundant testimony can be produced. For singers and speakers it is also invaluable. No harm can result from a free use of this medicine.

To be had of the Manufacturer J. W. BETCHER, No. 27 CORNWALLIS STREET, HALIFAX, N. S.

HALIFAX, March 10th, 1873. J. W. BETCHER, Esq.

Dear Sir,—Having used a half dozen bottles of your valued Pectoral Mixture I find myself greatly relieved from a chronic cough, and pulmonary weakness which had been preying upon my system for over a year, and would I recommend it to all who are suffering from like complaints.

St. Johns, N. B., April 16th, 1874. GEO. L. FELLOWS.

This is to certify that I was attacked with a very severe cold combined with the Asthma very bad, so that I could not lie down or hardly breathe. One bottle of the cough medicine prepared by J. Betcher, Esq., of Halifax, N. S., relieved me, and five bottles completely cured me so I have not been troubled with the Asthma since and I believe it to be the best medicine for Coughs, Colds, Asthma, &c., that there is made.

Aug. 12. JOHN N. DEARBORN, 1 yr.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

To the Editor of Christian Messenger. ESTEEMED FRIEND: Will you please inform your readers that I have a positive

CURE FOR CONSUMPTION and all disorders of the Throat and Lungs, and that by its use in my practice, I have cured hundreds of cases, and will give

\$1,000.00. for a case it will not benefit. Indeed so strong is my faith, I will send a Sample, free, to any sufferer addressing me.

Please show this letter to any one you may know who is suffering from these diseases, and oblige, Faithfully Yours, DR. T. F. BURT, William Street, New York, 29 ins. Aug.

Agricultural.

HOW TO TREAT FRUIT TREES.—In considering the growth of organisms, the action of the alkalies is to be looked upon as scarcely less important than that of air and water. Lime is the great animal alkali, and potash the vegetable one; its old name of vegetable kali expressed that fact, and all the potash of commerce is well known to be derived from wood ashes. The importance of potash as a manure has been frequently overlooked by farmers, who rarely know the large amount of this material found in grass, grain crops, leaves, barnyard manure, roots and fruits. How potash acts in plants, in conjunction with carbon and silex, to form woody fibre, starch, sugar and oil, is yet unknown to the chemical observers, but the fact of its action is beyond a doubt. Liebig long since pointed out that the chief cause of barrenness is the waste of potash carried off by rich crops, especially tobacco, with no replacement by proper manure. How many millions of pounds of potash have been sent to Europe from the forests of America, and in the grain, tobacco, and hemp! Luckily one alkali may be replaced by another, and we have received a considerable quantity of soda from European seaweed and in the shape of salt. Latterly, nitrate of soda from natural deposits in South America is brought to us at a cheap price.

The point to which we now call attention is that our farmers and fruit-growers have ignored, or rather been ignorant of, the importance of wood ashes as a vegetable stimulant and as the leading constituents of plants. Even coal ashes, now thrown away as useless, have been shown, both by experiment and analysis, to possess a fair share of alkaline value. According to our observation, if the practice of putting a mixture of wood and coal ashes around the stems of fruit trees and vines, particularly early in the spring, were followed as a general rule, our crops of apples, grapes, peaches, etc., would be greatly benefited in both quality and quantity, and the trees and vines would last longer. We will relate only one experiment. Some twenty-five years ago, we treated an old hollow pippin apple tree as follows: The hollow, to the height of eight feet was filled and rammed with a compost of wood ashes, garden mold, and a little waste lime (carbonate). This filling was securely fastened in by boards. The next year, the crop of sound fruit was sixteen bushels from an old shell of a tree that had borne nothing of any account for some time. But the strangest part was what followed. For seventeen years after the filling that old pippin tree continued to flourish and bear well.

Let us call attention to still another point of importance in fruit-raising. This is the bearing year for apples, and fruit in general in New England; probably it is also in some other parts. Now when such years come, the farmers rejoice too much at their prosperity and abuse it, as nearly all people do the gift of fortune. We should be temperate as to the quantity of our fruit as well as of fruit juices. By proper trimming and plucking, the apple crop in bearing years may be reduced to little more than half a crop as to number, but the improvement in size and price, and in the future effect, will more than balance the loss. Next February, March, or April, according to latitude, let the tree trimmer stimulate and nourish his trees and vines with a fair supply of ashes; and in nearly every case he will have a good crop of fruit in the non-bearing year. —Scientific American.

THE KANGAROO VINE.—A plant of the Kangaroo vine took one of the forest giants of Australia into its murderous embrace, and killed it so completely that it altogether disappeared, and nothing was left but a spiral column of vine, nearly 200 feet high. From the top of this the huge climber stretched out its arms for more than 130 feet to a great gum tree, and having clasped this, it was endeavoring to reach all the other trees in the neighborhood. A native gave this tree the not unsuitable name of the "Devil's Corkscrew."

A new potato, known as the white queen (reine blanche) is being cultivated in France. In good soil, from ten to fifteen tubercles are formed, many of which attain or exceed the weight of 22 pounds. The flavor is said to be very fine. Planted in February or March, it becomes ripe in July.

Scientific.

The Science of Health thus calls attention to a fact which cannot be too frequently enforced on people's minds: "The pernicious habit of breathing through the mouth while sleeping or waking is very hurtful. There are many persons who sleep with the mouth open and do not know it. They may go to sleep with it closed, and awake with it closed; but if the mouth is dry and parched on waking, it is a sign that it has been open during sleep. Snoring is another sure sign. This habit should be overcome. At all times, except when eating, drinking, or speaking, keep the mouth firmly closed, and breathe through the nostrils, and retire with a firm determination to conquer. The nostrils are the proper breathing apparatus—not the mouth. A man may inhale poisonous gasses through the mouth without being aware of it, but not through the nose."

EFFECT OF AMMONIA FUMES ON FLOWERS.—Professor Gabba has been examining the effects of ammonia on the color of flowers. It is well known that the smoke of tobacco will, when applied in sufficient quantity, change the tint of flowers, but Professor Gabba experiments by pouring a little ammonia liquor into a saucer and inverting a funnel over it. Placing the flowers in the tube of the latter, he finds that blue, violet, and purple colored blossoms become of a fine green; carmine and crimson become black; white, yellow; while parti-colored flowers such as red are changed to green and yellow. If the flowers are immersed in water, the natural color will return in a few hours. Professor Gabba also found that asters acquire a pleasing odor when submitted to the fumes of ammonia.

PARLOR SCIENCE.—Spatterwork.—Jeannie sends the following very plain directions for making spatterwork, which any girl can follow if she is careful and neat-handed, and very pretty things we have seen made of it, too: Almost every one has seen "Spatterwork," but not every one knows how to make it. I make it on Bristol board, Swiss muslin or linen—white of course. Get fifteen cents worth of India ink, which will make any amount of work, an old tooth-brush and a fine comb.

Arrange tiny leaves, ferns and any other delicate foliage you can find on your ground work, being careful not to let one overlap another. Fasten the leaves down by pins stuck through into a lapboard or table, just as you want them, pressing the leaf close to the ground work. Dissolve the ink by rubbing the piece with a small quantity of water on a plate, till about as thick as cream. Rub your brush on, and then holding it in the left hand, draw the comb carefully over the bristles, and the ink will fly off in almost imperceptible spatters. Go over and over the work till it is of a uniform dark gray; then on taking the ferns off there is a clear print, looking like a photograph. With a little practice one can make beautiful mottoes for the wall. Swiss muslin makes lovely ties, with a running border round the finger-wide hem, and an initial in the middle; and linen makes bureau mats. For cushion to match the mats I mean to try light green silk, "spattered" till it is black. That would make green ferns on a black ground.

Another pretty leaf print is this: Grease a clean white paper, and smoke it over a candle till black; then press a leaf firmly on, take it up carefully, on a clean white card-board, pressing down hard, and you will have a perfect print, every vein distinct and beautiful. —Advance.

There is a cave in Mexico which is said to be the largest in the world. A volcanic mountain with an extinct crater covers it. The last exploring party consisted of six hundred persons, provided with Bengal lights, and scientific appliances. At a depth of fifty feet, the roof, in a succession of halls, was so high that rockets often exploded before striking it. Labyrinthian passages leave the main hall, in every direction: stalactites and stalagmites abound. Below this, at a great depth, are two other immense caves, from each of which issues a branch of a great river. These two rivers enter some five miles distant, at the other side of the mountain, flow parallel, and issue at last together.

Most people are like eggs—too full of themselves to hold anything else.

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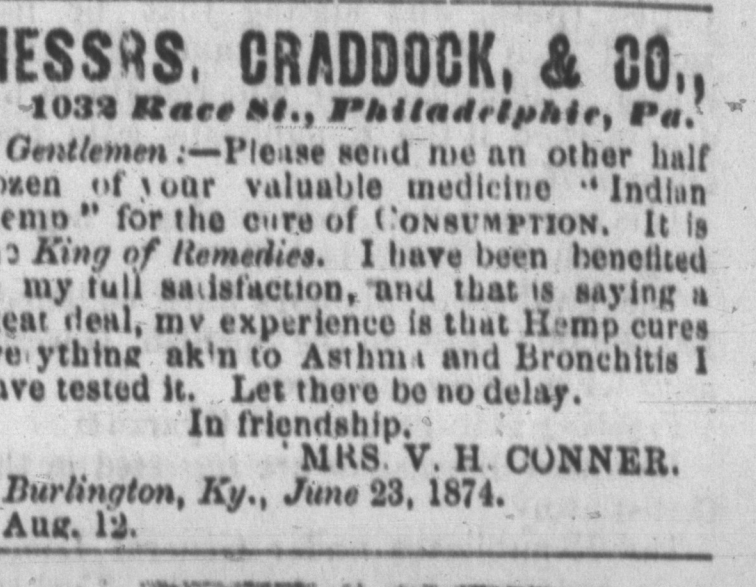
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