

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL 15, 1874.

ALMANAC FOR APRIL

Table with columns for Day, SUN, MOON, and High Tide. It lists astronomical data for the month of April, including moon phases and tide heights.

THE TIDES.—The column of the Moon's Southing 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.

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Scientific.

SUDDEN WARMING.—A very dangerous, yet a very common winter practice, is that of suddenly warming when very cold. We frequently read in the papers of little children falling down dead on suddenly going to the heated stove after a long, cold walk.

FECONDITY OF FISHES.—It is said that probably about 60,000,000 or 70,000,000 surround the shores of Newfoundland. But even that quantity seems small when we consider that the cod yields something like 3,500,000 eggs each season.

RAPID CURE FOR CATARRH.—According to Hamilton, the severest catarrhal cold can be removed in about ten hours by a mixture of carbolic acid 10 drops, tincture of iodine and chloroform each 7.5 drops.

"THE POOR MAN'S FILTER," consists of a common garden flower pot, of some 9 inches in diameter and 10 inches depth. The drainage hole is stopped (not too tightly) with a piece of clean sponge.

After a wooden pulley is turned and rubbed smooth, boil it for about eight minutes in olive oil: then allow it to dry, after which it will ultimately become almost hard as copper.

Can an edifice that weighs two hundred and fifty tons be properly called a light-house.

Agricultural.

EARLY SPRING WORK.

STABLES.—If stables have not been kept clean they should have a thorough cleaning now.

MANURES not turned and composted should have immediate attention. Without plenty of manure, in the right condition, little profit may be looked for from the farm.

ANIMALS need great care this month. Hay and other fodder should be cut with a horse-power machine, salted at the rate of about two quarts to the ton and stored for future use.

The American Stock Journal says; "Those having the care of farm stock should ever have a watchful eye on it. The fickle weather of this month—some days balmy and pleasant, others cold and stormy, the changes sudden and unexpected, pleasant sunshine in the morning, followed by a north-easter in the evening, requires the greatest watchfulness on the part of herdsmen.

The sunshine at this season is very grateful to the animal system and highly conducive to health; but the adverse changes are very injurious and should be guarded against by housing or sheltering stock whenever they occur.

GRAFTING.—Cherry and Plum trees should be grafted earlier than apple and pear trees.

PRUNING.—Continue to prune while vegetation is dormant, taking care to cover all large cuts with melted grafting wax, shellac varnish or paint.

EARLY PLANTS.—The simplest way of securing early plants, where but a few are required, is to start them in window-boxes. These ought to be three or four inches deep and filled to within half an inch of the top with fine light, rich garden soil.

HOT-BEDS.—This month will be the proper season for making hot-beds. Select a dry sheltered spot, with a southern exposure if possible, and dig a pit of the required size to a depth of eighteen inches to two feet; this pit ought to be at least a foot wider and longer than the frame used, and be boarded up with any old boards.

COLD FRAMES are made in the same way as hot-beds, except that no manure is used; the frame is put upon a spot where the soil is rich and carefully prepared.

BEETS may be sown as soon as the frost is out of the ground, as they will bear considerable cold after they have been planted.

FRUIT GARDEN.—Raspberries.—Set as early as the ground will allow, in rows from four to six feet apart, according to the variety.

Currants.—Make cuttings of such varieties as are wanted, and plant four inches asunder in rows two feet apart, taking care to press the earth firmly around the base of the cutting.

Strawberries.—Plant out new beds and remove all runners not wanted for planting from the old beds. Set the

plants in rows two feet apart, and eighteen inches in the sows. Mulch with leaves or cut straw to keep the newly-planted beds from drying out during the Summer, and upon cold beds to promote growth and keep the fruit clean.

FLOWER GARDEN.—Annuals.—Sow in hot-beds of window-boxes that there may be plenty of young plants to use in planting the borders.

Perennials grow better if divided at least, once in three years. Attend to this as early as possible before growth commences.

BEE NOTES.—The number of humble bees in the country will depend upon the number of cats! How can that be? Because the number of bees is dependent upon the number of field mice, which eat the bees.

The visits of bees are necessary to the fertilization of some kinds of clover, and almost indispensable to the fertilization of the heartsease, for these bees do not visit the flower.

Twenty heads of unprotected Dutch clover yields 2,990 seeds. The same number protected from bees produced not one seed; 100 heads of unprotected red clover yielded 2,700, and the same number protected from bees not a seed.

DZIERZON watched a queen bee when laying, and noticed that she laid eighteen worker eggs in three minutes. She appeared to dispatch business still more expeditiously when laying drone eggs.

The most complete check upon robbing bees is to place a bunch of grass or wet hay over the entrance to the hive. The bees will find their way to the entrance of their own hive the robbers will be caught by the sentinels in passing through the grass, and soon cease their pilfering.

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