

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N. S., MAY 13, 1874.

ALMANAC FOR MAY.

Table with columns for Day, SUN, MOON, High Tide, and Low Tide. It lists astronomical data for the month of May 1874.

THE TIDES.—The column of the Moon's Southern gives the time of high water at Parrsboro', Cornwallis, Horton, Hantsport, 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, 20 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 12 hours, and to the remainder add the time of rising next morning.

WINDSOR & ANNAPOLIS RAILWAY. SPRING ARRANGEMENT. COMMENCING WEDNESDAY, 1st April, 1874. HALIFAX TO ST. JOHN.

Table showing train schedules from Halifax to St. John. Columns include Miles, Stations, Exp. Pass. and No. of Frgt. cars.

ST. JOHN TO HALIFAX.

Table showing train schedules from St. John to Halifax. Columns include Miles, Stations, Exp. Pass. and No. of Frgt. cars.

N. B.—Trains Nos 1 and 6 run in connection with the Steamer "Scud", and on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday only. Steamer "Scud" leaves St. John on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, at 8 a. m. for Annapolis, and returns same day, on arrival of 8 a. m. Express Train from Halifax.

Hats and Caps. WE have now on hand a full Stock of all kinds, including the NEWEST STYLE, to which we invite the attention of our friends, both at Wholesale and Retail.

Scientific.

THE PYROPHONE.—M. Frederic Kastner, of Paris, has recently devised a novel and very remarkable musical instrument, which, it is said, produces astonishing effects even in the midst of the largest orchestras.

The pyrophone, at first sight, resembles an organ; but instead of being operated by air blown in, it produces its notes by the singing of the flames within the tubes, the quality of the sound, its pitch, and intensity depending of course on the dimensions of the latter.

It is said that the music thus produced is extremely beautiful, and that the sound closely resembles, in delicacy and purity, that of the human voice.

HOW LONG ANIMALS LIVE.—According to some naturalists the length of the life of animals is as follows, though it is really puzzling to see how they can tell all this, especially about those that live a hundred years or more:

- The rabbit lives from 6 to 7 years. The squirrel from 7 to 8. The fox from 14 to 15. The cat from 15 to 16. The dog from 16 to 18. The bear and the wolf from 18 to 20. The rhinoceros from 20 to 22. The horse from 22 to 25. The hen from 25 to 30. The cow and the camel 100. The tortoise 100. The eagle 120. The swan 160. The elephant 40. The whale, according to Cuvier, 100 years.

HOW TO SELECT FLOUR.—1. Look at its color; if it is white, with a slightly yellowish or straw colored tint, it is a good sign. If it is very white, with a bluish cast with white specks in it, the flour is not good.

It is proposed to construct a railway from Naples to the crater of Mount Vesuvius. The journey will be made in an hour and a quarter, and the line is to cost six or eight hundred thousand dollars.

A NEW COMET.—The discovery of a new bright comet is announced by the Academy of Sciences, Vienna. An observer at Yonkers, N. Y., states that it is nearly globular, about two minutes in diameter, with a decided condensation towards the center.

"What comes after T?" asked a teacher of a small pupil, who was learning the alphabet. He received the reply: "You do—to see Lisa."

Agricultural.

COMPOST.—Manure is the food of plants, and requires to be decomposed, so as to be either soluble or gaseous, in order that it may enter the pores of the rootlets, and become part and parcel of the delicate structures it is meant to nourish.

Compost may be formed in a variety of ways. It is like hash, which may be made of fish, flesh, or fowl, with potatoes as a kind of base of operations, Muck, or some substance abounding in vegetable matter, as leaf mould or soot in like manner is a good base of operations for a compost heap.

Besides these and such-like home resources, the farmer may avail himself of outside helps to the compost heap. Wood ashes, leached or unleached, may be advantageously mixed with muck and other substances.

GROWING VEGETABLES.—The Gardener's Monthly says: There are but few varieties of vegetables grown but pay in proportion to the fertilizers used, other things being equal.

TO BEGIN, I would say, in the first place, soil is of the first importance. You want light, sandy loam; without this you will be several days behind those having the proper soil, earliness being the cream of the business.

CULTIVATION OF SMILAX.—Mr. J. Vick, than whom there is no better authority as a florist, gives the following directions for the household culture of this plant, now so much used in floral decorations, for twining in the hair, and for trimming party dresses:

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weeks. The vine does not require the full sun, but will grow well in a partially shaded situation. It can be trained on a small thread across the window or around pictures.

A new species of pumpkin is announced from Jardin d'Acclimation at Paris, under the Spanish name of "Zapallita de tronco," or Tree pumpkin. It differs from other pumpkins, as it does not run, but is more upright than the Bush Scolop-Squash.

I knew a farmer who thought all weather the best weather; a barren year good as a fruitful one, as giving the earth a needed rest or sort of Sabbath, and who never quarrelled with the qualities and capacities of the soil, but took it gladly as it was, and accepted white beans with the same grace as he would wheat.

The digestibility of red clover, lucerne, and other green food, has been shown by recent German experiments to be slightly affected by drying; indeed, in some experiments the dried hay is found to be more digestible than the green food.

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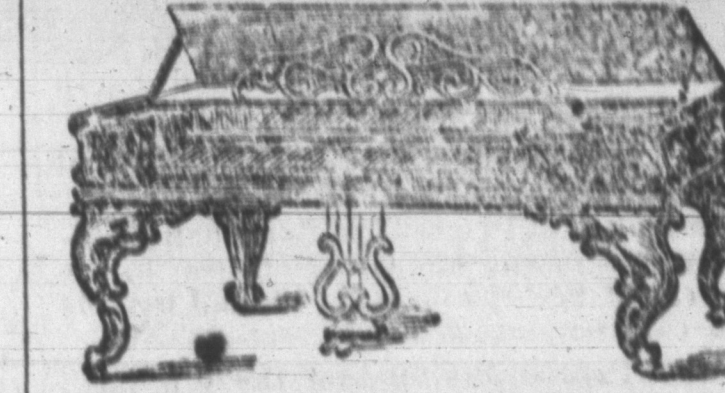
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