

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL 8, 1874.

ALMANAC FOR APRIL.

Full Moon, April 1st, 7h. 5m. afternoon. Last Quarter, " 9th, 6h. 6m. afternoon. New Moon, " 16th, 9h. 38m. morning. First Quarter, " 23d, 7h. 49m. morning.

Table with columns for Day, SUN, MOON, High Tide, and Low Tide. Rows list days from 1st to 30th of April with corresponding times 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.

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 12 hours, and to the remainder add the time of rising next morning.

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GEORGE S. YATES.

Halifax, N. S., April 24, 1871.

Scientific.

BLANKETING.—The Cleveland Herald says of uncipped horses:—"A horse driven until sweating, should, on stopping, be allowed to stand until his coat had ceased smoking or steaming, when the blanket should be immediately put on. If put on before, it immediately becomes very wet by the evaporation from the horse. But there is danger of the horse taking cold during the evaporation, particularly if exposed to a cold wind. The safest method would be to rub the horse down while sweating or change the blanket as soon as saturated.

THE EFFECTS OF CAMPHOR.—The physiological action of camphor is not yet understood; but, judging by symptoms that follow the taking of a moderate dose, it may be called a nervous stimulant. It is somewhat like opium and alcohol, therefore, in its action, when given in small quantities but, when taken in large doses, it causes excessive irritation to the nervous system, producing convulsions and death. Camphor acts to irritate and congest, and finally, to inflame the mucous lining of the stomach, causing, in the milder cases a form of dyspepsia, and, in the more aggravated, ulceration of the stomach. From these two actions, namely, that of nervous stimulant and local irritant, come all the good and evil of its use. We can, therefore, readily see how unsuited this drug is to be a house remedy.—Scientific Am.

ABOUT AEROLITES.—A correspondent of the Chicago Times says that an enormous aerolite recently fell in the vicinity of Farmersville, Livingston county, Mo. The shock of its impact with the ground is stated to have been like an earthquake, and the molten mass is described as fully twenty feet high above the soil and some twenty-five feet in diameter. It presents the usual appearance of such bodies, being a black shining mass of meteoric iron. Its size is unprecedented.

A Question is asked of the Scientific American: What will be the result of the constant meteoric accumulations on the surface of the earth? The weight and bulk of our planets are being constantly increased, and if things go on as at present the doubling of the earth's weight and bulk is only a question of time. To which the following answer is given by the editor: A. The moon would fall to the earth and the earth reach the sun in a shorter time. Mr. Proctor estimates the earth's present supply of meteorites at one inch in depth in 400,000 years.

ABOUT APPLES.—It is stated that by a careful analysis it has been found that apples contain a larger amount of phosphorus, or brain food, than any other fruit or vegetable, and on this account they are very important to sedentary men who work with their brain rather than muscles. They also contain the acids which are needed every day, especially for sedentary men, the action of whose liver is sluggish, to eliminate effete matters, which, if retained in the system, produce inaction of the brain, and indeed, of the whole system, causing jaundice, sleepiness, scurvy, and troublesome diseases of the skin.

EUREKA.—The fountain of perpetual youth, it is thought, has at last been discovered. By buttermilk are we all to live everlastingly. At least a member of the French Academy read a paper before that great and learned body the other day, asserting that this product of the churn contains an acid which destroys the incrustations that form on the arteries, cartilages, and valves of the heart, and that constant use of it would prolong life far beyond the allotted three-score and ten years.

OTHER QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.—What is the difference between coal and wood in the amount of steam furnished? A. A ton of coal is supposed to be equal to 1 1/2 cords of good wood. As regards the steaming capacity, it will depend considerably on the construction of the furnace.

Can alcohol be frozen? A. Alcohol has never been frozen, though, when cooled to a temperature of 166° below zero, it becomes viscid.

Carpets, though bought by the yard, are worn by the foot.

A chiropodist announces that he has "removed corns from several of the crowned heads of Europe."

Agricultural.

My lord rides through his palace gate, My lady sweeps along in state, The sage thinks long on many a thing, And the maiden muses on marrying; The minstrel harpeth merrily, The sailor plows the foaming sea, The huntsman kills the good red deer, And the soldier wars without a fear; But fall to each, whate'er befall, The farmer, he must feed them all.

CORNSTALKS FOR HORSES.—A writer in the Rural New Yorker, in answer to the question whether cornstalks are good for horses when dry and cured, says:

You may cut up your sowed corn with a corn cutter, or you can reap it with a sickle, or you can cradle it with a short, stiff cradle, or you may slash it down with a reaper and self-rake, which works well. Let the stalks lie to wilt; then bind in small bundles and set eight bundles in a shock; then bind them together at the top; in good weather they will cure in about four or five weeks, ready to draw in. Such corn fodder is the best food for horses I ever used. The horse's wind is always good, they are not so subject to disease, and I think will stand a longer drive. Should the horse have the heaves or a cough, feed corn and cornstalks; in a short time he is free in breathing and can stand work. If the horses should refuse to eat the stalks and cause too much waste to please, then wet and put on meal and shorts in proportion to the animal's want.

ABOUT BRAN.—Wheat bran is very much richer in phosphoric acid than corn bran. Wheat contains in the whole grain eighty two per cent. of phosphoric acid and corn only five and one half per cent. but nearly the whole of the phosphoric acid of the grain exists in the husk or bran. Thus wheat bran contains nearly twenty-nine per cent. of this valuable substance. What percentage is in the bran of corn we have no means of ascertaining, but it is certainly less rich in phosphoric acid than wheat bran. Rye bran is richer still than wheat bran, containing over thirty four per cent. of phosphoric acid; which is a larger proportion than is contained in any other article of food for stock. Wheat bran is also far richer in lime than corn, and is therefore a better food for poultry than the latter. If wheat bran is preserved free from damp or mould, it will not deteriorate in quality by keeping for any moderate length of time—a year for instance.—Farmers' Union.

ROLLING THE GROUND.—A correspondent of the Germantown Telegraph writes:—"On dry or wet ground the effect of the roller is found to be salutary. Ploughed and prepared for sowing, dry land is much helped by the roller. The blades of grass spring up sooner and retain a firmer hold in the earth. In a season of drought, rolling has saved the crop, when without it the seed would have never sprung from the ground. In wet and heavy ground it is believed the roller, smoothing and hardening the surface, will leave the soil immediately beneath the surface in a better condition to generate the seed. On grass ground that has been heaved by the frost, the roller has an excellent effect in fixing the roots. Rolling the ground is also good when the land has been laid down unevenly the previous year. If the land is too dry, wait till just after a soaking rain, and it will work capitally. It is a good idea to roll ploughed sowed ground before harrowing, as it presses down the furrows that would be pressed back and makes the surface less uneven, and the harrow pulverizes it much. We find that on an average not one farmer in four has a roller."

EARLY DUCKS.—The early ducklings that realize such high prices in the English markets are said to be principally the Aylesbury variety, distinguished by their great size, white plumage, and flesh-colored bill. Their high quality is said to be produced by feeding the old birds largely with sound oats placed in a vessel of water. If not allowed much room to swim, the old will lay freely in winter; then the eggs should be hatched under hens, and the ducklings liberally fed with slaked oatmeal and fine middlings, and afterwards with oats in water. Under this treatment they may be made ready for the table in less than two months. Their flesh is juicy and buttery, and is held in as high estimation as that of the Dorking fowl.

THE PRODUCT OF TWO KERNELS OF WHEAT.—About a year since, Mr. Wm. C. Ralston, President of the Bank of California, received in a letter from Europe five kernels of wheat. They were carefully planted on the farm of Thomas H. Selby, Esq., in San Mateo County, Cal. Three kernels failed to germinate, the other two growing finely. One produced 103 stalks, yielding 2,701 kernels of wheat; the other yielded 4,811 kernels of good merchantable wheat. However fabulous this account may appear, the truth is nevertheless unquestioned.

Nothing teaches patience like a garden. You may go round and watch the opening bud from day to day, but it takes its own time, and you cannot urge it on faster than it will. If forced, it is only torn to pieces. All the best results of a garden, like those of life, are slow but regularly progressive.

According to a French journal, horses and other animals may be protected from the persecutions of flies by painting with a pencil the insides of the ears, or other parts liable to be bitten, with a few drops of empyreumatic juniper oil.

The Canadian Poultry Chronicle says that a pill of camphor the size of a garden pea given to a chicken will cure the gapes, the odor of the camphor being fatal to the worms in the windpipe. The drinking water should also be strongly impregnated with camphor.

A singular instance of skepticism is recorded in the case of a man who said the Bible was "too good to be true."

It is now stated that raw oysters contain sufficient pepsin, the active element in the gastric juice, to digest themselves.

Agents for the Christian Messenger.

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