

The Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, N. S., APRIL 21, 1875.

ALMANAC FOR APRIL.

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

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 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 on the morning.

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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 recommend it to all who are suffering from like complaints.

GEO. L. FELLOWS. ST. JOHN, N. B., April 16th, 1874.

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.

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

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, 25 Ins

Agriculture.

IMPROVEMENT OF CLAYEY SOILS.—One of the principal defects of clayey soils, especially where they rest upon a sub-soil of the same nature, is the excess of water which is held in them. The only effectual way, in a majority of cases, to get rid of this is by thorough underdraining. This draws off by imperceptible degrees all the excess of water, and opens the soil to the free admission of the air, which in its passage through it imparts warmth and such fertilizing gases as it may contain. Open drains or ditches, though less effectual, are useful. In some cases, water turrows, terminating in some ravine or ditch, serve a good purpose. Lime is exceedingly useful as an ameliorator of clayey soils, inducing chemical combinations, the mechanical effect of which is to break up the too great tenacity of the clay, while it adds, at the same time, an element of fertility which may perhaps be wanting. Gypsum, or plaster of Paris, has the same effect in a still more powerful degree. Ashes, coarse vegetable manures, straw, leaves, chips, etc., are also very useful, adding new materials to the soil, and tending to separate its particles and destroy their strong cohesion. Clayey lands must never be ploughed when wet.—Carolinian.

PERMANENCE OF VITAL POWER.—In clearing away the refuse from the ancient silver mines of Laurium, Greece, a large number of seeds of a papaveracea of the Glaucium genus were found, which must have been buried there for at least fifteen hundred years. Exposed to the beneficent influence of the sun's ray, they rapidly took root, flourished, budded and blossomed, their yellow corollas being beautiful in the extreme. This interesting flower, unknown to modern science, is particularly and frequently described in the writings of Pliny and Dioscorides, and is thus again resuscitated, after having disappeared from the surface of the globe for more than fifteen centuries.

THE NUMBER OF EGGS IN A HEN.—A curious point of inquiry among zoologists has been for a long time, How many eggs are there in the ovary of hen? To determine this, a German naturalist, a short time since, instituted some careful investigations, the result of which showed the ovary of a hen to contain about 600 embryo eggs. He also found that some twenty of these are matured the first year, about 120 during the second year, 135 during the third, 114 during the fourth, and during the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth years, the number decreases by twenty annually, it consequently follows that after the fourth, or at most the fifth year, hens are no longer profitable as layers, unless it may be in exceptional instances.

BIRD-KILLING.—I once killed birds in my wantonness. God forgive me—merely to test my skill with the rifle. But I received a bitter lesson. While once passing through the woods I carelessly fired at a bird caring only to discharge my gun, so as to make my next fire sure. I wounded a bird which sat upon the fence. I felt guilt-stricken at once, and tried to catch it. Failing in that I thought it would be humanity to shoot it. Before I could load my rifle it fluttered across the field, where I followed it, and found the panting sufferer at its nest, and the blood dripping upon its young! My cruelty flashed upon me in all its nakedness, and I cringed under my own reflections like a guilty butcher as I was.—Thurlow Brown.

SOMETHING OF A FARMER.—The Bloomington, Ill., Pantagraph says four years ago Jacob Ziegler went from Normal into Dewitt county, and rented Judge Davis' 1,700 acre farm, near Clinton. His worldly possessions at that time consisted of eleven head of horses, a few family utensils, and about \$500 in money. This year he has raised 18,000 bushels of corn, has 235 head of cattle, 30 head of horses, and about 400 hogs, showing in all stock on hand amounting to at least \$100,000. The Pantagraph intimates that Mr. Ziegler made his money by minding his own business.

BAD LUCK is simply a man with his hands in his pockets and his pipe in his mouth, looking on to see how it will come out. Good luck is a man with his sleeves rolled up and working to make it come out right.

Science.

SUICIDE OF A SCORPION.—Mr. Bidie communicates to Nature a fact which proves the correctness of the story that the scorpion will sting itself to death when surrounded by a fire. His servant brought him one morning a very large specimen of the common black scorpion of Southern India. To keep it safe it was placed in a glass entomological case, and after a few hours, to obtain a better view of the insect, the case was carried to the window. The light and heat of the sun seemed to irritate it very much, and when the rays were focused on its back by means of a small lens, it exhibited great agitation, turning about hissing and spitting. This experiment was tried four or five times, with the same result; but finally, when the lens was used, the scorpion turned up his tail, and "quick as lightning" plunged the sting into his back. The stroke was followed by a sudden escape of fluid, and in a moment the creature was dead. This occurrence shows that animals may commit suicide, and that the poison of some animals may be destructive to themselves.

A RAT TRAP.—A trap mentioned by the London Builder called the butcher's trap, has the merit of taking advantage of the rat's nature and habits in order to compass its destruction. The way of making it is to get a good sized cask and tie over it a strong piece of paper or parchment, like a drumhead. Put this cask in the place infested, and on the head of it a few bones, rice, or other specially tempting bait. Let this be done at least for a week until the bait disappears. Next place two bricks, one on each other, inside the cask at the bottom, and fill with water to the level of the top brick. Tie on the parchment as you would a jam pot, and with a sharp penknife cut in the centre a cross, about three inches each way. A rat on passing over the cross-cut will fall through it, and on getting into the water will at once get upon the brick and make such a squeal as will call all his friends to the top of the cask to slip through the hole themselves; as they will all make for the brick, and a terrific fight takes place to get the brick, in the morning nearly all will be found drowned or bitten to death.

WATER PAIS.—Wooden water-pails, whether to be used in the kitchen, or at the stable, should receive two or three coats of gum shellac varnish, dissolved in alcohol, well laid on both inside and out. This will last a year or more, before the wood will begin to soak water. It is much better than lead paint for the insides of pails. Lead is poison and soon peels off in freezing weather, and then the pails soak water and get very heavy to lift; besides which, they rot faster and leak through the pores of the wood. Shellac may be procured of any painter, ready mixed, and, if corked tightly, will keep any length of time.

Every species of snake may be permanently driven away from an infested place by planting geraniums. It is well known that the whole geranium genus is highly redolent of volatile oils—lemon-scented, musk-scented, and peppermint-scented. What therefore, is a very pleasant nosegay for man, is repugnant to the serpent.

The proportion of the married among the insane is smaller than that of the unmarried. Undoubtedly. A man who has to scratch around and make a living for his wife and eleven children couldn't be insane if he wanted to. He hasn't the time.

A very singular and important discovery, it is said, has been made by a French market gardener. It is a process by which potato plants can be made to yield fruit all the year round.

WRITE.—Write, we know is written right when we see it written, write; but when we see it written, wright, we know it is not written right. For write to have it written right, must not be written right nor wright; nor yet should it be written rite, but write, for so 'tis written right.

ORANGE CAKE.—Beat to a froth four eggs and one and a half cups of sugar; stir into this one small cup of cold water, and then two cups of flour, in which are mixed one teaspoonful of cream of tartar, and one-half of saleratus. Bake and split the same as cream pies.

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