The Messenger Almanac.

February.

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, 20 minutes EARLIER, than at Halifax. At Charlottetown, 2 hours 56 minutes LATER. At Westport, 2 hours 54 minutes LATER. At Yarmouth, 2 hours 20 minutes | jet of water is brought to play in the

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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CHRISTIAN MESSENGER OFFICE, No. 69 & 71 Granville St., Halifax. April 15.

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And all diseases that lead to it; such as COUGHS, NEGLECTED COLDS, BRONCHITIS, PAIN IN THE CHEST, AND ALL DISEASES OF THE LUNGS,

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SCIENCE.

THE STRONGEST WAR VESSEL IN THE WORLD .- The most powerful ironclad vessel at present in existence is the Duillo, which was recently constructed by the Italian government. She is not yet entirely completed, and but one of the four 100-ton Armstrong guns has been delivered. Her length is 331-2 feet, breadth at water line 58-4 feet, and depth of hold 25-2 feet. She has two turrets, which, instead of being in the centre line of the ship, are placed toward the sides, so as to get a clear, fore and aft fire from each turret. The inside diameter of each is about 26 feet, and the outside 321 feet while the two turrets, with the armon plating and the two guns, will weigh about 6,720 tuns. Each turret makes one complete revolution in a minute, and when in position for firing is stopped by hydraulic locking bolts. The vessel is built in compartments, and is provided with a novel system of pumps, which discharge water from her in case her skin is pierced by a shot. There are no masts, and all the machinery and the rudder are entirely under water, so that the vessel exposes no vulnerable portion. The immense guns are loaded by hy-

draulic apparatus. Upon opening valve, the ram head capped by a sponge advances rapidly into the bore of the gun, the latter being suitably depressed and the sponge rising at an angle from beneath the deck. When the sponge reaches the bottom of the bore, a valve in the head is opened, and a powerful powder chamber: thus at the same time aiding in cleaning the bore, and preventing any possibility of fire being left therein. After the sponge is withdrawn, the cartridge and shot are in turn raised by an hydraulic cylinder to their proper position in front, and on a line with the muzzle, this and the remaining operation being performed by one man without his moving from his seat beside the levers. Lastly the ram head advances and drives the shot home. Without machinery, it requires, in the United States navy, 24 men to manage an II-inch Dahlgren gan, the shell fired by which weighs 135 lbs. With the hydraulic mechanism described, four men can serve a weapon which throws a shell weighing 2,000 lbs., or a shot weighing 2,500 lbs.

It has been calculated that the work developed by the immense projectile is equal to about 39,000 foot tuns; so that, if all four of the Duillo's guns were fired at once, her effective power would be equal to that exerted in raising 156,000 tuns one foot high per minute. - Scientific American.

THE MYSTERY OF DREAMS. - A man fell asleep as the clock tolled the first stroke of twelve. He awakened ere the echo of the twelfth stroke had died away, having in the interval dreamed inquire at what distance the nearest that he had committed a crime, was detected after five years, tried and condemned; the shock at finding the halter round his neck aroused him to ity. consciousness, when he discovered that all these events had happened in an infinitesima! fragment of time. Mahommed, wishing to illustrate the wonders of sleep, told how a certain man, being a sheik, found himself for his pride made a poor fisherman; that he lived as one for sixty years, bringing up a family and working hard, and how upon waking out of his long dream, so short a time had he been asleep that the narcontains no Opium in any form. It is row-necked gourd bottle, filled with WARRANTED to be perfectly harmless to the most delicate child, although it is an as he fell calcar had not the most delicate child, although it is an as he fell calcar had not to the most delicate child, although it is an as he fell calcar had not to the most delicate child, although it is an as he fell calcar had not to the most delicate child, although it is an as he fell calcar had not to the most delicate child, although it is an as he fell calcar had not to the most delicate child, although it is an as he fell calcar had not to the most delicate child, although it is an as he fell calcar had not to the most delicate child, although it is an as he fell calcar had not to the most delicate child, although it is an as he fell calcar had not to the most delicate child, although it is an as he fell calcar had not to the most delicate child, although it is an as he fell calcar had not to the most delicate child, although it is an as he fell calcar had not to the most delicate child, although it is an as he fell calcar had not to the most delicate child. as he fell asleep, had not time to empty itself. How fast the soul travels when the body is asleep! Often when we awake we shrink from going back into the dull routine of a sordid existence regretting the pleasanter life of dreamland. How is it that when we go to a strange place, we fancy that we have seen it before? In a word, how far dual is the life of man, how far not ?-London Times.

> THE DECREASE OF THE PETROLEUM SUPPLY.-There has been a marked diminution in the oil product of Pennsylvania of late. It is reported that, for some months past, the supply has not exceeded 28,000 barrels per day, while not more than two years ago the daily average was 40,000 barrels. The price also has more than doubled. The decrease of the supply if attributed to the cessation of flowing wells; and the fact that most of the pumping wells, refineries, and railroad lines are controlled the increase in the price.

He that runs fast will not run long.

EARTH .- For many ages this question

puzzled astronomers, How far off are the stars? It was known that their distance was great. It was known that they were immeasurably farther off than the sun, the moon, or any of the planets; but it is only in the present century that the question has been even

partially answered.

Of the countless thousands of stars which stud the universe, the distance of perhaps about twenty has been determined. Others which have been tried. have defied the powers of the most skillful astronomer. It is impossible to explain here the manner in which it is conducted; we must endeavor rather to realize the result which has rewarded these successful labors. There is a beautiful star in the Southern Hemisphere, the brightest in the constellation Centaur, one of the most brilliant stars in the heavens. This was dilligently observed by the astronomer who managed the observatory at the Cape of Good Hope in the years 1832 and 1833. He found, as the result of his labors, that the distance of this star-Alpha Centauri, as it is called—is twenty billions of miles.

It requires a little consideration to estimate what the words twenty billions of miles really mean. A billion contains one million millions, and we shall endeavor to convey an idea of this amount by a few simple illustrations. Supposing that our great forefather, Adam, had commenced to count as quickly as he could, and that when his life was ended his son commenced to count, taking up from the number at which Adam left off, and spent his whole life, day and night, counting as fast as he could, and supposing that at his death he enjoined on his heirs an eternity of counting, and that they continued doing so up to the present moment, their united efforts would not have reached one quarter of a billion; and yet the distance of the star is twenty billions of miles.

Another illustration to convey an idea of this vast distance may be given. If we were to take a sum equal to five times our national debt, and were to expend this in postage stamps, we would get one billion of them; and if we were to draw a line around London, including every house in the suburbs, and then take an area equal in size to this, cleared and arranged for the purpose; if we then commenced to stick them, side by side, over the entire area of London, we should not be able to get them all in. After we had covered every inch of surface over completely, there would still be countless thousands remaining.

Such, then, is the distance of the nearest fixed star. We can not grasp it in our imagination, nor are we more successful if we try to make a map. Suppose we proceed by first laying down the sun, and then placing the earth one inch distant from it. If we star should be placed, using the same scale, we find it to be eleven miles. Such a map is, therefore an impossibil-

Knowing, however, the distance of the nearest star, what can we say of the distance of the farthest of those that are visible? Here precise knowledge fails. We can, indeed, grope after the truth, and make guesses of a greater probality. We believe that it is, at all events, some hundreds of times as great as the astounding magnitude of which we have endeavored to convey an impression; but the human mind becomes bewildered in attempting to realise the

VARIETIES.

SITTING FOR A PICTURE -A photographer gives the following directions to his customers :- "When a lady would compose her mouth to a bland and serene character, she should say ' Bosom,' and keep the expression into which the mouth subsides until the desired effect in the camera is evident. If, on the other hand, she wishes to assume a distinguished and somewhat noble bearing, not suggestive of sweetness, she should say 'Brush," the result of which is infallible. If she wishes to make her mouth look small, she must say 'Flip,' but if the mouth be already too small and needs enlarging, she must say 'Cabbage.' If she wishes to look mournful, she must say 'Kerchunk: if resigned, she must forcibly ejaculate 'S'cat.'

At the marriage of an Alabama widby a single company which exacts high ower, one of the servants was asked if profits has probably much to do with his master would take a bridal tour. "Dunno, sah; when old missu's alive he took a paddle to her; dunno if he ! take a bridle to de new one or not."

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