

The Messenger Almanac.

MAY.
New Moon, May 2nd, 8h. 36m. morning.
First Quarter, " 9th, 6h. 18m. afternoon.
Full Moon, " 17th, 10h. 17m. morning.
Last Quarter, " 23rd, 9h. 27m. afternoon.
New Moon, " 31st, 9h. 33m.

Table with columns for Day, SUN, MOON, High Tide, and Low Tide. Rows list days from 1st to 31st with corresponding times and tide heights.

THE TIDES.—The column of the Moon's Southings gives the time of high water at Farnsboro, 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 LATER.

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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AGRICULTURE.

THE SIGNS OF A GOOD WORKING OX.—Long head, broad and level between the eyes, and the eye full, keen, and pleasant; forward legs straight; toes straight forward; hoofs broad not peaked; and the distance short between the ankle and the knee; these properties enable an ox to travel on hard roads; if the animal turns his toes out the strain comes on the inside claw, and when travelling on hard ground, he will get lame at the joint between the hoofs and the hair; full breast; straight back; round ribs, projecting out as wide as the hip bones; these are signs of strength and good constitution. The best colours are brown, dark red, and brindle. At four years of age the steer becomes an ox, and having completed his eighth or ninth year he should be fattened for the butcher.

WHAT FIVE SHEEP WILL DO.—Five sheep will enrich one acre of old, worn-out mowing land in three years, so that it will produce one and one-half tons of hay per year for several years by a slight sprinkle of seed each year sown in early spring. Five sheep will produce manure in winter to the value of \$10 by giving them suitable bedding. Five sheep will get their living through the summer on an acre of ground; the pasturing of the same would be \$3. Five sheep will raise five lambs, worth \$15. Five sheep will shear twenty-five pounds of wool worth \$6.

CHURNING IN COLD WEATHER.—A contributor to the Maine Farmer, who had trouble in churning in cold weather writes as follows:—"It frequently took me hours to bring my butter. I now scald my milk, and my butter comes in a few minutes. After the weather becomes cool the milk never gets sufficiently heated in the cow's udder to reduce the globules thin and tender, consequently more churning is demanded to break them, and they must be broken before the butter will come. I set the pans on the stove (putting grates under them to prevent injuring the pans), and let them stay till the milk is quite hot—not boiling."

EARTH-WORMS AS FERTILIZERS.—In commenting upon the office of earth-worms in enriching soils, a writer in Nature speaks of the influence of this small animal upon the germination of seeds. In drawing decaying leaves and fragments of vegetation into their holes, the worms often include seeds, which thus inclosed in the earth, are placed in just the proper conditions to facilitate their sprouting. Another writer states that, while cutting a ditch in 1857, he observed that a narrow line of coal ashes and small coal, extending for about sixty yards, was mixed with the fine loam of the soil. On inquiry, he learned that a number of years before, these ashes had been spread upon the surface. They were now about seven inches below,—the depth to which the earth-worm usually burrows. It is supposed that the change in their position, and their incorporation with the soil, were the work of worms, which derive much of their subsistence from the organic matter in the earth. In passing through their bodies, the earth undergoes changes which improve its fertility. In this way a great alteration in the quality of soils is in time effected.

A goose belonging to Mrs. Patterson, of the village of Carthage, recently produced an egg that measured 14 inches in circumference one way and 10 inches the other.

A quantity of light butter was seized on Port Hope market last Saturday and given to the Home for the Aged.

VARIETIES.

A ludicrous incident, says an English journal, occurred at Naples the other day. As the French mail steamer the Yangtze, with the Japanese Envoy to France on board, and flying his flag, entered the bay, Gen. Grant was embarking on board an American man-of-war and being saluted by the fort. The Jap imagined that the firing was in his honour, and to the great amusement of his fellow-passengers kept repeatedly bowing in the direction of the smoke. Nevertheless, the French commander was too polite to undecieve the illustrious stranger who was much struck with European politeness.

A young lady in Wisconsin refused an offer of marriage on the grounds that her father was not able to support a larger family.

SCIENCE.

"I'm ashamed of the age in which we live," said a maiden of thirty-eight. "You may be ashamed of yours, but I'm not of mine," replied a "nineteen-year-old companion. If tombstones told the truth; a good many small ones set up in our cemeteries over very short graves would bear such inscriptions as these: "Petted to death;" "Killed by admiration;" "Died of never being left alone;" "An early victim of its father's vanity;" "Perished in consequence of saying smart things;" "Died of four dotting aunts;" "A martyr to early poetry;" "Getting up-ahead did it."—JAMES PARTON.

Covetousness cracks the sinews of faith, numbs the apprehension of anything above sense, and, only affected with the certainty of things present, makes a peradventure of things to come, lives but unto one world, nor hopes but fears another.

An Italian chemist is said to have discovered an improved method of tanning, which consists of steeping the skins in a bath composed of perchloride of iron and sea salt dissolved in water. The time occupied is from four to six months, and the process is robbed of much of its unhealthiness.

TO SOFTEN WATER.—Hard waters are rendered very soft and pure, rivaling distilled water, by merely boiling a two-ounce phial, say in a kettleful of water. The carbonate of lime and any impurities will be found adhering to the phial. The water boils very much quicker at the same time.—New York Times.

SPIDERS' WEBS.—Leuwenhoek has computed that one hundred of the single threads of a full grown spider are not equal to the diameter of the hair of the human beard; and consequently, if the threads and hair be both round, ten thousand such threads are not larger than such a hair. He calculates that 4,000,000 of a young spider's threads, which are much finer than those of full growth spiders, are not so large as the single human hair.

ICELANDIC VOLCANOES.—Volcanic eruptions are threatening Iceland again. The last number of the Skuld, published in Eskifjodur, states that on the evening previous an unprecedented heat was suddenly felt, so strong that the inhabitants thought themselves in the vicinity of a vast conflagration. The phenomenon was followed by alternate gusts of rain and showers of volcanic ashes accompanied by subterranean rumblings.

EXPERIMENTS WITH FLOATING MAGNETS.—Professor A. M. Mayer describes, in the American Journal of Science and Art, some entertaining and easily performing experiments in magnetism. Several sewing needles, of No. 5 or 6 size, are magnetized with the same polarity, so that all their points are N. Each needle is passed into a small cork that will just float upright; the corks may be 1/4 inch long and 3-16 inch across. The eye of the needle should barely be above the surface of the cork. Three, four or more of these needles are thus to be floated in a basin of water and the N. pole of a large cylindrical magnet is to be brought down over them. They will immediately take geometrical positions, the figure formed being smaller when the magnet above is brought more closely to them. Three needles thus take position at the point of an equilateral triangle; four form a square, or a triangle with one in the center; five form a pentagon, or a square with one in the center; six form a pentagon with one in the center, or a triangle of two to a side. Professor Mayer has obtained regular figures up to a combination of twenty needles.

TO KEEP NAILS FROM RUSTING.—The following treatment is said to keep nails from rusting:—Heat a quantity of them on a shovel, and throw them, while quite hot, into a vessel of coarse oil or melted grease. The nails should not be so hot that the grease will be made to smoke freely. Cut nails prepared in this manner are improved in every respect. They are rendered tougher, and they will outlast any kind of wood, even though buried in the ground, while unprepared nails are completely destroyed by rust in a very short time. Probably melted paraffine would be still better than ordinary grease, as it forms a very effectual coating, penetrating the pores and preventing the access of air or moisture.

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