

The Messenger Almanac.

APRIL. Last Quarter, April 2nd, 1h. 58m. M. New Moon, " 9th, 10h. 53m. M. First Quarter, " 17th, 3h. 0m. A. Full Moon, " 24th, 6h. 36m. A.

Table with columns: Day, SUN., MOON., High Tide at Halifax. Rows 1-30 showing moon phases and tide times.

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.

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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Oct. 1.

AGRICULTURE.

A correspondent adds the following postscript to a business letter, 27th February, 1880;—"I have just weighed a short-horn heifer calf this morning, three mouths old, weight 314 lbs." Not bad for a short-horn.—N. S. Journal of Ed.

A LARGE ANIMAL.—I occasionally see in the columns of the "Sun," accounts of large oxen, cows, steers, &c., from different parts of the country and province, which are interesting to farmers and stock raisers. Happening to call at the barn of J. B. Flemming of Folly village, a few days ago, I saw a steer calf thirteen months old of the following dimensions:—Girt, 5 feet 2 inches; height, 3 feet 10 inches; length 5 feet 10 inches; color, red. The animal is a mixture of Short-horn and Ayrshire.—Cor. of Sun.

FOOD FOR COWS.—The flow of milk will be greatly increased if water, with the chaff taken off, and a pint of bran to each pailful be given to each cow two or three times daily. Cows will drink very little water if they are compelled to drink ice-cold well-water, and the little they do drink will decrease their milk. Make all their food as soft as possible by adding warm water, and the increase of milk will pay for the extra trouble. A farmer recommends raw potatoes and meal as a feed for cows. It yields a large quantity of milk and a good quality of beef.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SETTING OUT AN ORCHARD.—First—See that the soil is well drained, so that water will not stand around the roots.

Second—See that the soil is in a good state of fertility. Such soils require liberal manuring.

Third—Mark out your rows straight. It will facilitate cultivation, and give so much greater satisfaction. As to the distance apart, some varieties require much more room than others. The various growing kinds, with long horizontal-growing branches, require more room than others less vigorous, with vertical branches. It is found that the best distance is from thirty-five to forty feet each way.

Fourth—Prepare the holes for planting the trees five or six feet in diameter, and if the subsoil is poor, take out a few inches, and fill in with surface soil, on which plant the tree.

Fifth—Get trees that are right, and if possible, go to the nursery and make your own selection. Avoid all trees that branch out from a common point, making a fork. They will be pretty sure to split down, more or less, when heavily loaded with fruit. Aim to get trees as nearly a uniform size as possible (they make an orchard look so much better), and about five years old. Then insist upon superintending the digging, and have as many of the fine roots taken up as possible, without mutilation and then see that they are immediately covered from air and sun. Take them home, and immediately heel them in.

Sixth—Set them very straight in rows, and as trees from the nursery almost always have more roots on one side than the other, place the side with most roots towards the prevailing winds. It is well to lean the tree in setting a little in that direction, and they will be pretty certain to straighten up the first year. It is much easier to cultivate among perpendicular trees than those that lean. Would cultivate and crop a young, growing orchard, but never allow anything to grow above the roots, not even weeds or grass. After an orchard arrives at full bearing age it may be seeded down, but while growing, would keep it under cultivation.

FERTILIZING PROPERTIES OF BURNT CLAY.—During the past few years there has been a decided reaction in favor of burnt clay as a fertilizer. It is generally used in quite a different manner from that of former times. It is employed as a bedding in stables in the place of straw and other sorts of litter. In cow-barns it is used to absorb liquid manure. It is also used in pig-pens for the same purpose. It is scattered over the floor of poultry houses, and, when covered with the droppings of fowls, the two are mixed together and applied to the soil. The best results, however, have followed its employment in yards and pens in which sheep are kept. The liquid and solid droppings that fall on the burnt clay are thoroughly incorporated with it by the feet of the sheep. In this form, it is easily removed and applied to the soil as an under or top dressing. Several farms have been rendered very productive by the application of burnt clay treated as above described. Burnt clay has long been employed as

a fertilizer, for vines in countries where grapes are a leading crop. In some parts of Europe, soft burnt bricks, and the coating of brick kilns are pulverized and applied to the soil. All farmers who live in the wooded portions of this country or Canada, are familiar with the productiveness of land on which forest trees have been burned. No doubt the fertility of forest land is largely owing to the presence of ashes; but it is certain that the clay that becomes burned during the progress of the fires adds much to its productiveness. In some parts of the East the practice of burning chips and brush in holes where trees and vines are to be set is quite common. Many farmers also build fires in the shallow excavations where they are to plant the seed of pumpkins, squashes, cucumbers, and melons. Nearly all farmers have noticed the remarkable and long continued fertility of the soil in places where stumps have been burned out. Burned clay benefits the soil by its chemical constituents and by its mechanical action. Much of the silica in clay becomes soluble by heat, while the potash it contains is rendered available for growing crops. Clay generally contains carbonate of lime, which is converted into quicklime by burning. Burnt clay is an excellent absorbent, and on this account it is a valuable material to use in bedding stock and for scattering over the floor of poultry houses. It is likely that floors of boards and planks might be dispensed with in all buildings used for shedding horses, cattle, sheep, and fowls to excellent advantage, and their place supplied with a floor of hard earth, covered with burnt clay. The change would result in a great saving in the matter of expense, and would be beneficial in other respects.

A floor of suitable earth is superior to one of wood, so far as the health and comfort of animals are concerned, making a softer and better rest for the feet. Burnt clay is very "clean dirt." It is also promotive of cleanliness by absorbing the substances that give rise to foul odors. It will take almost its bulk of liquid manure without becoming sticky or too moist to be handled with ease. When finely pulverized it is an excellent substance to sprinkle over cattle for the purpose of driving away vermin. It is also one of the best materials that can be found for arresting bad odors when manure is being decomposed.

Clay should not be subjected to a very high degree of heat to prepare it for fertilizing purposes. It should not be rendered "hard as brick." It should be moderately baked. A kiln is not essential to burning it. It may be prepared by the means of an open fire in a field, and bushes, branches trimmed from trees and corn-stalks used for fuel. The fuel, should be intermixed with the clay in the heap, so that the heat may act on every portion of it.—American Rural Home.

HEALTH HINTS. TO PREVENT BOILS.—A very simple remedy is made known by Dr. Sieven, in a St. Petersburg journal, for preventing the development of boils. He states that if the skin be superficially scraped with a small knife, so that a drop or two of blood may be pressed through the epidermis as soon as the peculiar stinging or pricking sensation and slight induration announce the commencement of the boil, it will not be further developed.

BORAX.—Borax water will instantly remove all soils and stains from the hand, and heal all scratches and chafes. To make it, put some crude borax into a large bottle, and fill with water. When the borax is dissolved, add more to the water, until at last the water can absorb no more, and a residuum remains at the bottom of the bottle. To the water in which the hands are to be washed after gardening, pour from this bottle enough to make it very soft. It is very cleansing and very healthy. By its use the hands will be kept in excellent condition—smooth, soft and white.

For headache, wet with camphor a piece of flannel (red) sprinkle with black pepper and bind it on the head; and we will assure you before it is on long your headache will be gone, and you will be ready to sing a song.

Honey mixed with pure pulverized charcoal is said to be excellent to cleanse the teeth and make them white. Limestone water is very good to be occasionally used by those who have defective teeth of an offensive breath.

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Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. BROWN & WEBB, Halifax, Dec. 11. Wholesale Agents,