The Messenger Almanac.

May.

Last Quarter, May 5th, 7h. 4m. morning.
New Moon, " 13th, 1h. 15m. "
Firs Quarter, " 19th, 8h. 42m. afternoon.
Full Moon, " 26th, 11h. 51m. "

Day M.	Day W.	SUN. Rise.	SUN. Sets.	MOON. Rises.	MOON. South.	MOON. Sets.	High Tide at Halifax
1	Tu.	4 54	7 0	11 54	2 58	6 51	9 47
2	W.	4 53	7 1	M.	3 52	7 50	10 26
3	Th.	4 51	7 2	0 35	4 43	8 51	11 4
4	Fr.	4 50	7 4	1 8	5 31	9 54	11 48
5	Sa.	4 48	7 5	1 33	6 16	10 59	A. 40
6	SU.	4 47	7 6	1 53	6 58	A. 3	1 42
7	M..	4 47	7 7	2 11	7 39	1 7	2 56
8	Tu.	4 44	7 8	2 30	8 20	2 10	4 9
9	W..	4 43	7 9	2 48	9 2	3 16	5 8
10	Th.	4 42	7 10	3 5	9 44	4 23	5 57
11	Fr..	4 41	7 11	3 27	10 30	5 33	6 35
12	Sa..	4 39	7 13	3 53	11 20	6 47	7 14
13	SU.	4 38	7 14	4 28	A. 15	8 2	7 50
14	M..	4 37	7 15	5 12	1 14	9 16	8 28
15	Tu.	4 36	7 17	6 10	2 16	10 22	9 7
16	W.	4 35	7 18	7 22	3 30	11 18	9 53
17	Th.	4 34	7 19	8 39	4 21	M.	10 40
18	Fr..	4 33	7 20	9 58	5 17	0 3	11 30
19	Sa..	4 32	7 21	11 15	6 8	0 36	M.
20	SU.	4 31	7 22	A. 32	6 58	1 1	0 29
21	M..	4 30	7 23	1 46	7 45	1 24	1 36
22	Tu.	4 29	7 24	2 58	8 31	1 44	2 47
23	W..	4 28	7 25	4 10	9 18	2 4	3 59
24	Th.	4 27	7 26	5 25	10 7	2 26	5 1
25	Fr..	4 27	7 27	6 39	10 59	2 49	5 56
26	Sa..	4 26	7 28	7 46	11 51	3 19	6 45
27	US.	4 25	7 29	8 50	M.	3 56	7 32
28	M..	4 24	7 30	9 48	0 47	4 44	8 14
29	Tu.	4 24	7 31	10 31	1 42	5 36	8 53
30	W.	4 23	7 31	11 7	2 34	6 37	9 32
31	Th.	4 22	7 32	11 35	3 24	7 41	10 11

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 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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SCIENCE.

KNIFE AND FORK.—It may seem surprising at a day when the servants in any first-class hotel in America assume to be able to judge of the quality of a guest by the manner in which he handles his knife and fork, that to our ancestors of three hundred years ago such tests of refinement were impossible, forks being then unknown. Each man carried his own knife, as he now carries his pocket knife, and at dinner seized the joint with his left hand (provided that he was not left-handed) and with the right cut his slice thick or thin, to suit his appetite and fancy. So the dish went round. The knife then divided the meat into convenient pieces, which were put into the mouth by the fingers, in actual illustration of the proverb that fingers were made before forks. With these facts Jan Wing might well return the ridicule of his countrymen's use of the chopstick—a small, thin stick of wood or ivory, with which, in fact, Chinamen transfer their food from plate to mouth very neatly and dexterously.

Not a beggar in England is more destitute of that table article, a fork, than were England's sovereigns to the time of Henry VIII. About the first royal Briton in possession of this luxury was Queen Elizabeth; and judging by her practice, she considered it a superfluity rather than a necessity, much more ornamental than useful. One and another jealous courtier presented her majesty with a fork, till she must have owned nearly a set, to be admired at state dinners.

GRANITE SAWING.—Prominent among the interesting things that were exhibited to the architects in Philadelphia, during their late convention, was Struthers and Sons' process for sawing granite. The inventor of the process hit upon the idea of using chilled iron, finely divided, instead of sand. A jet of steam is directed upon a fine stream of melted iron, which blows it into spray, just as in the common atomizer a jet of air pulverizes, so to speak, the stream of liquid upon which it is turned. The iron, divided into fine globules of, say a fortieth or a fiftieth of an inch in diameter, falls into cold water, and is chilled into excessive hardness. It is used under a saw of soft iron, and with a stream of water, as sand is used in sawing ordinary stones. The globules become smaller by wear, and the cut is made by the breaking away of minute pieces of the granite by the rolling of the tiny iron balls.

STOPPING THE WOOD PORES IN BARRELS.—The *Brewers' Gazette* gives the following: Put into an open vessel 1 lb. fine shreds of leather, 1 oz. oxalic acid, and 2 lbs. water. Suspend the vessel containing this mixture in one of larger size containing water, and boil until the contents of the inner vessel are dissolved by the action of the heat imparted from the boiling water (this is the water bath process). It must then be diluted with 3 lbs. of warm water. The mixture, when applied to the surface of wood, oxidizes and becomes insoluble, completely closing the pores of the wood. It is used for alcohol, and will neither crack nor peel off.

CLEANING CHROMOS.—Take one drop of machine oil upon a linen cloth, or a soft chamois-skin, and rub it over the picture very gently. And if the varnish is dulled or rubbed, you can revarnish it with the nicest map varnish, taking care to use only a very small quantity of it.

PAINT FOR FLOORS.—There is but one paint suitable for floors, and that is French ochre. First, if the boards have shrunk, clean out the joints well, and with a small brush give a heavy coat of boiled linseed oil, then putty up solid. Now paint the whole floor with a mixture of much oil and little orchre for the first coat, then, after it is well dried, give two more coats of much orchre and little oil; finally, finish with a coat of first-rate copal varnish.

A tunnel through the Pyrenees will place France and Spain in railroad communication by the 1st of January, 1878. The work has been several years in progress, and will save twelve hours of tedious diligence riding between Perpignan and Barcelona. Next year travellers will be able to pass by rail from Paris to Malaga, almost without changing trains.

Nothing can be love to God which does not shape itself into obedience.—*Robertson.*

AGRICULTURE.

KILLING COUCH GRASS.—What is the best plan to get rid of couch grass?

Couch, quack, or squitch (*Triticum repens,*) is one of those plants that propogate themselves by running roots as well as by seeds, in the same way as the Canada Thistle. The only thing that we ever knew to be done with it successfully is to bring the roots to the surface, rake them in heaps and burn them; an expensive operation but a necessary one. Plough the land and cultivate it in spring after the busy time of seeding is over. Then go over it with a harrow or hand rake, and gather the roots into heaps or windrows, and burn them. Summer-fallow the field thoroughly for the rest of the season, every time it is ploughed repeating the harrowing, raking and burning. In the next year put in some crop such as corn or roots that will necessitate clean hoeing.

A sharp look-out should be kept for small patches of couch grass and they should be exterminated at sight.

Some successful couch-fighters claim to have subdued it by ploughing it under deeply. The great mass of couch-roots lie near the surface. Here is a note for those who wish to subdue it by gathering the roots: the ploughing must be shallow. It is claimed that when these roots are buried six or seven inches under ground, they will be smothered and converted into manure, of which they would furnish an immense quantity. Mr. Ives. of Batavia, N. Y., follows this system successfully, planting corn the first year and potatoes the next, thoroughly cultivating both crops. —*Globe.*

SOURCE OF DISEASE.—Cooling off suddenly when heated sends many of our farmers' youth to an early tomb. It is often a matter of surprise that so many farmers' boys and girls die of consumption. It is thought that abunbant exercise in the open air is directly opposed to that disease. So it is; but judgement and knowledge of the laws of health are essential to the preservation of health under any circumstances. When over-heated cool off slowly—never in a strong draught of air.

PARLOUR AND WINDOW PLANTS.—A New York florist gives the following as an indicative list, which will be found of value to any one attempting parlour and window gardening:—To flourish in shade—*Dracœnas* (dragon tree,) *Mimulus* (musk plant,) *Acryranthes Coleus* in numerous varieties, *Centaureas* (dusty millers,) fuchias, pansies, zonal geraniums, ivies, (English or German,) begonias, ferns, and caladiums. To flourish in the sunshine.—Double geraniums, petunias, ivy-leaved geraniums, gazanias, heliotropes, verbenas, monthly roses, mignionette, cypress and Maderia vines, dwarf cannas, calceolarias, lautanas, lobelia, merembergia, cuphea, and tropeolum. For both sun and shade—Centaureas, ivies, maurandia, thumbergia, tropeolum. Of these there are many varieties in each separate class, so that the foregoing lists, short as they seem, will in reality be found comprehensive enough to meet all reasonable requirements for in-door floriculture.

EGGS FOR FOOD.—A writer in the *Scientific Farmer* estimates that the value of one pound of eggs as food for sustaining the active forces of the body is to the value of one pound of lean beef as 1,584 to 990. As a flesh producer one pound of eggs is about equal to one pound of beef.

A hen may be calculated to consume one bushel of corn yearly, and to lay twelve dozen or eighteen pounds of eggs. This is equivalent to saying that three and one-tenth pounds of corn will produce, when fed to a hen, one pound of eggs. A pound of pork, on the contrary, requires about five and one-third pounds of corn for its production.

Judging from these facts, eggs must be economical in their production and in their eating, and especially fitted for the labouring man in replacing meat.

REVERSE THE PLOUGH COULTER.—Below I give what I consider one of the grandest improvements in using the coulter on ploughs. A Shaker farmer at Mount Lebanon told me that in breaking up and deeply ploughing an old pasture, where he was using three yoke of oxen, the reversal of the coulter, so as to give it a drawing instead of a pushing out, made the difference of draught of one pair of oxen. The idea is not patented—it belongs to farmers. —*Cor. Country Gentleman.*—

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