

The Daily Examiner.

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NEW SERIES.

CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1885.

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ALMANAC FOR AUGUST, 1885.

MOON'S CHANGES.
Last Quarter 3rd day, 5h. 45m., p. m.
New Moon 10th day, 10h. 2m., a. m.
First Quarter, 17th day, 9h. 34m., a. m.
Full Moon, 25th day, 1h. 13m., p. m.

DAY OF WEEK	SUN rises	SUN sets	MOON rises	MOON sets	HIGH water	LOW water	Days Len. h. m.
1 Saturday	4 47	7 25	9 59	1 40	14	38	14 38
2 Sunday	48	23 10	29	2 23	35	35	14 35
3 Monday	49	22 11	5	3 14	33	33	14 33
4 Tuesday	51	21 11	45	4 23	30	30	14 30
5 Wednesday	52	19 10	50	5 47	27	27	14 27
6 Thursday	53	18 0	34	7 14	25	25	14 25
7 Friday	54	16 1	31	8 23	22	22	14 22
8 Saturday	56	15 2	37	9 20	19	19	14 19
9 Sunday	57	14 3	49	10 9	17	17	14 17
10 Monday	58	12 5	4 10	53	14	14	14 14
11 Tuesday	59	10 6	20	11 39	11	11	14 11
12 Wednesday	5 0	9 7	33	12 30	9	9	14 9
13 Thursday	2	8 8	47	0 14	6	6	14 6
14 Friday	3	6 9	55	0 52	3	3	14 3
15 Saturday	4	4 11	2	1 32	0	0	14 0
16 Sunday	5	2 11	4	2 16	13	13	13 57
17 Monday	7	1 1	4	3 5	54	54	13 54
18 Tuesday	8	0 2	0	4 7	52	52	13 52
19 Wednesday	9	58	2 52	5 19	47	47	13 47
20 Thursday	10	56	3 40	6 33	46	46	13 46
21 Friday	12	54	4 24	7 38	43	43	13 43
22 Saturday	13	52	5 2	8 29	39	39	13 39
23 Sunday	14	50	5 37	9 12	36	36	13 36
24 Monday	16	49	6 9	9 56	33	33	13 33
25 Tuesday	17	47	6 39	10 26	30	30	13 30
26 Wednesday	18	45	7 7	11 0	27	27	13 27
27 Thursday	19	43	7 35	11 33	24	24	13 24
28 Friday	20	41	8 3	12 0	21	21	13 21
29 Saturday	22	40	8 29	0 40	18	18	13 18
30 Sunday	23	38	9 6	1 7	15	15	13 15
31 Monday	5 24	36	9 45	2 0	13	12	13 12

NOTES.
Duke of Edinburgh's birthday on the 6th.
Dog days end on the 11th.
Landing of Julius Cæsar (B.C. 55) on 27th.
In this month the mornings decrease 47 minutes; the afternoons 59 minutes.

THE RAILWAY TIME TABLE.

For the convenience of the travelling public, we have carefully arranged the following table of arrival and departure of trains on the P. E. Island Railway, according to local time:—

Going West.	A. M.	P. M.	P. M.
Charlottetown	6 47	9 12	4 02
Royalton Junction	7 02	9 47	4 29
North Wiltshire	7 37	10 39	5 09
Hunter River	7 47	10 55	5 22
Bradshaw	8 12	11 32	5 57
County Line	8 19	11 43	6 07
Freetown	8 29	11 59	6 24
Kennington	8 42	12 22	6 42
Summerside	9 07	12 57	7 12
Summerside	depart	9 27	2 37
Mission	9 42	3 00	
Wellington	10 01	3 29	
Port Hill	10 29	4 20	
O'Leary	11 22	5 42	
Alberton	12 05	6 57	
Tignish	12 42	7 47	
From West.	P. M.	A. M.	
Tignish	2 07	6 47	
Alberton	2 45	7 57	
O'Leary	3 29	9 02	
Port Hill	4 20	10 29	
Wellington	4 49	11 16	
Mission	5 07	11 44	
Summerside	5 22	12 07	
Summerside	depart	5 42	1 12
Kennington	6 07	1 49	7 29
Freetown	6 22	2 12	7 49
County Line	6 32	2 27	8 03
Bradshaw	6 38	2 37	8 12
Hunter River	7 02	3 15	8 47
North Wiltshire	7 12	3 32	9 01
Royalton Junction	7 47	4 32	9 47
Charlottetown	8 02	4 52	10 07
Going East.	A. M.	P. M.	
Charlottetown	7 07	4 17	
York	7 43	4 44	
Bedford	8 04	4 57	
Mount Stewart	8 37	5 22	
Morell	8 57	5 27	
Morell	depart	9 42	5 56
St. Peter's	10 15	6 17	
Bear River	11 07	6 52	
Souris	11 57	7 22	
Mount Stewart	9 02	5 32	
Carleton Place	10 15	6 25	
Georgetown	10 37	6 42	
From East.	A. M.	P. M.	
Souris	6 47	2 12	
Bear River	7 17	3 02	
St. Peter's	7 52	3 54	
Morell	8 14	4 27	
Mount Stewart	8 42	5 17	
Bedford	8 47	5 37	
York	9 12	6 14	
Charlottetown	9 26	6 35	
Georgetown	9 52	7 12	
Carleton	7 32	3 37	
Mount Stewart	7 49	4 00	
Mount Stewart	8 42	5 12	

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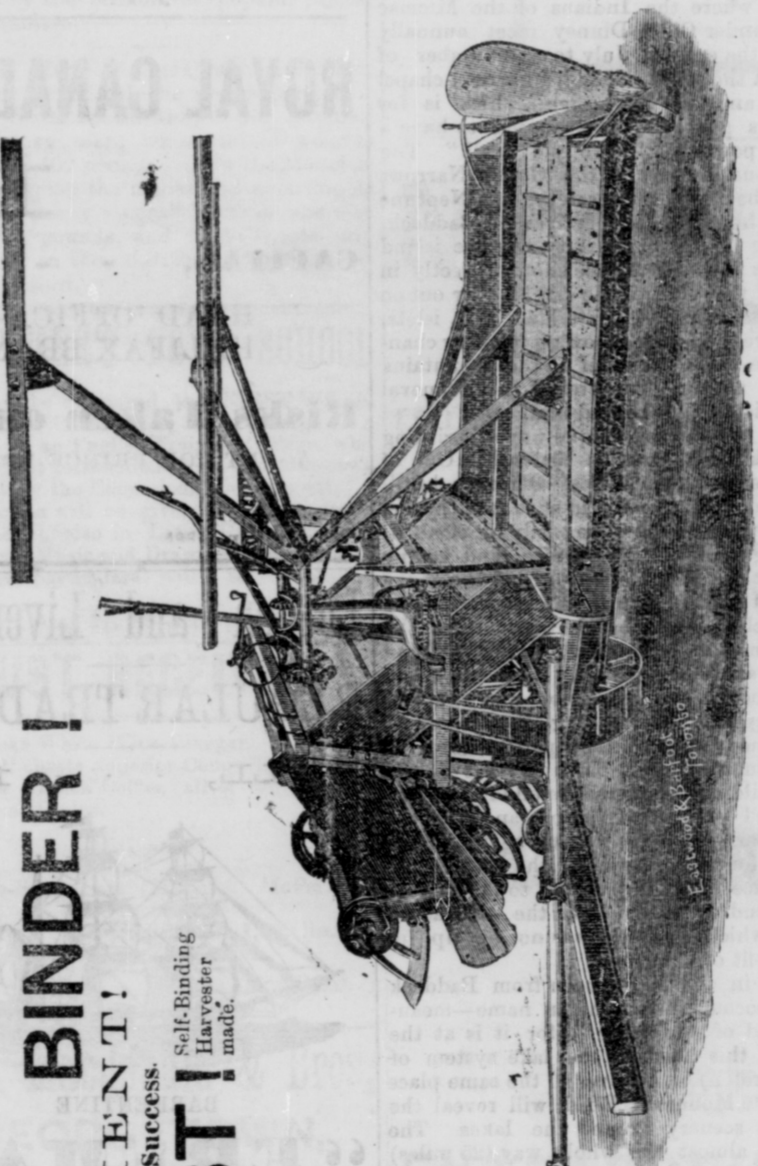
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G. H. HASZARD, BROWN'S BLOCK, Queen Square, Ch'town, May 18, '85.—wky

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DORSEY, GOFF & CO. Ch'town, March 25, 1885.

The Dangers from City Wells.

At a conference of State and municipal boards of health held at Washington last December, says Prof. Ira Rensen in a recent number of Science, ten propositions were unanimously agreed to. The first of these is "that all surface wells should be closed at the earliest possible moment." This has special reference to the surface wells in cities. Why do these wells deserve such sweeping condemnation? We have only to consider the conditions surrounding them to have a reason suggested. In cities in which there are no sewers it is well known that the discharges from the inhabitants are conveyed to cesspools, where they are allowed to remain indefinitely. Sometimes the contents of these cesspools are imperfectly removed; sometimes they are not disturbed, a new cesspool being dug in the neighborhood of one which has become filled. They are rarely built carefully, but are usually merely holes in the ground, lined with sufficient stonework to prevent the earth from falling in. In some cities they are dug in exactly the same way as the wells which are intended to supply drinking water. The digging in in each case continued until water is reached. Communication in this established with subterranean currents, and the refuse matter which finds its way into the cesspools is at least partly carried away. This saves some trouble; but what becomes of the refuse matter? Under very exceptional circumstances it may find its way to some large body of water which is not used for drinking purposes, and thus do no harm. If, however, there are wells in the neighborhood, the chances are in favor of the contents of the cesspools and of the wells becoming mixed. The larger the number of cesspools and of wells the greater the danger of such a result. In a city not provided with sewers, therefore, the conditions are such as to lead almost certainly to contamination of the water of surface wells with the contents of the cesspools. Besides this, there is the danger of contamination from surface drainage, which cannot be avoided. The water which falls upon the ground, whether the ground be paved or not, sinks to a considerable extent below the surface, carrying with it such impurities as may be present. Such surface water in cities, it is safe to say, is always contaminated. Some of it is sure to find its way into the wells.

This latter source of contamination is common to all cities, whether they are provided with sewers or not. While, however, the city which is provided with sewers is not subjected to exactly the same kind of danger as that first referred to above, the cases do not present as much difference as might at first be supposed. The sewers are generally leaky, and the soil in their vicinity becomes saturated with sewage. Thus they may contribute to the contamination of the well waters. Of course the danger of such contamination is not so great as when there are no sewers, but still it is quite sufficient to justify the condemnation of the surface wells. The waters of city wells have frequently been studied by chemists and biologists, and the results invariably show that contamination is the rule. In Brooklyn, N. Y., there were, in 1882, 316 wells. Chemical examination showed "that of this whole number but 17 furnished water fit for human consumption." Similar results have been reached in an examination of the water of the wells of Baltimore, where a few years ago there were between 100 and 200 in use. The contamination of some of the waters examined was such as to show that very close connection must exist between the wells and cesspools. The testimony of all who have given special attention to the subject of the water of city wells is unanswerable. Not only does a consideration of the surrounding circumstances lead us to suspect that the water must be contaminated, but the most careful examinations, by those most capable of making the examinations, have shown that actually, and almost invariably, the water is badly contaminated.

It is an unfortunate fact that, though the waters of city wells are generally impure, their external properties do not always reveal the impurity. Sometimes they do, and then it requires but a very slight hint as to the cause of the properties to stop the further use of the water. Thus, for example, some years ago there was a spring in Baltimore, which, owing to its peculiar taste and odor, was regarded as a mineral spring. It was therefore fenced in and covered, and generally treated like others of the class known as "mineral springs." It was afterward found that very close connection existed between it and a neighbouring cesspool, and the cause of the taste and odor which had given the water its reputation was thus revealed. It need not be added that the water ceased to be popular. More frequently these well waters are clear, and without taste and odor, and coming from greater depths than the service water they are generally cooler. Frequently, too, they are used for years, and many who use them continue in good health. There are, of course, in every community, many who are able to resist bad influences. They furnish no evidence for or against the danger of using bad water. The influences are felt principally by the weaker members of a community.

As regard the specific objections which may be raised to using the water of city wells, it may be said, in the first place, that the evidence is pretty clear that water contaminated with sewage does at times give rise to low fevers. Though it is difficult to furnish satisfactory proof of the statement that the use of contaminated water tends to lower the general condition of health of those who habitually use it, those who have paid most attention to the subject unanimously agree that pure water is as important as pure air for the preservation of good health. One of the chief dangers in the use of water contaminated with sewage is that, by establishing connection between the sick and the well, it contributes to the spread of some forms of epidemic disease. As is well known, it is now held by many of the high-

est authorities that in some diseases the organisms which are believed to be the active causes are given off from the patients with the alvine discharges. If, now, by any means, these organisms or their germs are introduced into the system of a well person, the diseased condition is set up. What more efficient method of distributing these organisms than drinking water which is contaminated with the contents of cesspools! Exactly what forms of disease may be spread in this way it is difficult to say, but there is strong evidence in favor of the view that typhoid fever and cholera are among them. Over and over again, outbreaks of typhoid fever have been traced with practically absolute certainty to the use of water known to be contaminated by sewage. In regard to cholera, the evidence is quite sufficient to justify the destruction of all city wells.

Suicides.

Says the New York Sun: It seems from statistics with respect to the subject, carefully gathered by the Insurance Chronicle, that the number of suicides in this country varies little from year to year. Reckoning from the first of March to the end of February, the figures for the last three years are: 1882, 3,166; 1883, 4,149; 1884, 5,168.

These years are included in the period which has been marked by a severe business depression, commonly regarded as an efficient cause of self-destruction, and yet the largest number of suicides in any single month occurred in August, 1882, when they numbered 212, though in that time we were only hearing the faint rumble of the coming commercial and financial catastrophes. The total for 1884, when we were in the midst of the worst of the troubles, was not more than the total for 1882, when the business sky was comparatively clear. But it seems that after the financial panic of May, 1884, the life insurance companies complained of a very considerable increase in the number of policies which were terminated by suicide. Still the act remains that 514 persons killed themselves during the comparatively prosperous summer of 1882, while the suicides during the black summer of 1884 reached only 383.

The causes of suicide in 1884-5, so far as they could be determined, are thus classified:—
Business troubles..... 174
Chagrin at parental discipline..... 24
Destitution..... 78
Dissipation..... 117
Election of Cleveland and Hendricks..... 3
Family trouble..... 214
Grief..... 39
Insanity..... 294
Love troubles..... 37
Sickness..... 84
Undergoing or threatened with punishment 44

Little reliance can be placed on this table, however, for it is not possible to get the true causes of the self-destruction for publication in a number of cases. Families refuse to reveal them, and the suicides themselves may leave behind them no reasons for their act, or may give false ones. But probably the majority of suicides in this country are due, more or less directly, to the use of stimulants.

Yet it is startling to see how many children take their lives because of rebellion against parental and school discipline. For instance a Chicago girl was so much cast down by a scolding from her mother that she destroyed herself with Paris green. A New York girl swallowed rat poison because her father refused to allow her to go to a skating rink. An Illinois boy took poison in a sleeping car because he had been expelled from college.

The ages of those who committed suicide in 1884 ran from eleven years to ninety-six years. The chief methods used were, in 531 cases, shooting; in 310, poisoning, in 275, hanging; in 155, cutting the throat; in 137, drowning. Besides these, 37 persons killed themselves by jumping from or standing in front of moving railroad trains, 52 by cutting arteries, 18 by jumping from heights, 11 by stabbing, 8 by burning, and one each by scalding and starving.

The suicides were engaged in nearly every kind of occupation, but the great majority were farmers, merchants, and laborers, though commonly it is supposed that the tendency to self-destruction is among men of strictly intellectual pursuits. But, in fact, suicide, like insanity, is less among those who work their minds chiefly than among those who lead sluggish lives in which their faculties are not kept bright by use. New York, though the most populous of the States, had fewer suicides in 1884 than Illinois—106 to 169.

Modern Embalming.

Modern embalming is not what it is cracked up to be. Garfield's body was embalmed, and ten days afterwards, when it was buried, the odor that arose from the decomposing remains was sickening. Lincoln's remains were embalmed, but decomposition was proceeding so rapidly that thousands were prevented from viewing the body at the funeral. Those who did see the face saw only a painted mask over a skin that was as black as coal. It was a trick of the undertakers to protect their process. Some of the most successful embalmers maintain that it is impossible to preserve a body for any length of time unless the method adopted by the Egyptians is followed, which requires primarily the removal of the entire internal organism.

San Francisco's death rate for the past year, 19.58 per 1,000, is lower than that of thirteen foreign and of eleven American cities, and the lowest of any city of its size in the world.