

CALENDAR, AUGUST, 1897.

MOON'S CHANGES
First Quarter, 5th, 2h. 12.0m. p. m.
Full Moon, 12th, 10h. 10m., a. m.
Last Quarter, 20th, 4h. 16.8m., a. m.
New Moon, 27th, 11h. 16.6m., p. m.
Table with columns: Day of Week, Sun Rises, Sun Sets, High Water, Low Water.

P. E. Island Railway

On and after FRIDAY, 4th June, 1897, the ains of this Railway will run daily, (Sundays excepted,) as under.

Table with columns: Trains Outward, Read down, STATIONS, Trains Inward, Read up. Lists routes to Charlottetown, St. John's, and other locations.

Time Table

Rockey Point Ferry, 1897.
The Steamer "Elfin" will leave Prince St. Wharf daily, Sundays excepted, as follows:
At 6.30 a.m., 8 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6.30 p.m.
Will leave Rocky Point as follows:
At 7 a.m., 8.30 a.m., 10 a.m., 11.30 a.m., 1.30 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m., SUNDAYS.
From Charlottetown at:
At 9 a.m., 12.45 p.m., 2 p.m., 4 p.m.
From Rocky Point:
At 10 a.m., 1.30 p.m., 3 p.m., 5.30 p.m.
SOUTHPORT FERRY.
Hillsborough will ply on the Southport ferry till further notice as follows:—
Sundays excepted, leaving Ch'town daily at 6.30 a.m. and every half hour up to 10 p.m. Leaving Southport at 9.45 a.m., making half hourly trips up to 10.05 p.m. Sunday trips: Boat leaves Ch'town at 7 a.m., making half hourly trips up to 8.35 p.m. Steamer laid off from 11.05 to 12 o'clock noon. On Tuesday and Friday of each week steamer will run off time to accommodate the travelling public.

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North Side Queen Square.
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Via Pictou & Halifax

Passengers leaving Charlottetown Mondays, Thursdays and Saturday mornings, via Pictou make close connection at Halifax with steamers "Olivette" and "Halifax" for Boston direct Tuesdays and Fridays at 7 a.m. and Saturdays 11 p.m.

Tickets for sale at stations P.E.I. Railway, Ch'town Nav Co, and Clark ticket office.
H. L. CHIPMAN, Can. Agent, & Halifax, N.S. d&w

ASSIGNEE'S NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of the deed of Assignment from Messrs. McLeod & Jardine, of Mount Stewart, Merchants, bearing date the third day of May, A. D., 1897, I hereby give notice to all persons claiming to be creditors of the same assignors, to furnish to me at the office of Messrs. McLeod, Morson & McQuarrie, Solicitors, etc., Charlottetown, P. E. Island, on or before the twenty-fourth day of July, next, a statement of the amount claimed to be owing from the said assignors to such creditors, respectively. And I hereby give notice that any creditor failing to furnish such statement within such time, may be precluded from participating in any dividend from said estate, pursuant to the terms of such assignment.
Dated this sixteenth day of June, 1897.
JOHN J. McQUAID, Assignee.
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EARLY CLOSING

We, the undersigned merchant tailors and clothiers, agree to close our respective places of business every evening at 6 o'clock, except Saturday, for the months of July and August.

JOHN T. McKENZIE, S. A. McDONALD, JOHN McLEOD & CO. PROWSE BROS., D. A. BRUCE, McKAY WOOLEN CO.

SPIDER'S NIGHTCAP.

A CURIOUS PRODUCT OF INSECT LABOR IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

How the Fiji Islanders Obtain These Beautiful and Rare Specimens — The Abbe and His Ingenious Method of Constructing a Spider Silk Factory.

"What in the world does the Fiji Islander do with such a large nightcap?" was a remark I overheard in the British museum in London. As soon as the speaker moved on I stepped forward to the glass case into which he had been looking, and there, sure enough, was a nightcap which for size might easily excite an exclamation of surprise from the most expectantly curious for it was nearly four feet long.

What was more interesting to me, however, was the fact that this very curious nightcap had been woven by spiders, and naturally I began to wonder how these bright little creatures had gone to work to weave it. That they had had any intention of making such an odd shaped object was too absurd to believe for a moment, but that this nightcap was composed of spider silk was apparent from its beautiful light gossamer texture.

I sought an explanation for it from one of the professors connected with the museum, who, while giving me the information I wanted, took the nightcap out of the case and handed it to me so that I could examine it closely. What first impressed me was the almost total absence of weight, for it hadn't any to speak of. Again, I was surprised at the thickness of the material, for whereas in the case it looked as though it had but very little body, now that I held it in my hands I saw that it was nearly an inch thick.

While gazing with admiration at the spiders' wondrous handiwork I learned from the professor how it was made. It appears that when the Fiji Islander wants one of these nightcaps he makes a light framework of sticks and places it in a very dark corner where he knows there are plenty of spiders. This is actually all that the native does toward making his nightcap and leaves the rest to the spiders, being quite sure that through their industrious efforts the spinning will be done for him. The tropical spiders are much more lavish of their beautiful silk than our northern species, so that when the native's rude framework is placed in their midst they at once set to work to cover up the sticks with silk of lightest gold, nor do they cease working until the framework is completely hidden. Not even then do they stop if there are still other places in which to spin their webs. To spin is their natural industry, and no matter what comes in their way they work it over in silk as they do the native's framework.

How long it takes the spiders to make one of these nightcaps the professor could not tell me, neither could he tell me just how the framework was made, although he thought it probably consisted of three light sticks. We turned the cap almost inside out in an endeavor to find some part of the framework, but not a particle was to be seen. In color it was of a rather dirty white, but I think this was due to its many travels. Like the speaker who first attracted my attention to this nightcap, I wondered what the Fiji Islander did with it. However, the professor had no information to give on this point.

Very little is known about this cap beyond the fact that it was made by spiders and that it was presented to the museum by that well known traveler and writer Miss Gordon Cumming.

To find a means of using spider silk for manufacturing purposes has long been an object of interest to many scientific men. The almost innumerable difficulties they have met with, however, have so far proved insurmountable. In the first place, it was found impossible to procure enough natural insect food to feed the vast multitude of spiders which would be required to furnish the silk. Eventually this barrier was overcome and in chopped worms was found a diet which spiders thrived upon. The natural combativeness of the members of the spider family is another serious difficulty, for they cannot be trusted near one another without fighting. Numerous experiments that have been made in trying to keep large numbers of spiders together

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have resulted in continual warfare between these savage little creatures, in which great numbers were slain and eaten by the stronger members of the community. A great deal of ingenuity has been exhibited by scientists in their efforts to discover a method of getting the silk directly from the living spider and not from the cocoons. As far back as 1763 the Abbe Raymond de Termeyer labored industriously in this direction and to a certain extent met with considerable success. He invented an odd looking contrivance which held the spider family in place on a little stand. In appearance it reminds one of the old stocks of Puritan days, for the spider's head and legs protruded through one side, giving it the appearance of a diminutive culprit undergoing severe punishment for some offense.

The spider was placed in this position which did not hurt it in the least, so that its legs could not interfere with the thread while it was being drawn away from its body. Just back of the spider the abbe placed a little reel on which to reel the silk. The most ingenious conception of the whole idea occurred when the abbe wished to begin reeling. The spider was secured; fixed in the stocks, as it were, but a way had to be thought out as to how to induce the spider to spin out its thread. The abbe hit upon an idea as simple as it was ingenious. It consisted merely of giving the captive spider a fly, which the creature quickly seized with its feet and jaws.

As the spider in its natural humor would immediately open its mouth and throw out strands just as soon as it captured an insect, so now, on being fed by the spider unconsciously threw out threads as if to swallow the fly. The ends of these threads were then quickly fastened to the reel by the quick witted abbe. This was then slowly turned and the silk wound off as with the silkworm's cocoon. From time to time we read of various articles which have been made from spider silk. A royal garment of this material was woven for Queen Victoria by some of her loyal subjects in her worldwide empire, and there is a number of other instances which I cannot now recall.—New York Ledger.

CHARLOTTETOWN BOSTON

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Windsor, Nova Scotia. INCORPORATED 1891.

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LOST—In this city yesterday afternoon a sum of money, including a \$20 bill. Reward on leaving same at this office 21
WANTED—A cook good references required Apply to Mrs H. W. Longworth, Upper Prince Street. Jy 15 11
LOST—Tuesday p. m. July 13th, between Eidon and Findlays, Orwell, a brown silk umbrella, close rolled. Automatic Frame. Suitable reward. Robins Stable, Kent St. Jy 20
LOST—In this city on the 24th inst. a ten dollar bill. The owner will greatly appreciate its return, and finder will receive a reward on leaving it at this office 176
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