

grain for the purpose of immediate sale, we should do so at the full of the moon; because, during the moon's increase the grain augments remarkably in magnitude; but if we would collect the grain to preserve it, we should choose the new moon, or the decline of the moon.

So far as it is consistent with observation that more rain falls during the increase of the moon than during the decline, there may be some reason for this maxim; but Pliny, or those from whom we receive the maxim, can barely have credit for grounds so rational; besides which, the difference in the quantity of rain which falls during the two periods is too insignificant to produce the effects here adverted to.

*Supposed Lunar Influence on the Complexion*—It is a prevalent popular notion in some parts of Europe, that the moon's light is attended with the effect of darkening the complexion.

That light has an effect upon the color of material substances is a fact well known in physics and in the arts. The process of bleaching by exposure to the sun is an obvious example of this class of facts. Vegetables and flowers which grow in a situation excluded from the light of the sun are different in color from those which have been exposed to its influence. The most striking instance, however, of the effect of certain rays of solar light in blackening a light colored substance, is afforded by chloride of silver, which is a white substance, but which immediately becomes black when acted upon by the rays near the red extremity of the spectrum. This substance, however, highly susceptible as it is of having its color affected by light, is nevertheless, found not to be changed in any sensible degree when exposed to the light of the moon, even when that light is condensed by the most powerful burning lenses. It would seem, therefore, that as far as any analogy can be derived from the qualities of this substance, the popular impression of the influence of the moon's rays in blackening the skin receives no support.

M. Arago (who generally inclines to favor rather than oppose prevailing popular opinions), appears to think it possible that some effect may be produced upon the skin exposed on clear nights, explicable on the same principles, that by which we have explained the effects erroneously imputed to what is called the *red moon*. The skin being, in common with the leaves and flowers of vegetables, a good radiator of heat, will, when exposed on a clear night, for the same reasons, sustain a loss of temperature. Although this will be to a certain extent restored by the sources of animal heat, still it may be contended that the cooling produced by radiation is not altogether without effect. It is well known that a person who sleeps exposed in the open air on a night when the dew falls, is liable to suffer from severe cold, although the atmosphere around him never falls below a moderate temperature; and although no actual deposition of dew may take place upon his skin. This effect must arise from the constant lowering of temperature of the skin by radiation. In military campaigns the effects of bivouacking at night appear to be generally admitted to darken the complexion.\*

\* *Le hale de bivouac* is an effect quite recognised. *Hale* is a term which expresses a state of the air which makes an impression upon the complexion, rendering it tanned and burnt.

#### THE MINISTERS HORSE.



CLERGYMAN'S horse that had never for twenty years, in his stall hard by the sanctuary, heard a hymn sung at the close of the afternoon service that contained more than four verses, was one day startled at hearing a fifth given out; and manifested his anxiety thereat, by kicking, winnowing, &c., but when a sixth was commenced he snorted out his indignation, broke his bridle, and started for home, with tail erect, and mane streaming in the wind. Six verses constituted an innovation that was not to be tolerated for a moment.