

## THE PLANETS.

We have something more than the mere magnitude of the planets to alledge in favor of the idea that they are inhabited. We know that this earth turns round upon itself; and we observe that all those celestial bodies, that are accessible to such an observation, have this movement. We know that the earth performs a yearly revolution round the sun; and we can detect, in all the planets which compose our system, a revolution of the same kind, and under the same circumstances. They have the same succession of day and night.—They have the same agreeable vicissitudes of seasons. To them light and darkness succeed each other; and the gaiety of summer is followed by the dreariness of winter. To each of them the heavens present as varied and magnificent a spectacle; and this earth, the encompassing of which would require the labour of years from one of its puny inhabitants, is but one of the lesser lights which sparkle in their firmament.—To them, as well as to us, had God divided the light from the darkness, and he has called the light day, and the darkness he called night. He has said, let there be lights in the firmament of their heaven, to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and for years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of heaven, to give light to their earth; and it was so. And God has also made to them great lights. To all of them he has given a sun to rule the day; and to many of them he has given moons to rule the night. To them he has made the stars also. And has set them in the firmament of heaven, to give light upon their earth; and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness, and God has seen that it was good.—*Dr. Chalmers.*

## CAPT. TAGGARTS FLYING MACHINE.

At Lowell, on the 4th, at 4 P. M., Captain Taggart made a balloon ascension with his flying machine attached. He was up 1½ hours, travelled about 75 miles, and showed himself over Cracut, Tewksbury, Haverhill, Reading, Andover, Ipswich, Georgetown, Lawrence, Danvers, Methuen, Salem, and other towns. He also went some distance out to sea. On his way back to Lowell, at Middleton, the gearing to his flying machine broke. Had not this accident happened he would have landed in or near Lowell, where he started from.—Capt. Taggart has exhibited a great deal of energy on trying his experiments, although we have seen no balloon to satisfy us of the safe and economical feasibility of travelling through the air; yet may we not expect the next great invention of locomotives to be an aerial one—and such an one as will save the construction of railroads, steamboats, and all clamjamfry.—*Sci Am.*

**FRENCH CEMENT.**—Gum water thickened with powdered starch. It is used by the French naturalists and artificial flower-makers. It keeps for a long time. A little lemon juice is sometimes added.

**MAKING STONE FENCE.**—With us the motto would be, whenever stones are removed from the field, put them into a wall. If ten rods cannot be made, make five, and the next time the field is plowed and more loose stone appear make five rods more, but do not throw them into the corners of the fence, nor into the street. As to the kind of wall, we should like to see posts with two wires connected with a wall. If boards are put upon the posts, the wind frequently moves the posts and injures the wall. We feel confident that a wall with wired posts may be made one-half a foot thinner than when boards are used, and yet be more durable.—The posts might be smaller, and the cost on the whole much less.—*Culturist and Gazette.*

**TO CURE A FELON.**—Take one table-spoonfull of castile soap, mix them with as much weak lye as will make it soft enough to spread like a salve, and apply it on the first appearance of the felon, and it will cure it in ten or twelve hours.

**FALL OF AEROLITES.**—At a meeting of the London Astronomical Society, the following extract of a letter from Mr. Richardson, dated off Jerbah, 25th of January, 1850, was read: "I will trouble your lordship by the mention of the astronomical phenomenon which arrested or terrified the attention of the whole of this coast some two months ago. This was the fall of a shower of aerolites, with a brilliant stream of light accompanying them, and which extended from Tunis to Tripoli, some of the stones falling in the latter city. The alarm was very great in Tunis, and several Jews and Moors instinctively fled to the British Consulate, as the common refuge from every kind of evil and danger. The fall of these aerolites was followed by the severest or coldest winter which the inhabitants of Tunis and Tripoli have experienced for many years."

**BLACKBERRY SYRUP.**—We are indebted to a friend for the following recipe for making blackberry syrup. This syrup is said to be almost a specific for the summer complaint. In 1832 it was successful in more than one case of cholera. To two quarts of juice of blackberries, add one pound loaf sugar, one-half ounce nutmegs, one half ounce cinnamon, pulverised, one-half ounce cloves, one-fourth ounce allspice do. Boil all together for a short time, and when cold, add a pint of fourth proof brandy. From a teaspoonful to a wine glass according to the age of the patient, till relieved, is to be given.

**TO DECOY RATS.**—Mix a shillings worth of Spanish flies in a pint of the best French brandy, cork it well, and after shaking, let it stand six weeks, and it will be fit for use. A few drops of this liquid is said to entice he rats from their holes into any kind of trap.

**SUBSOIL PLOUGHING.**—A correspondent of the *Agricultural Gazette* says he formerly made a point of ploughing at least ten inches deep when preparing for turnips; but he is more successful in growing them by keeping the manured soil near the surface, and loosening the substratum with the subsoil plough, going about seven inches deep with the first plough.