

Explanation to Calendar pages.

The time of Moon's and Planets' Rising, Southing, Setting and Phases, and that of High Water, is Halifax mean time. The Equation of Time, and Sun and Moon's Declination, are given for mean noon at Greenwich. The Sun's rising and setting are given in apparent time. The Moon's Semi-Diameter and Horizontal Parallax, marked S. D. and H. P. is inserted in the Calendar pages at the date of each perigee and apogee.

Derivations of the Months.

The names of the calendar months of the year are mostly derived from heathen names of kings, gods, and idols, which were worshipped by the ancient Romans. For this reason, these names are rejected by some; but, in general, they have been continued, to avoid the confusion that would result from the introduction of new names. The first month was called January, from the god Janus; the second February, from Februa, a feast held in this month; the third March, from Mars; the fourth April, from *aperio*, to open, referring to the buds and flowers this month; the fifth May, from Mai, the goddess to whom this month was dedicated; the sixth June, from Juno; the seventh July, from Julius Cæsar; eighth August, from Augustus Cæsar; the ninth and following months from septem, octem, novem, and decem; being the seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth from March, which was then the first month in the year—the first day of March being new-year's day. The sixth month, until the time of Augustus, was called sextilis, from the latin word for six; and when it was changed, in honor of that emperor, a day was taken from February, and added to it. Before that time, February had in common years 29 days, and in leap years 30 days—the day being added at the end of the bissextile year.

Does the Moon influence the weather.

From remote ages, a traditionary opinion has prevailed among the rude—and civilized too—people of all nations, that the moon influenced the weather. A few years ago, the French astronomers reported against the opinion as a fallacy, and the question was thought to be settled, but in the July number of the American Journal of Science and Arts, Mr. J. W. Alexander contributes a short article on meteorological coincidences, in which he states as the result of a long continued series of observations, "that the third day before the new moon regulated the weather on each quarter-day of that lunation, and also characterized the general aspect of the whole period. Thus, if the new moon happened on the 26th of May, 1851, the term day was the 24th of May; the weather on which the 24th of May determined what was to be on the 26th of May, and on the 3rd, 11th and 19th June, the quarter days respectively of that lunation." This is an important discovery, and shows that the influence of the moon is appreciable, contrary to the generally received opinion among the learned.