

Clear and Simple Key to Moon Chart.

The March number of Vennor's Bulletin contains a very ingenious moon chart, recently prepared in New York expressly for that paper from an original plate of which the origin is indicated by the words at the foot: "Composed by W. Leggo, and published by W. A. Leggo, Copper Plate Printer, Quebec, July, 1827." The idea of the chart is to give, in the most compact form possible, and at the same time the most convenient for consulting the new and full moons between the years of our Lord 1825, and 1900. And the plan of it as follows:—The chart is divided into four sections; in the first, which stands at the upper centre, are numbered the years in four parallel lines, each containing 19 years, the first line 1825 to 1843, the second 1844 to 1862, the third 1863 to 1881, the lowest line 1882 to 1900. As will appear at once if we take the section in perpendicular columns we have such groups as 1825, 1844, 1863, 1882, in the first column, 1826, 1845, 1864, 1883, in the second, and so on. The relation of this grouping to the rest of the chart will appear further on. The second section lying immediately below the first and occupying the main portion of the chart, contains 570 squares, in which are recorded in order the days of the moon's age, each 15th day having a white or full moon in place of the date, and each 30th, a black or new moon. The third and fourth sections lie respectively to the right and left of the second, the third containing in order the dates of the first six months of a year, the fourth those of the last six. Without entering into any disquisition upon the calculations through which the ingenious author of the chart arrived at his results, a brief statement of its working may be of some interest. Suppose, for instance, the date of any given full moon, say that of August, 1891, be required. We first find the square in the first section containing the year; this is in the tenth column (and, of course, for any of the four years, 1834, 1853, 1872, 1891, which occur in that column, the result will be the same); we then run our eye over into the second section and down along the column immediately below 1891, until we come to the square containing the full moon. We then, remembering that August is among the last six months of the year, follow the line on which our full moon occurs to the right, into the fourth section under the August column, and we find the square we arrive at to contain the number 20, the date we were in search of. A similar process will give us the date of any new moon. If, on the other hand, we are in possession of any date, and wish to find the moon's age upon that date, our course is still simpler. We have only to follow the line in section 2, parallel with the square containing our month date, until we come immediately beneath the column containing our year date, and the square at which we stop will contain the moon's age for that date. The key to the grouping in the year section is that every 19th year gives a recurrence of the same dates. Of course, in leap years, after February, each result must be looked for a day sooner than that given in the table. This ingeniously conceived little chart is, for convenience and time-saving, one of the most valuable features of the number.

—A few of our people still cling to the horns of the moon, and would as soon think of doubting the plan of salvation, as her influence upon the weather. There are those, too, who still endow the ground-hog with a superior faculty of weather wisdom. Countless *old saws* still constitute the stock in hand of popular weather knowledge. Let but a cat sneeze and it is a sign of rain, though Tabby may simply have been mousing around and upset a pepper-box. Even the patent medicine almanacs are yet consulted for information as to coming weather. The fame of the long-range prophets is assured. Meanwhile a few untiring individuals are quietly doing their work, and the time is approaching when a progress will have been made in the popular comprehension of WEATHER and its changes that will be of inesti-

mable pecuniary, social, and intellectual benefit.—(Cin. Comm.) Such is the aim and object of this BULLETIN.

—What influence have the sun, moon and planets on the weather?—is a question which has yet to be answered. If the sun and moon have so much influence upon the ponderable fluids in our seas and great lakes, how much more may they not exert over such an elastic and easily movable body as our atmosphere? Meteorology must embrace the study of such ideas as these, and our united efforts should tend towards their solution, from which we may hope to gain practical advantage.

Behaviour of March.

March (as thought probable in our last issue) entered lamb-like in a number of sections, while in a great many others it entered with bluster, snow and rain. Winnipeg and portions of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick reported *blizzards* and snow-drifts, in which trains were blockaded. In the Western, South-Western and Southern States terrible storms of wind and rain with floods caused extensive destruction of property and loss of life. Rain-storms with high winds also occurred at the entry of the month at New York, at the Hudson River Valley, and over a large portion of the Middle and New England States. At Montreal, Quebec and Ottawa the month came in comparatively quiet with rains and mildness, followed on the 4th, 5th and 6th by sharp frost and brilliant weather.

The North-West Territories *blizzard* did not reach the Western sections named in our last BULLETIN; consequently we were *one out*, as to snow-falls, but several points in as touching "the terrible week of rain and floods" in Western and Southern sections of the United States.

"BLIZZARD" at Winnipeg; snow-storms New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and snow-blockade on Intercolonial R. R. first week in March.

THE northern section of the Intercolonial Railway was seriously blockaded on the 4th and 5th of March by heavy snow-falls and drifts.

—"Vennor's prediction for the first of March was about correct. March made a bad start. As it was "ember-day" we may look for stormy weather for the next three months." *Southamptonville, Pa.*

DURHAM AND RIEGELSVILLE.—The month of March was ushered in by a general rain in this section of country. We had not yet supplied ourselves with Vennor's predictions, but will do so immediately, and we believe every reader of the *Democrat* would find his predictions of great utility. There is no plausible reason why Mr. Vennor's predictions should not be approximately correct, because, based as they are, upon scientific principles; and it is well known to all scientists, that the universe is controlled by established and immutable laws; "one master hand guides the great expanse, and safely steers the immensity of creation safe to port." Men like Vennor are doing an immense amount of work while others sleep or loiter about. If any one doubts, let him try his hand.—*Durham, Pa.*

—We had lovely spring weather several days last week. Bluebirds have made their appearance, and we think both Vennor and DeVoe will be considerably disappointed in their predictions made concerning March. We hope they will stop arranging such terrible weather as they have fixed up for this month.—*Quakertown Notes, Pa.*

NEW YORK, March 1st.—The heavy rain-storm which set early Wednesday morning continued all day with high wind. The storm was severe along the Hudson, and the ice was set in motion.

A cyclone swept over a great portion of Texas, doing very considerable damage. At News Valley Mills only one business house was left standing. No loss of life.

Heavy rains Bay of Fundy and Gulf St. Lawrence at entry of March.

POUGHKEEPSIE, March 1.—A heavy rain-storm prevailed along the Hudson last night and to-day. The streams are heavily swollen. All the ice between here and New York is moving. North of here the river is opening in spots.

THE Mohawk River was higher at the entry of March than for two years previous.

THE Hudson River was 9 feet above its usual level.

FLOODS and *wash-outs* around St. John's, Que., owing to heavy rains and melting of snow.

—An ice-bridge formed for the second time at Kingston, Ont., on or about the 15th of March.

—There was a cold wave felt pretty generally about the 15th and 16th of March; the sun was powerful during the day, but there was sharp frosts at nights. Zero was nearly touched upon again at both Montreal and Ottawa.

—Heavy rain and wind storm at Vicksburg, March 10th.

—Terrible storm on same date at Arkansas City. Wind played great havoc.

—Central Pacific trains were snowed up in Blue Canyon, and snow-sheds were carried away by snow-slides at other points, on March 15th and 16th.

Early Navigation.

NEW YORK, March 9.—The Hudson River has been open for navigation purposes during the present week. Tug-boats and sailing vessels have found no difficulty in ascending and descending the river. Yesterday the Citizens' line of passenger steamers to Albany began its season of travel. This is an unusually early opening. A year ago the first trip was not made until the third week in March, and this line has never opened before the 10th of March. The renewal of traffic and travel on the river will be a great convenience to business men in the metropolis as well as in the river cities, but the most important point is that it foreshadows an early opening of the great canal which connects the lakes and the Hudson.

ON the 9th of March navigation was reported as being open "the entire length of the State of Michigan." Boats were running on Upper Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay; also on the St. Clair River. Steamers commenced running on the 13th between Detroit and Cleveland.

—The *Pictou Standard* states that the steamer "Northern Light" is now frozen in the middle of a huge cake of ice, which at present is drifting around Pictou Island. The ice-field with the imprisoned steamer has completely circumnavigated the island once, and is now one-half-way round again.

ANTI-WEATHER-ITES we have found to be a very small class in the general community. These are sour, waspish, selfish individuals, who, in fact, are piqued at seeing the rising generation far ahead of them in general knowledge and broad-mindedness. Such men rail at the weather and those who are in any way connected with it, simply because they understand so little about it. If they only could they would keep the world just as it was when they were young, with all its old notions and exploded theories. But, as we have already stated, these men represent but a small portion of the community. They are *fossils*—we pass them by.