

Wonderful Dark Days in Canada.

One of the strangest occurrences that ever happened in the history of Canada was what has been always known as the "Phenomenon" of 1810. On the morning of Sunday, November 8, 1810, the sun rose upon a cloudy sky, which assumed, as the light grew upon it, a strange greenish tint, varying in places to an icy blueness. After a short time the whole sky became a dark, dense black clouds filling the atmosphere, and those followed a heavy shower of rain which appeared to be something of the nature of sleet, and was found to have deposited, after settling, a substance in all its qualities resembling soot. Late in the afternoon the sky cleared to its normal aspect, and the next day was fine and frosty. On the morning of Tuesday, the 10th, heavy clouds again covered the sky, and advanced rapidly from a deep green to a pitch black, and the sun, when occasionally seen through them, was sometimes of a dark brown, or an un- usually yellow color, and again bright orange, and even blood red. The clouds constantly deepened in color and density, and later on a heavy vapor seemed to descend to the earth, and the day became quite as dark as night, the gloom increasing and diminishing most fitfully. At noon lights had to be burned in the court-house, the banks, and public edifices of the city. Every- body was more or less alarmed, and many were the conjectures as to the cause of this remarkable occurrence. The more sensible thought that im- mense woods or forests were on fire somewhere to the west; others said that a great volcano must have broken out in the province; still others asserted that our mountains were on fire, and about to resume operation as an extinct crater of the city's second Pompeii; the super- stitious quoted an old Indian prophecy—that one day the Island of Montreal was to be destroyed by an earthquake, and some even cried that the world was about to come to an end. About the middle of the afternoon a great body of clouds seemed to rush suddenly over the city, and the darkness became that of night. A noise and hush for a moment or two succeeded, and then one of the most glaring flashes of lightning ever beheld, flamed over the clouds, accompanied by a clap of thunder which seemed to shake the city to its foundations. Another more followed, and then came a deluge of rain of the same noisy and sooty nature as that two days before. After that it appeared to grow brighter; but an hour later it was as dark as ever. Another flash of lightning, and another vivid flash of lightning, which was soon to strike the spire of the old French parish church, and to play curi- ously about the large iron cross at its summit before descending to the earth. A moment later came the climax of the day. Every bell in the city suddenly rang out, the alarm of fire, and the streets were filled with a confusion of people, who were at first attracted by the awful events of the day, and then, but scarcely daring to approach, the strange sight before them. The sky above and around was as black as ink; but right in the middle of the storm, there was the summit of the spire, with the lightning playing about it, shining like a sun. Directly the great iron cross, located at the foot of the spire, and the ground with a crash, and was shivered to pieces. But the darkest hour comes just before the dawn. The slow advance of the storm, and the fact that the people grew less fearful and returned to their homes, the red light came on, everything was bright and clear, and the storm was over. The phenomenon was noticed in a greater or less degree from Quebec to Kingston, and far into the States, but Montreal seemed its centre. It has never yet been explained.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

Brass bedsteads grow in fashion.

Silk should never be brushed, but dusted with a soft woolen cloth. No silk dress should be allowed to lie long with dust on its folds.

Onions differ as to the time optimal for planting requires to be boiled, but the standard authority—"The Scottish Cookery Book"—states twenty minutes as the proper time.

Coffee stands first in the list of beverages for the breakfast table, though for nervous people, or those who are afflicted with palpitation of the heart, it is not to be recommended.

Beef à la mode.—Cut out the bone from the beef, and convert it with the trimmings into gravy; stuff the orifice with rich forcemeat. Half roast it, and before putting in the steamer lard the top with dried and pickled mushrooms, adding mushroom powder in the orifice, then put in two quarts of gravy from the bones, a large onion, stock with cloves and two carrots cut in slices. When the beef has steamed until it is quite tender, strain and thicken the sauce, add to it a glass of wine, mush- room or oysters, and small pieces of fried paste. The mushroom or oysters may be omitted if desired.

Browning for gravies.—Melt four ounces of sugar in a frying pan, with a little water; add one ounce of butter, and continue the heat until the whole is turned quite brown without burning; then pour in a pint of port wine, stirring well all the time, and remove the pan from the fire. When the roasted sugar has dissolved, pour it into a bottle and add half an ounce each of black pepper and bruised pimento, six shallots cut small, a little pimento, and finely grated lemon-peel, and a quarter of a pint of catsup. Digest for a week, occasionally shaking, then strain through a muslin and keep for use.

Frying is of all methods of cooking the most objectionable, from the fact that the food is less digestible when thus prepared, as the fat employed undergoes chemical changes. Olive oil in this respect is preferable to lard or butter. The crackling noise which accompanies the process of frying meat in a pan is occasioned by the explosion of steam formed in fat, the temperature of which is much above 212°. If the meat is very juicy it will not fry well, because it becomes sodden before the water is evaporated; and it will not brown because the temperature is too low to sear it. To fry fish well the fat should be boiling hot, and the fish well dried in a cloth, otherwise, owing to the generation of steam, the temperature will fall so low that it will be boiled in its own steam, and not be browned. Meat, or indeed any article, should be frequently turned and agitated during frying, to promote the evaporation of the watery particles. To make fried articles look well, they should be done over twice with eggs and stale bread-crumbs. If eggs be very dear, a little flour and water may be substituted for the bread-crumbs. To make fried articles look well, they should be done over twice with eggs and stale bread-crumbs. If eggs be very dear, a little flour and water may be substituted for the bread-crumbs.

The History of Huns.—Mr. John Morrison, of St. Ann's, N.S., was so seriously ill that he was taken to the hospital, where he died of dropsy and was buried in the cemetery. He was a native of the province and had been a resident of St. Ann's for many years.

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It was long after midnight, and the minutes were ticking by like hours, when "I love a graceful elm tree," she remarked, quickly.

"How I wish I were an elm tree," he responded, quickly.

"I wish you were, too," she said, with a world of devotion in her voice.

"Beasts," she replied, "trees leave once a year, but you never do."

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Boarding-house butter, as a rule, is stronger than the personal attractions of the landlady.

The people of this country have spoken. They declare by their patronage of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil that they believe it to be an article of genuine merit, adapted to the cure of genuine ailments, as well as reliever of the most distressing ailments, external injuries, corns, bunions, piles, and other maladies.

An excellent grade of boarding-house chicken is made of India-rubber.

Christmas and Holiday Goods now open. Breakfast Sets, in 20 & 40 patterns. Dinner Sets, a beautiful assortment. Tea Sets and Tea and Coffee Sets. Games and Toys. Beautiful things. Tea-Tete and Ice Cream Sets. French China. Fancy Jugs and Toppots, Sugar and Cream. Ruby, Canary and Rose de Berry Ornaments. Tea Trays, Crumb Trays, Dish Mats, etc. Knives, Forks and spoons. Fish and Ivory.

Mr. John Morrison, of St. Ann's, N.S., was so seriously ill that he was taken to the hospital, where he died of dropsy and was buried in the cemetery. He was a native of the province and had been a resident of St. Ann's for many years.

A Maine jury has found the expense of kicking a person out of a store or office of business or habitation at \$20. We are glad to hear that the law is being enforced, and that the courts are doing their duty.

A field of corn.—Thomas Sablin of Kingston, Ont., has raised a field of corn, which he says is the best he has ever raised. The corn is of a fine quality and is well adapted for the soil.