

### DURATION OF THE SEASONS, ETC.

Sun in Winter Signs,	89 days, 1h, 19m.
Sun in Spring Signs,	92 days, 20h, 37m.
Sun in Summer Signs,	93 days, 14h, 12m.
Sun in Autumnal Signs,	89 days, 17h, 47m.
Tropical Year,	365 days, 5h, 55m.
Sun North of the Equator,	186 days, 10h, 49m.
Sun South of the Equator,	178 days, 19h, 6m.
Difference,	7 days, 15h, 43m.

The following is the proportion of nutritious matter and water in each of the following substances :

Lbs. Substances.	Lbs. nut. mat.	Lbs. water.	Lbs. Substances.	Lbs. nut. mat.	Lbs. water.
100 Wheat flour,	90	10	100 Beets,	15	85
100 Corn meal,	91	9	100 Strawberries,	10	90
100 Rice,	86	14	100 Pears,	16	84
100 Barley meal,	88	12	100 Apples,	16	84
100 Rye flour,	79	21	100 Cherries,	25	75
100 Oatmeal,	75	25	100 Plums,	29	71
100 Potatoes,	22½	77½	100 Apricots,	26	74
100 White beans,	95	5	100 Peaches,	20	80
100 Carrots,	10	90	100 Grapes,	27	73
100 Turnips,	4½	95½	100 Melons,	3	97
100 Cabbage,	7½	92½	100 Cucumbers,	2½	97½

SHIPPING AND TONNAGE OF GREAT BRITAIN.—On January 1, 1857, there were in Great Britain 24,480 registered sailing vessels, with a tonnage of 3,981,475; and of registered steam vessels, 1,697, with a tonnage of 386,462. In the colonies, etc., 8,615 sailing vessels, and 239 steamers, with a tonnage of 780,116 tons. The coasting trade was, *inwards*, 152,383 British vessels, with a tonnage of 15,288,819; and 307 foreign vessels, with a tonnage of 53,489; *outwards*, 156,212 British vessels, with a tonnage of 15,356,647; and 227 foreign, with a tonnage of 40,312. Vessels built, 888 timber and 33 iron sailing vessels, and 54 timber and 175 iron steam vessels, with a total tonnage of 244,578 tons. 719 sailing, and 35 steam vessels wrecked.

BRITISH POST-OFFICE.—In 1856, the total number of letters delivered in Great Britain, was 479,393,803; of which, 388,309,853 were in England and Wales; 41,851,008 in Ireland; and 48,232,942 in Scotland. The number of newspapers was 71,000,000, and the number of book packets nearly 3,000,000. The gross revenue was \$14,334,770; expenses \$8,301,145; net revenue, \$6,038,625. The total number of money-orders was 6,178,982, to the amount of \$49,027,810, being an increase of 7½ per cent. over the previous year. So much for *cheap postage!*