



AN UNLUCKY BREAKFAST FOR THE MARQUIS DE CONDORCET.

1874—MARCH—31 days.

THE MOON'S CHANGES.

Fall Moon, 3rd, 5-21 mn. New Moon, 18th, 5-2 mn.
Last Quar. 11th, 5-34 mn. First Quar. 24th, 10-31 nt.

		Rises & Sets.	Moon Rises & Sets.	Age
1 S	2nd Sun. in Lent.—St. David.	6 47 r	Rises P.M.	13
2 M	Matthew Flinders born, 1760.	5 40 s	4 50	14
3 Tu	Sir Nicholas Carew (relative of Anne Boleyn) executed for conspiracy, 1539.	6 42 r	6 1	15
4 W	Riots in many parts of England, on account of the high price of bread, 1855.	5 44 s	7 10	16
5 Th	Duke of Hamilton (friend of Charles I.) be- headed in Old Palace Yard, 1649.	6 38 r	8 18	17
6 F	Potatoes were first brought to England from America, by Sir Francis Drake, 1585.	5 47 s	9 29	18
7 S	Lord Collingwood second in command at Trafalgar died, 1810.	6 33 r	10 39	19
8 S	3rd Sunday in Lent.	5 51 s	11 55	20
9 M	Aboukir surrendered to the British under Sir Ralph Abercrombie, 1801.	6 29 r	After Mid- night	21
10 Tu	Prince of Wales married Princess Alexandra of Denmark, 1863.	5 54 s	A.M.	22
11 W	"Except wind stands as never it stood, It is an ill wind turns none to good."	6 24 r	2 22	23
12 Th	—Tessie.	5 58 s	3 32	24
13 F	Battle of Stamford, 1470.	6 20 r	4 28	25
14 S	Admiral Byng shot at Spithead (on board the Monarch), for alleged cowardice, 1757.	6 0 s	5 9	26
15 S	4th Sunday in Lent.	6 15 r	5 43	27
16 M	Habeas Corpus Act suspended in England, 1798. Again in 1801, and in 1817.	6 3 s	6 28	28
17 Tu	St. Patrick.	6 11 r	6 24	29
18 W	Princess Louise, Carolina-Alberta (fourth daughter of Queen Victoria), born, 1848.	6 8 s	6 24	30
19 Th	"The gladness hopeful spring-time!" Keep heart! It comes ever now."	6 7 r	8 8	1
20 F	—MRS. HEMANS.	6 12 s	9 40	2
21 S	Duel between the Duke of Wellington and the Earl of Winchelsea, 1803.	6 2 r	11 12	3
22 S	5th Sunday in Lent.	6 14 s	After Mid- night	4
23 M	Sir Francis Burdett, committed to the Tower of London for contempt of the House of Commons, 1819.	5 58 r	1 56	5
24 Tu	—LADY DAY.—	6 17 s	1 56	6
25 W	Margery de Condorcet born, 1743.	5 53 r	3 2	7
26 Th	James I. (called by the Duke of Sully the "wisest fool in Christendom") died, 1625.	6 21 s	3 50	8
27 F	Sir Ralph Abercrombie (mortally wounded at Alexandria) died, 1801.	5 48 r	4 26	9
28 S	—	6 24 s	4 51	10
29 S	Palm Sunday.	5 44 r	5 7	11
30 M	The Test and Corporation Acts, which pre- vented Dissenters and Roman Catholics from holding office in the State, were repealed in 1828.	6 28 s	5 22	12
31 Tu	—	5 39 r	5 23	13

NOTES TO THE ABOVE ILLUSTRATION.

THE MARQUIS DE CONDORCET was one of those remarkable thinkers who, while they helped materially to bring about the French Revolution of 1789, were as much shocked at the horrors which attended it, as they were powerless to prevent or restrain them. And whilst flattering themselves they had preserved Republican virtues because they were not addicted to the frivolities or shared the vices of the Court, they forgot that the love of power, the zeal of party, and the ambition of popularity, may produce consequences more disastrous, and corruption as great as the love of pleasure, the thirst for gold, or the ambition of kings. Condorcet was, by his very mental constitution, a philosopher, and his early connection with some of the most advanced denouncers of royalty and "free-thinking philosophers" prepared the way for the part he afterwards took in political affairs.

Condorcet was born in 1743, and educated at the college of Navarre, where he soon distinguished himself by his mathematical powers. Between 1765 and 1773 he published, in somewhat rapid succession, various works on Geometry, and kindred subjects; and having been in 1769 elected a member of the Academy of Sciences, became in 1773 its secretary. In 1791 he became a member of the National Assembly, and of the Jacobin Club, of which he was an indefatigable member; and though he is said to have opposed the trial of the unfortunate Louis XVI. on the ground of its illegality, yet his enemies declare that, without pity, he insulted the fallen monarch, though he had previously schemed, it is said, to obtain for himself the post of tutor to the Dauphin. Robespierre's accession to power was the commencement of party struggles with which Condorcet was unskilful to cope, and in which he was too disinterested to please any of the leaders. In the Girondist and Mountain strifes he sided with neither, and, consequently, offended both; and though with his pen he was still clear and bold, yet in the Assembly he would often vote, from sheer timidity, with the party to which he was theoretically opposed. This singular union of courage with cowardice induced Madame Roland to say of him, "Such men should be employed to write, but never persuaded to act."

In 1793 Robespierre denounced Condorcet as a Girondist, and issued a decree of accusation against him. At his wife's entreaty he secreted himself in an attic in an obscure quarter of Paris, where he remained for more than eight months. Could he have borne confinement a little longer he might have been saved; but either from impatience, from fear of detection, from solicitude for the safety of his landlady, or tempted from his seclusion by the spring beauties of the neighbouring trees and fields, he left his hiding-place, and succeeded in passing the barriers without a civic cord. He had wandered about for several days in the environs of Paris, when he decided to call on M. Suard, once his intimate friend, and in whose house he had lodged, but who had ceased to see him after the execution of Louis XVI. Suard was

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