



AN INSANE POET WRITING DOWN HIS POETICAL THOUGHTS.

1873—**MARCH**—31 days.

THE MOON'S CHANGES.		Sun Rises & Sets.	Moon Rises & Sets.	Age.
First Quar.	6th, 1:25 mn.	Last Quar.	21st, 10:19 nt.	
Full Moon.	14th, 5:44 mn.	New Moon.	28th, 12:54 mn.	
1 S	<i>St. David.</i>	Year 1290 of the Mohammedan era commences.	6 47r	2
2 S	1st Sunday in Lent.		5 40s	3
3 M	This day is the anniversary of the birth of three English poets—Edmund Waller, in 1606; Sir William Davenant, in 1606; and Thomas Otway, in 1631.		6 42r	4
4 Tu	Comte de Provence (afterwards Louis XVIII.) refused to sell his right to the throne of France to the First Consul, Bonaparte, in 1803.		5 44s	5
5 W	Lord Collingwood died, 1810.		6 38r	6
6 Th	The British effect a landing in Egypt, after much opposition from the French, 1801.		5 47s	7
7 F			6 33r	8
8 S			5 51s	9
9 S	2nd Sunday in Lent.		6 29r	10
10 M	Lord Darnley blown up by gunpowder, in his house (Mary Queen of Scots has been accused of conniving at his death, in revenge for the murder of David Rizzio), 1567.		5 54s	11
11 Tu	Exactly twenty years after (less two days), she was executed at Fotheringay.		6 24r	12
12 W	Lord Braybrooke (editor of "Pepys's Diary") died, 1838.—It was this nobleman's father who, in 1810, made some successful experiments in allotting land to poor families in Essex, in order to assist them, and relieve the poor-rates.		5 58s	13
13 Th			6 20r	14
14 F			6 1s	15
15 S			6 15r	16
16 S	3rd Sunday in Lent.		6 5s	17
17 M	<i>St. Patrick.</i>		6 10r	18
18 Tu	The Rev. Laurence Sterne, author of "Tristram Shandy," died, 1768.		6 8s	19
19 W	<i>Smart (poet), born, 1722.</i>		6 6r	20
20 Th	The ex-Emperor Napoleon arrived in England, 1871.		6 12s	21
21 F	Robert Southey died, 1843.		6 1r	22
22 S	Goethe (German poet) died, 1832.—"Let the light enter," were his last words.		6 15s	23
23 S	4th Sunday in Lent.		5 57r	24
24 M	(Kotzebue assassinated, 1819.)		6 18s	25
25 Tu	LADY DAY.		5 52r	26
26 W	Paul of Russia murdered, 1801.		6 22s	27
27 Th	So late as the year 1775 nine women were burned in Poland as "witches!"		5 47r	28
28 F	Abercromby died from wounds received at the battle of Alexandria on the 21st, 1801.		6 25s	29
29 S	Swedenborg (founder of the New Jerusalem Church) died, 1772.		5 43r	30
30 S	5th Sunday in Lent.		6 28s	31
31 M	One hundred years ago there were only three newspapers published in Scotland.		5 38r	32

NOTES TO THE ABOVE ILLUSTRATION.

CHRISTOPHER SMART was one of those unfortunate and irregular men of genius of whom biographical history furnishes so many sad illustrations. He was born in the year 1722 at Shipbourne, in Kent. His father was steward to Lord Barnard—afterwards Earl of Darlington—and dying when his son was eleven years of age, the patronage of Lord Barnard was generously continued to his family; and through the influence of this nobleman, Christopher procured from the Duchess of Cleveland an allowance of forty pounds per annum. He was then sent to Cambridge, where he took his degree of M.A., and won, more than once, the Seatonian prize for the best poem. Whilst at college Smart was remarkable for folly and extravagance, and his contemporary, the poet Gray, prophesied that the result of his conduct would be a jail or a madhouse!—a prediction which it will be seen, unhappily, came true. When Smart left college he commenced his career as a writer, and having contributed several pieces to periodicals in which Newberry, the eminent publisher, was interested, the poet became acquainted with the bookseller's family, and married his stepdaughter in the year 1753. Smart now removed to London, and endeavoured to subsist by his pen; but the gaiety of his disposition rendering him an acceptable companion to those wits and authors of the day who were addicted to a convivial life—the result was, that in the year 1763 his constitution broke down under repeated excesses, and Smart became the inmate of a madhouse—thus fulfilling the prediction of Gray.

During Smart's confinement, it is said, writing materials were denied him, and the poor fellow wrote his poetical thoughts with a key on the wainscot of his walls: A lengthy religious poem, the "Song to David," written in this manner in his saner intervals, possesses passages of considerable power and glowing fervour, and must be considered one of the greatest curiosities of our literature. But it is impossible that the whole could have been committed to the walls of his apartment, and a portion must have been retained, and written from memory alone.

The following lines—extracted from his "Song to David"—are given as a specimen of his poetical powers:—

"O thou, that sit'st upon a throne,
With harp of high, majestic tone,
To praise the King of kings:
And voice of heaven, ascending swell,
Which while its deeper notes excel,
Clear as a clarion rings:

"O servant of God's holiest charge,
Thy minister of praise at large,
Which thou may'st now receive;
From thy blest mansion hail and hear,
From topmost eminence appear
To this the wretch I weave."

Dr. Johnson, who had known Smart, and sympathised with him for his infirmity of mind, thus wrote of him whilst he was labouring under his affliction:—"He has partly as much exercise as he