



THE MENSCHIKOFF FAMILY ON THEIR WAY TO SIBERIA!

1873—JUNE—30 days.

THE MOON'S CHANGES.

	Sex Rises & Sets.	Moon Rises & Sets.	Age.
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2 <b>M</b>			7
3 <b>Tu</b>			8
4 <b>W</b>			9
5 <b>Th</b>			10
6 <b>F</b>			11
7 <b>S</b>			12
8 <b>S</b>			13
9 <b>M</b>			14
10 <b>Tu</b>			15
11 <b>W</b>			16
12 <b>Th</b>			17
13 <b>F</b>			18
14 <b>S</b>			19
15 <b>S</b>			20
16 <b>M</b>			21
17 <b>Tu</b>			22
18 <b>W</b>			23
19 <b>Th</b>			24
20 <b>F</b>			25
21 <b>S</b>			26
22 <b>S</b>			27
23 <b>M</b>			28
24 <b>Tu</b>			29
25 <b>W</b>			30
26 <b>Th</b>			1
27 <b>F</b>			2
28 <b>S</b>			3
29 <b>S</b>			4
30 <b>M</b>			5

NOTES TO THE ABOVE ILLUSTRATION.

THE remarkable career of ALEXANDER MENSHIKOFF—who rose to the highest office of state in Russia during the reign of Peter the Great—is a remarkable instance of the fickleness of fortune exhibited not only in his rise, but in his downfall. He was born of parents who were so excessively poor that they could not afford to have him taught to read and write. After their death, he went to Moscow, where he found an asylum with a pastry-cook. He had a fine voice, and in short time became well known in that great city by the musical tone of his cry when vending his master's pastry in the street. Having attracted the notice of that eccentric monarch, Peter the Great, he was taken into his service, and soon became a great favourite with him, accompanying him in his travels; and on several occasions he patronized the Czar, who appeared as a private person in his train. In the war with Charles XII. of Sweden, Menshikoff greatly distinguished himself, and won great honour at the celebrated battle of Poltava, when Charles was totally defeated, and fled to Bender. Peter now made Menshikoff first minister, and conferred upon him the titles of Baron and Prince of Lugra. It was through Menshikoff that the celebrated Catherine (afterwards empress) was introduced to Peter. This remarkable woman was a Livonian of low birth, who, on the morning after her marriage with a sergeant in the Swedish army, found herself a prisoner of war to the Russians. She became the companion first of General Brava; next of Count Schoumouff; and then of Menshikoff; by whom she was transferred to Peter when she was but nineteen years old. After a time he secretly married her, and when a period of twelve years had elapsed, their marriage was publicly solemnized with great pomp at St. Petersburg (in 1724), on which occasion she received the diadem and sceptre from the hands of her husband. Peter died the following year, and she was proclaimed sovereign Empress of all the Russias.

It is not very surprising that so extraordinary and sudden an elevation should cause Menshikoff sometimes to forget that he was a man, and his enemies trembled at his presence; for, as his power was great, so was his revenge. After the death of his imperial master, to whom he was very devotedly attached, he remained faithful to Catherine; and upon her decease, in the year 1727, (which was hastened by intemperance) he placed the crown upon the head of Peter, the grandson to his benefactor, and son of the unfortunate Alexis, whose mother, Eudokia, was the first wife of Peter the Great, and who was most barbarously treated by him. It is said that Menshikoff had formed the ambitious design of marrying his daughter to the young prince before he ascended the throne as Peter II. The sun of prosperity,

Alexis was tried by a secret tribunal by order of his father on a charge of conspiracy, and was condemned to death, after being made to renounce the succession to the crown. It was stated that he died from apoplexy, but it is thought that he was secretly put to death in the year 1718 by order of his father. [Continued.]

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Fall

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