



CITY OF QUEBEC.

1874—FEBRUARY—28 days

The Moon's Changes.		Sun rises	Sun sets	Sun's Declin. South.	Moon R. & S.
F. Moon, 1,645 m.	N. Moon, 16, 5.21 ev.				
L. Qr. 9, 11.35	1st Qr. 22, 5.51 m.				
1 S	Septuagesima Su.	h. m.	h. m.	D. Min.	h. m.
2 M	Candlemas Day.	7 27 5	1 17 6	5 26	
3 Tu	Cromwell's army besieges	7 26 5	2 16 49	6 28	
4 W	Hume Castle, Berwick.,	7 25 5	3 16 32	7 30	
5 Th	1651. The Gov. answers	7 25 5	5 16 14	8 30	
6 F	the summons:—	7 22 5	6 15 56	9 30	
7 S	"I Willie of the Wastle,	7 20 5	8 15 57	10 31	
	And now in my castle,	7 19 5	9 15 19	10 31	
	Shand garra me gang down				
8 S	Sexagesima Sun.	7 18 5	11 15 00	Mrn.	
9 M	Bish. Hooper burnt, 1555.	7 17 5	13 14 41	0 35	
10 Tu	Queen Vic. married, 1840.	7 16 5	14 14 21	1 40	
11 W	Mary, Queen of England—	7 14 5	16 14 2	2 48	
12 Th	"Bloody Mary," b. 1516.	7 13 5	17 13 42	3 57	
13 F	David Allan, Scotch painter,	7 11 5	18 13 22	5 1	
14 S	born, 1744.	7 9 5	19 13 2	5 55	
	St. Valentine.				
15 S	Quinquages. Su.	7 8 5	20 12 41	6 39	
16 M	Lindlay Murray d. 1826.	7 6 5	22 12 20	Sets.	
17 Tu	Shrove Tuesday.	7 4 5	24 12 00	5 51	
18 W	Ash Wednesday.	7 3 5	25 11 38	8 10	
19 Th		7 1 5	27 11 17	9 26	
20 F	David Garrick, celebrated	7 00 5	28 10 55	0 42	
21 S	Eng. actor, b. 1716.	6 59 5	30 10 34	11 59	
22 S	1st Sun. in Lent.	6 57 5	31 10 12	Mrn.	
23 M	Sir Joshua Reynolds, the	6 55 5	33 9 50	1 11	
24 Tu	great Eng. port. painter,	6 53 5	34 9 28	2 22	
25 W	and Pres. of Roy. Acad.,	6 51 5	35 9 6	3 29	
26 Th	d. 1792.	6 49 5	37 8 41	4 26	
27 F	Wm. Kitchiner, litterateur	6 47 5	39 8 21	5 11	
28 S	d. 1827, at St. Pancras.	6 46 5	39 7 59	6 49	
	Thos. Moore, poet, d. 1852.				

STRAY NOTES.

14.—The custom of sending valentines on the 14th February took its rise from a superstitious heathen habit, following which youths used to send their favorites a kind of love-letter in honour of one of their goddesses, as they supposed that on this day birds choose their mates. St. Valentine was a holy priest, "a valiant and noble knight of God," who suffered martyrdom in the persecution under the Roman Emperor Claudius II., in the year 270.

It was formerly the custom for a lover to send some substantial proof of affection to the object of his regard. Pepys, in his "Diary" boasts that he sent to his wife, when she was staying at Sir W. Batten's, "half a dozen pairs of gloves, and a pair of silk stockings, and garters, for her valentine." There were frequently mottoes attached to such gifts, of a complimentary kind.

17.—Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ancient practice of confessing sins and being *shrived* or *shrove*—i.e., obtaining absolution—on this day. In Scotland it is called Fasten's E'en. The character of the day as a popular festival is mirthful. In bygone days the merriment began, strictly speaking, the day before, on what was called *Collop Monday*, from the habit of eating collops of salted meat and eggs on that day. Pancakes and Shrove Tuesday are always associated together in the popular mind. Shrove Tuesday may occur on any day between the 2nd of February and the 8th of March.

18.—The name Ash Wednesday is derived from the notable ceremony of this day in the Romish Church. It being thought proper to remind the faithful, at the commencement of the great penitential season of Lent, that they were but dust and ashes, the priest took a quantity of ashes, blessed them, and sprinkled them with holy water. The worshipper then approaching in sackcloth, the priest took up some of the ashes on the end of his fingers, and made with them the mark of the cross on the worshipper's forehead, saying, *Memento, homo, quia cinis es, et in pulverem reverteris* (Remember, man, that you are of ashes, and into dust will return).