



A THROW FOR LIFE OR DEATH!

1874—JUNE—30 days.

NOTES TO THE ABOVE ILLUSTRATION.

THE MOON'S CHANGES.		Scv Rises & Sets.	Moon Rises & Sets.	Asc.
Last Quar. 7th, 1-18 aft. First Quar. 21st, 8-1 ut.				
New Moon, 14th, 6-52 mn. Full Moon, 29th, 6-48 evn.				
1 M	The Covenanters defeated Claverhouse (Viscount Dundee) at Drumclog, 1678.	3 49r	Rises P.M.	17
2 Tu	James Douglas, Earl of Morton, beheaded at Edinburgh, 1581.	8 7s	11 0	18
3 W	Prince George Frederick (second son of Prince of Wales) born, 1755.	3 49r	11 46	19
4 Th	Davout (one of Bonaparte's famous marshals) died, 1823.	8 8s	After Mid- night	20
5 F	"An evil lesson is soon learnt."	3 47r	A.M.	21
6 S	Lord Anson (eminent naval commander and circumnavigator) died, 1762.	8 10s	0 38	22
<b>1st Sunday after Trinity.</b>				
7 S		3 47r	0 54	23
8 M	Bernard Palissy (potter) died, 1590.	8 12s	1 10	24
9 Tu	The claims of Sir Augustus d'Este to the dukedom of Sussex rejected, 1854.	3 45r	1 22	25
10 W	Edward Oxford fired two pistol shots at the Queen and Prince Albert, 1840.	8 13s	1 37	26
11 Th	"No alchemy is equal to saving."	3 44r	1 53	27
12 F	James III. of Scotland killed by his revolted nobles, near Bannockburn, 1488.	8 14s	2 12	28
13 S	[Bastille taken, 1797.	3 43r	2 41	29
<b>2nd Sunday after Trinity.</b>				
14 S		8 16s	Sets P.M.	30
15 M	Mr. Attwood, M.P. for Birmingham, presented the Chartist petition to the House of Commons, 1839, containing, he said, 1,280,000 signatures.—[It required twelve men to carry it out of the House.]	3 44r	10 11	1
16 Tu		8 17s	10 53	2
17 W		3 44r	11 22	3
18 Th	Battle of Waterloo, 1815.	8 18s	11 41	4
19 F	Richard Brandon (the executioner who is supposed to have executed Charles I.) died, 1649. He was the official executioner for the City of London.	3 44r	11 56	5
20 S		8 18s	After Mid- night	6
<b>3rd Sunday after Trinity.</b>				
21 S		3 44r	A.M.	7
22 M	"A young man idle, an old man needy."	8 19s	0 19	8
23 Tu	Lady Hester Stanhope (a highly accomplished but eccentric lady) died at Lebanon, 1839.	3 45r	0 31	9
24 W	<b>MIDSUMMER DAY.</b>	8 19s	0 40	10
25 Th	Surrender (and murder next day) of the British at Cawnpore to Nana Sahib, 1857.	3 45r	0 52	11
26 F	Siege of Namur, 1695.	8 19s	1 7	12
27 S	Dr. William Dodd executed at Tyburn, for forgery upon Lord Chesterfield, 1777.	3 47r	1 28	13
<b>4th Sunday after Trinity.</b>				
28 S		8 19s	1 58	14
29 M	[Queen Victoria crowned, 1838.	3 47r	2 40	15
30 Tu	Parker, the chief leader in the Mutiny of the Nore, executed, 1797.	8 18s	Rises 9 45	16

The following incident is a most exciting and remarkable occurrence—more especially when taken in connection with the fact that a human life hung upon "the throw of a die."

When William III. of England was besieging Namur in the year 1695, in conjunction with his allies, some of his soldiers went on a marauding expedition in the neighbourhood of the camp—notwithstanding the penalty of instant death which had been promulgated against any soldier committing this breach of martial law. The country people, who objected to their property being taken from them without payment, caught most of the marauders, and visited them with a speedy vengeance. Two soldiers, however, escaped, and got back safely to the camp; not, however, without being pursued by the peasants they had despoiled, who lodged their complaint before the officer in charge. The two soldiers were immediately arrested, a drum-head court-martial was called, and after the evidence had been taken, both were at once sentenced to death. The General-in-chief was desirous of saving the lives of the two unlucky soldiers—but, for the sake of example, it was decided that the sentence must be carried out upon one of the offenders; and by way of determining which one should suffer and which escape, recourse was had to the dice-box. When the time for the execution arrived, the two soldiers were led to a drum, near which the pole was already fixed for carrying out the sentence. One of the condemned, with a trembling hand took up the dice, and threw in the presence of his comrades. "Two sixes! two sixes!" was whispered round; and, in another instant, his brother in trouble also threw two sixes! The officers were puzzled, but ordered the men to throw a second time. Again, to the amazement of all, equal numbers were cast—but this time two fives. Their fellow-soldiers were now loud in their demands that the marauders should at once be pardoned, but application was made to the court-martial for further instructions; and, after some delay, the order was given that the offenders should throw a third time. Trembling from head to foot, and with heavy hearts, the poor fellows again cast the dice, when, to the further consternation of all around, especially of the officers charged to attend the execution, the result was two fours! The loud cry then arose from the bystanders, "This is God's hand! This is God's hand!" The case was again submitted to the court-martial. Even its most hardened members shuddered; and it was unanimously resolved to leave the decision to the general-in-chief, the Prince of Vaudeмонт. The two Englishmen were brought before him, and told him the whole of their story; and, after listening attentively, the Prince uttered the welcome word, "Pardon!" adding, "it is impossible in such an uncommon case not to obey the voice of Providence." Even the peasants were then stayed, and the soldiers, both of whom but a few minutes before were suffering the "agony of suspense," and whose lives were literally depending on the throw of a dice, were liberated, and returned to their duty, each congratulating himself on the narrow escape from an ignominious death.