

# DECEMBER.

## NOTES OF THE MONTH.

DECEMBER, from *Decem*, ten, indicating the position of the month in the old Roman calendar. It was the time when they held their *Saturnalia*, and games in honor of Vesta, goddess of Purity. The British Druids, at this season celebrated the feast of Thor. The Saxons called it *Winter-monat*, or winter month, and *Hallig-monat*, or holy-month, on account of the birth of the Saviour. The 21st is St. Thomas's Day, and is the shortest in the year. *Capricorn*, the Goat, is the zodiacal sign, and the sun enters the constellation on that day, which is called the winter solstice. Advent Sunday is the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and it sometimes happens at the end of November. The 24th is Christmas Eve, 25th Christmas Day, and the 26th St. Stephen's.

## SUNDAY LESSONS.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT.—*Morning*: Isaiah 5; 2 Peter 3. *Evening*: Isaiah 11, to v. 11, or Isaiah 24; John 15.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT.—*Morning*: Isaiah 25; 1 John 5. *Evening*: Isaiah 26 or 28, v. 5 to 19; John 19, v. 25.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT.—*Morning*: Isaiah 30, to v. 27; Rev. 6. *Evening*: Isaiah 32 or 33 v. 2 to 23; Rev. 7.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS.—*Morning*: Isaiah 35; John 13, v. 23 to v. 36. *Evening*: Isaiah 28 or 40; Rev. 1.

MOON'S PHASES.—5th. First Quarter, 8h 24m eve.; 12th. Full Moon, 2h 13m eve.; 19th. Last Quarter, 9h 23m morn.; 27th. New Moon. 1h 32m eve.

| Day of Month. | Day of Week. | ANNIVERSARIES, REMARKABLE EVENTS, HISTORICAL NOTES, FESTIVALS. | SUN.   |       | MOON<br>R. & S. |
|---------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|-----------------|
|               |              |                                                                | RISES. | SETS. |                 |
| 1             | W            | Princess Alexandra of Wales born,.....1844                     | 6 58   | 4 10  | 6 55            |
| 2             | Th           | .....                                                          | 6 59   | 4 09  | 8 01            |
| 3             | F            | .....                                                          | 7 00   | 4 09  | 9 08            |
| 4             | S            | .....                                                          | 7 01   | 4 09  | 10 17           |
| 5             | S            | <b>2d Sunday in Advent.</b> .....                              | 7 02   | 4 09  | 11 26           |
| 6             | M            | St. Nicholas.—Canadian Rebellion,.....1837                     | 7 03   | 4 09  | A.M.            |
| 7             | Tu           | .....                                                          | 7 04   | 4 09  | 0 36            |
| 8             | W            | Conception of the Virgin Mary.....                             | 7 05   | 4 08  | 1 48            |
| 9             | Th           | John Milton born,.....1608                                     | 7 05   | 4 08  | 3 06            |
| 10            | F            | First Gold found in Australia,.....1851                        | 7 06   | 4 08  | 4 28            |
| 11            | S            | Alexander Dumas died,.....1870                                 | 7 07   | 4 09  | rises.          |
| 12            | S            | <b>3d Sunday in Advent.</b> .....                              | 7 08   | 4 09  | 3 39            |
| 13            | M            | .....                                                          | 7 09   | 4 09  | 4 44            |
| 14            | Tu           | Prince Albert died, 1861, aged 42.—Washington died,....1799    | 7 10   | 4 09  | 6 02            |
| 15            | W            | Isaac Walton died,.....1683                                    | 7 11   | 4 09  | 7 27            |
| 16            | Th           | .....                                                          | 7 12   | 4 09  | 8 46            |
| 17            | F            | .....                                                          | 7 13   | 4 10  | 9 59            |
| 18            | S            | .....                                                          | 7 14   | 4 10  | 11 10           |
| 19            | S            | <b>4th Sunday in Advent.</b> .....                             | 7 15   | 4 10  | A.M.            |
| 20            | M            | .....                                                          | 7 16   | 4 11  | 0 18            |
| 21            | Tu           | St. Thomas.—Shortest Day.....                                  | 7 17   | 4 11  | 1 24            |
| 22            | W            | Pilgrims landed at Plymouth,.....1620                          | 7 17   | 4 12  | 2 28            |
| 23            | Th           | Prince Consort buried,.....1861                                | 7 18   | 4 12  | 3 35            |
| 24            | F            | W. M. Thackeray died,.....1863                                 | 7 18   | 4 13  | 4 41            |
| 25            | S            | CHRISTMAS DAY.....                                             | 7 18   | 4 13  | 5 45            |
| 26            | S            | <b>1st Sunday after Christmas.—St. Stephen</b> .....           | 7 18   | 4 14  | sets.           |
| 27            | M            | St. John.....                                                  | 7 18   | 4 14  | 3 48            |
| 28            | Tu           | Holy Innocents.—Lord Macaulay died,.....1859                   | 7 18   | 4 15  | 4 48            |
| 29            | W            | W. E. Gladstone born,.....1809                                 | 7 18   | 4 16  | 5 52            |
| 30            | Th           | Jesuit Society founded,.....1534                               | 7 18   | 4 17  | 7 00            |
| 31            | F            | B. Disraeli born, 1805.—Montgomery repulsed at Quebec, 1775    | 7 18   | 4 18  | 8 08            |