



RICHARD STEELE PREFERS THE SWORD TO THE PEN.

1874—**APRIL**—30 days.

**THE MOON'S CHANGES.**

Full Moon, 1st, 11-19 nt. | New Moon, 16th, 1-52 aft.  
Last Quar. 9th, 10-29 nt. | First Quar. 23rd, 12-3 nu.

		Sex Rises & Sets.	Moon. Rises & Sets.	Age.
1	W	Bonaparte married to Maria-Louisa of Austria, 1810.	5 37r	☺
2	Th	Copenhagen bombarded by Lord Nelson and Admiral Parker, 1801.	6 33s	7 18 15
3	F	<b>GOOD FRIDAY.</b>	5 32r	8 28 16
4	S	The Duke of York (afterwards James II.) defeated the French fleet off Harwich, 1665.	6 36s	9 42 17
5	S	<b>Easter Sunday.</b>	5 28r	10 57 18
6	M	Excursion trains first started in England on Easter Monday, 1844.	6 39s	After Mid-night 19
7	Tu	Prince Leopold born, 1853.	5 23r	A.M. 20
8	W	In 1833 the advertisement duty was abolished by a majority against Government of 25.	6 43s	1 22 21
9	Th	Act of Parliament passed for retaining Bonaparte at St. Helena, 1816.	5 19r	2 22 21
10	F	Battle of Toulouse, and defeat of Marshal Soult, after twelve hours' fighting, 1814.	6 45s	3 8 23
11	S	Rowland Hill died, 1833.	5 14r	3 42 24
12	S	<b>Low Sunday.</b> —1st Sun. aft. Easter.	6 50s	4 9 25
13	M	Roman Catholic Relief Bill received the royal assent, 1829.	5 11r	4 26 26
14	Tu	Princess Beatrice born, 1857.	6 52s	4 43 27
15	W	San Salvador destroyed by an earthquake, 1854.—(San Salvador was the first point of land discovered by Columbus on the night of October 11, 1492, and was so named by him in acknowledgment to God for his deliverance.)	5 6r	4 57 28
16	Th	Madame de Staël authoress of <i>Germany</i> , on <i>Vladis</i> , &c.) born, 1766; died in 1817.	6 56s	5 13 28
17	F	[Rev. Mr. Hackman executed at Tyburn for the murder of Miss Reay, 1779.	5 2r	Sets P.M. 1
18	S	<b>2nd Sunday after Easter.</b>	6 59s	10 9 2
19	S	Steele published "The Christian Hero," in the year 1791.	4 57r	11 34 3
20	M	O'Farrell executed at Sydney for attempting to assassinate the Duke of Edinburgh, 1808.	7 3s	After Mid-night 4
21	Tu	Madame de Staël authoress of <i>Germany</i> , on <i>Vladis</i> , &c.) born, 1766; died in 1817.	4 53r	A.M. 5
22	W	St. George.	7 5s	1 46 6
23	Th	Daniel Defoe, author of <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> , &c., died, 1731.	4 49r	2 27 6
24	F	Princess Alice born, 1843.	7 9s	2 56 8
25	S	<b>3rd Sunday after Easter.</b>	4 45r	3 18 9
26	S	The gallant Captain Sir W. Peel died (of small-pox) at Cawnpore, 1858.	7 13s	3 30 10
27	M	"Conscience makes cowards of us all."	4 42r	3 42 11
28	Tu	Duchess of Gloucester, last surviving of the fifteen children of George III., died, 1857.	7 15s	3 53 12
29	W	Samuel Mayner, author of many useful educational works, died, 1849.	4 37r	4 5 13
30	Th		7 19s	4 13 14

**NOTES TO THE ABOVE ILLUSTRATION.**

RICHARD STEELE, the celebrated wit, dramatic and essay writer, was the son of an English barrister who filled the post of secretary to the Duke of Ormond, and was born in Dublin in 1671. Through the influence of the Duke of Ormond he was sent to the Charterhouse school in London, from whence he removed to Oxford. It was at the Charterhouse that he found Addison, a youth three years older than himself, and an intimacy was formed between them—one of the most memorable in literature. Steele commenced life by entering the army as a private soldier, and his enlistment, which is a notable illustration of his impulsive character, is thus narrated:—

Steele had always been a fierce patriot, and was, at an early age, a hot politician. On the accession of William III., Steele determined to throw his sword, as also his pen, into the scale against the French monarch, Louis XIV. Steele's friends were resolute in their opposition to his entrance into the army; and a rich relative on his mother's side, who had made him heir to a large estate in Wexford, threatened to disinherit him if he persisted. Steele was equally determined; and "preferring the state of his mind to that of his fortune," enlisted as a private in the Horse Guards, and was disinherited. Many years later, Steele, in speaking of his enlistment, says, that when he had dressed himself in the military costume of the period—jack-boots, shoulder-belt, cocked hat, and broadsword—and under the command of the Duke of Ormond, mounted a fiery charger—he had mistaken his own genius, and did not know that he could handle a pen so much more effectively than a sword. In November, 1699, Steele, with the rest of the gentlemen of his troop, mounted on a black prancing steed, his scarlet gold-laced coat glittering in the sun, and his white feather waving gently with every motion of the proud soldier, marched with his troop by King William in Hyde Park, attended by a great show of the nobility, besides twenty thousand people, and above a thousand coaches. The *London Post*, in speaking of the spectacle, says: "The Guards had just got their new clothes. They are extraordinary grand, and thought to be the finest body of horse in the world!"

Steele's wit and brilliancy soon made him a favourite in the army, and he plunged into the fashionable vices and follies of the age—which enabled him to acquire that knowledge of life and character which proved so serviceable when he exchanged the sword for the pen. As a check on his irregular mode of life, and being thoroughly convinced of many things of which he had often repented, and which he more often repeated, he wrote for his own admonition a little work entitled *The Christian Hero*; but his gay companions did not relish this semi-religious work.