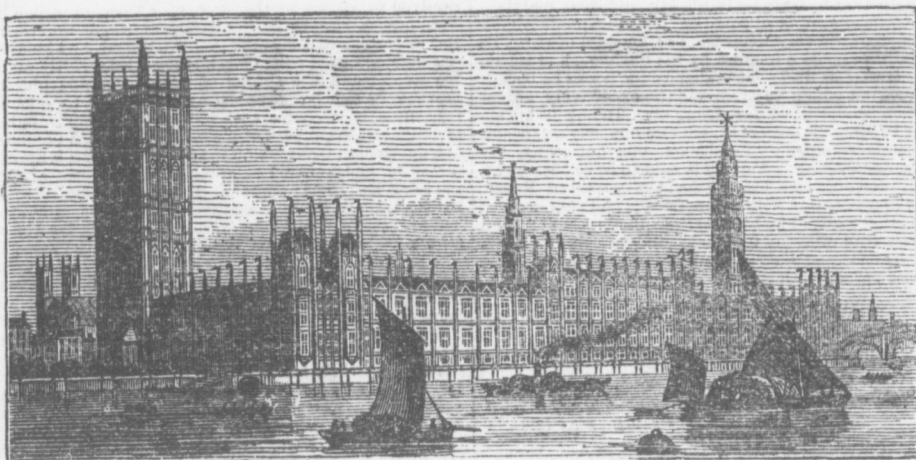




PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, LONDON, ENG.

1874—DECEMBER—31 days.

The Moon's Changes.

N. Moon, 8, 7.12 ev. | F. Moon 22, 12.2 ev.
1st Qr. 16, 7.30 mn. | L. Qr. 30, 9.42 mn.

		Sun rises	Sun sets	Sun's Declin. South.	Moon R. & S.
1 Tu	Dr. Geo. Birkbeck, Pres. London Mechanics Institute, d. 1841.	7 26	4 12	21 48	Mrn.
2 W	Saml. Compton b. 753.	7 28	4 12	21 57	0 52
3 Th	Cardinal Richelieu d. at Paris, 1642.	7 28	4 12	22 06	1 52
4 F		7 29	4 11	22 14	2 51
5 S		7 30	4 11	22 22	3 53
6 S	2d Sun. in Advent.	7 31	4 11	22 30	4 56
7 M	Mar. Ney shot Paris, 1815.	7 32	4 11	22 31	6 01
8 Tu	Thos. de Quincey, miscel. writer, d. Edinb., 1859.	7 33	4 11	22 43	7 05
9 W		7 35	4 11	22 49	Sets.
10 Th	Elizabeth signs warrant for execution of Mary, Queen of Scots, 1586.	7 35	4 11	22 55	5 57
11 F	Col'y Cibber, dra't. d. 1757	7 36	4 11	23 00	6 45
12 S		7 37	4 11	23 05	7 54
13 S	3d Sun. in Advent.	7 38	4 11	23 09	9 04
14 M	Charles Wolfe, author of "The Burial of Sir John Moore," b. 1791, Dublin.	7 39	4 11	23 13	10 16
15 Tu	The Pope excommunicates Eng. barons, and Lond. laid under an interdict, 1215. [d. 1851, Turner, celebrated painter	7 39	4 11	23 16	11 26
16 W		7 40	4 12	23 19	Mrn.
17 Th		7 41	4 12	23 20	0 38
18 F		7 42	4 12	23 24	1 51
19 S		7 42	4 12	23 25	3 06
20 S	4th Sun. in Advent	7 43	4 13	23 25	4 24
21 M	St. Thomas. Shortest Day. Coronation of Stephen (of Blois) at Westm., 1135.	7 43	4 13	23 27	6 43
22 Tu	There are many superstitious observances connected with X'mas Eve.	7 44	4 13	23 27	Rises
23 W		7 44	4 14	23 27	4 52
24 Th		7 45	4 15	23 26	6 05
25 F	CHRISTMAS DAY.	7 45	4 15	23 24	7 19
26 S	St. Stephen.	7 45	4 16	23 23	8 30
27 S	1st Sun. af. Chris.	7 45	4 17	23 20	9 35
28 M	Innocent's Day, in commemoration of the barbarous massacre of the children of Bethlehem by King Herod.	7 46	4 18	23 18	10 38
29 Tu		7 46	4 18	23 14	11 49
30 W		7 47	4 19	23 11	Mrn.
31 Th		7 46	4 20	23 06	0 41

STRAY NOTES.

"Canld blows the wind frae east to west,
The drift is driving sairly;
Sae loud and shrill's I hear the blast,
I'm sure it's winter fairly."—Burns.

3.—Samuel Crompton, the inventor of the mule for spinning cotton, led far from a happy life, and the principal cause of this lay in the absence of those faculties which enable a man to hold equal intercourse with his fellows. "I found to my sorrow," he writes, "that I was not calculated to contend with men of the world." When he attended the Manchester Exchange to sell his yarns or muslins, and any rough-and-ready manufacturer ventured to offer him a less price than he had asked, he would invariably wrap up his samples, put them into his pocket, and quickly walk off. During a visit to Glasgow, the manufacturers invited him to a public dinner; but he was unable to muster courage to go through the ordeal, and, to use his own words, "rather than face up I first hid myself, and then fairly bolted from the city."

8.—An amusing anecdote is told illustrative of the wordy wandering manner of De Quincey, "the opium eater"—a manner which renders his impassioned and beautiful prose sometimes tedious in the extreme. Being obliged, from delicacy of constitution, to be careful about his food, he used to dine in his own room, and at his own hour. His invariable diet was "coffee, boiled rice and milk, and a piece of mutton from the loin." The cook who had an audience with him daily, received her instructions in silent awe, quite overpowered by his manner, for had he been addressing a duchess he could scarcely have spoken with more deference. He would couch his request in such terms as these:—"Owing to dyspepsia afflicting my system, and the possibilities of any additional disarrangement of the stomach taking place, consequences incalculably distressing would arise; so much so indeed as to increase nervous irritation, and prevent me from attending to matters of overwhelming importance, if you do not remember to cut the mutton in a diagonal rather than in a longitudinal form."