



"I IN THESE FLOWERY MEADS WOULD BE.

1874—DECEMBER—31 days.

THE MOON'S CHANGES.

New Moon, 8th, 12-6 nt. Full Moon, 23rd, 4-36 mn.  
First Quar. 16th, 12-24 nn. Last Quar. 30th, 2-36 aft.

		Sex Rises & Sets.	Moon Rises & Sets.	Age.
1 Tu	Lord Hardwicke born, 1690; died, 1764.	7 45r	Rises A.M.	22
2 W	Louis Napoleon (then Prince-President) declared Emperor of France, 1852.	3 53s	0 34	23
3 Th	Capt. John Brown, the leader of the Harper's Ferry outbreak, executed, 1859.	7 48r	1 43	24
4 F	"Fraud and deceit are always in haste."	3 51s	2 53	25
5 S	Mozart died, 1791.	7 51r	4 4	26
6 S	<b>2nd Sunday in Advent.</b>	3 50s	5 16	27
7 M	Marshal Ney shot in the garden of the Luxembourg, Paris, 1815.	7 54r	6 31	28
8 Tu	The Church of the Campana at Santiago, whilst brilliantly illuminated during a religious festival, took fire, when upwards of 2,000 persons, principally women, perished—the means of egress being utterly insufficient, 1863.	3 50s	7 44	29
9 W		7 56r	Sets P.M.	1
10 Th	The Jore Neuhoff, ex-King of Corsica, died in London, 1778.	3 49s	4 25	2
11 F	The celebrated Fleet Prison, in London, demolished, 1845.	7 57r	5 31	3
12 S		3 49s	6 48	4
13 S	<b>3rd Sunday in Advent.</b>	7 59r	8 8	5
14 M	[Fenian explosion at Clerkenwell; seven persons killed and about fifty wounded, 1857.	3 49s	9 31	6
15 Tu	Isaak Walton died, 1683.	8 1r	10 53	7
16 W	George Whitefield (preacher), born at the "Bell" Inn, Gloucester, 1714.	3 50s	After Mid- night	8
17 Th	Kasper Hauser, a mysterious foundling, died from the stroke of an assassin, 1833.	8 3r	A.M.	9
18 F	"Beware of no man more than thyself."	3 50s	1 30	10
19 S	Turner (celebrated landscape painter) died at Chelsea, 1851.	8 4r	3 7	11
20 S	<b>4th Sunday in Advent.</b>	3 51s	4 33	12
21 M	St. Thomas.	8 5r	6 10	13
22 Tu	Saverdroog (the "Rock of Death"), a strong fortress in South India, captured by the British without loss, 1791.—Earful earthquake at Jeddo, 1854.	3 52s	7 37	14
23 W		8 6r	Rises P.M.	15
24 Th	James Smith (author of <i>Rejected Addresses</i> ) died, 1839.	3 53s	5 0	16
25 F	<b>—CHRISTMAS DAY.—</b>	8 7r	6 22	17
26 S	Very heavy snow-storms occurred in various parts of Great Britain, 1854.	3 54s	7 44	18
27 S	<b>1st Sunday after Christmas.</b>	8 7r	9 4	19
28 M	Earl Stanhope born, 1673; died, 1721.	3 56s	10 19	20
29 Tu	"Farewell! old year, we meet no more, Thy end draws on apace; Yet since thy birth how short it seems, How very brief a space!"	8 8r	11 30	21
30 W		3 58s	After Mid- A.M.	22
31 Th		8 8r	0 39	23

NOTES TO THE ABOVE ILLUSTRATION.

"I in these flowery meads would be;  
These crystal streams should solace me;  
To whose harmonious bubbling noise,  
I with my angle would rejoice;  
Sit here, and see the turtle doves  
Court his choate made to acts of love."  
ISAAC WALTON.

ISAAC WALTON, the "Angler" *par excellence*, was born in 1603, at Stafford. Little is known of his younger days; but in 1624 it is recorded that he was carrying on the business of a hosier in Fleet Street, London (near to Chancery Lane). He had married a lady who was maternally descended from Archbishop Cranmer, and seven children were the fruit of his union, but they all died in childhood; and, last of all, the mother also, in 1649. In 1647 Walton re-married, his second wife being a sister of Bishop Ken.

Amidst the troubles of the Civil War, whilst London was generally devoted to Parliament, Isaac Walton remained a steady royalist and churchman; and after the battle of Worcester he discharged a dangerous office for Charles II. Having accumulated a small independence, in the year 1643 Walton gave up shop-keeping—anxious, no doubt, to escape from the scene of so many domestic and political afflictions—and retired into the country. Blessed with fine health, Walton carried the vigour of manhood into old age; and in his eighty-third year we find him proposing to start on a pilgrimage of more than a hundred miles to visit his friend Cotton, on the Dove, in Derbyshire.

A biographer has given the following brief sketch of Walton's life:—

"Walton was a man of religious temperament and pensive turn of mind, and it was probably the opportunities for contemplation which the sport of angling permits that first induced him to turn his attention to sporting. The river Lea was his favourite haunt (still a favourite haunt for Cockey anglers); and there, during the period he was in business in Fleet Street, he spent as much time as he could spare. He had received but a limited education, and never made any pretensions to learning; nevertheless, besides being the most expert angler, he became one of the most popular authors of his day. *The Compleat Angler*; or, *Contemplative Man's Recreation*, his principal work—first issued in 1653—supplied a good deal of information as to the habits of the 'finny tribe,' and soon won its way to popular favour, not only with lovers of the sport, but with those who have a predilection for rural life, are fond of nature, and can relish the simple utterances of morality and piety. The air of genuineness and unaffected benevolence which is apparent in this book made it the most popular of its class ever written; and still, after the lapse of two hundred years, it maintains its reputation. A