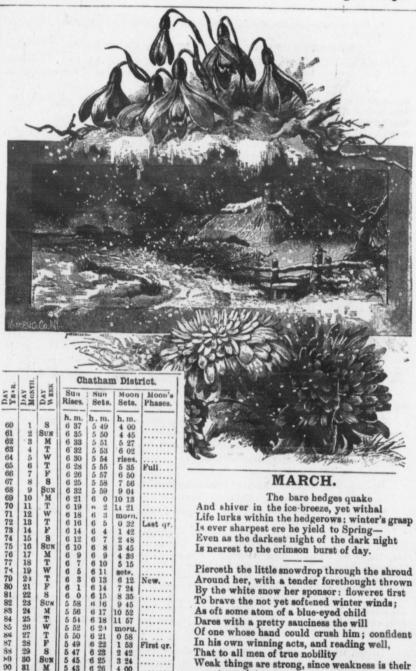
3rd Month.]

MARCH.

[31 Days.



MARCH.

The bare hedges quake And shiver in the ice-breeze, yet withal Life lurks within the hedgerows; winter's grasp Is ever sharpest ere he yield to Spring— Even as the darkest night of the dark night Is nearest to the crimson burst of day.

Pierceth the little snowdrop through the shroud Around her, with a tender forethought thrown By the white snow her sponsor: floweret first To brave the not yet softened winter winds; As oft some atom of a blue-eyed child Dares with a pretty sauciness the will Of one whose hand could crush him; confident In his own winning acts, and reading well, That to all men of true nobility Weak things are strong, since weakness is their strength!

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