



GIVING THEM A SPECIMEN OF HIS PRECOCIOUS GENIUS!

1873—OCTOBER—31 days.

THE MOON'S CHANGES.

Full Moon, 6th, 5-31 mn. | New Moon, 21st, 10-55 mn.
Last Quar. 13th, 6-25 mn. | First Quar. 25th, 12-19 nt.

		Sun Rises & Sets.	Moon Rises & Sets.	Age.
1 W	Pheasant Shooting begins.	6 3r	8 3r	10
2 Th	Copenhagen—after a bombardment of three days by the English under Lord Cathcart and Admiral Gambier—surrendered, 1807.	5 34s	11 59	11
3 F		6 6r	After Mid-night	12
4 S	Henry Carey (author of "Sally in our Alley") died, 1745.	5 30s	A.M. 3 2	13
5 S	17th Sunday after Trinity.	6 9r	4 33	14
6 M	Siege of Dunkirk by the Duke of York, and defeat of the English, 1703.	5 25s	Rises P.M.	15
7 Tu	Battle of Boredino (the most sanguinary in history), 1812.	6 13r	6 9	16
8 W	Duke of Montpensier married to the Infanta of Spain, 1846.	5 22s	6 28	17
9 Th	Miguel Cervantes (author of "Don Quixote") born, 1547; died in 1616.	6 15r	6 52	18
10 F	The Bank of England called in their stamped dollars, 1792.	5 17s	7 26	19
11 S	Patrick Cotter, the celebrated Irish giant, died, aged 46, 1806. He was 8ft. 7in. high.	6 19r	8 10	20
12 S	18th Sunday after Trinity.	5 12s	9 5	21
13 M	Joachim Murat, Bonapartist King of Naples, shot by his former subjects, 1815.	6 22r	10 10	22
14 Tu	William Penn born, 1644.	5 8s	11 20	23
15 W	It was a bad time for farmers in the year 1823—in a single Norwich paper there were advertised to be sold the stock of no less than one hundred farmers.	6 26r	After Mid-night	24
16 Th	Three of the mutineers of the <i>Bounty</i> (of six brought to Portsmouth) hanged, 1792.	5 4s	A.M.	25
17 F	Sarah Jennings, Duchess of Marlborough, died, 1744.	6 29r	1 45	26
18 S		4 59s	2 53	27
19 S	19th Sunday after Trinity.	6 33r	4 4	28
20 M	The word "interest" was first used in an Act of Parliament in the reign of James I., wherein it was made to signify a lawful increase by way of compensation for the use of money lent. The rate was fixed by the Act at £5 instead of £10.	4 55s	5 11	29
21 Tu	Ramadan (Month of Abstinence observed by the Turks) commences.	6 37r	6 24	30
22 W		4 51s	Sets P.M.	1
23 Th	Comet of great brilliancy visible, 1811.	6 40r	5 31	2
24 F		4 47s	5 56	3
25 S	Battle of Agincourt, 1415.	6 43r	6 31	4
26 S	20th Sunday after Trinity.	4 43s	7 18	5
27 M	Madame Pfeiffer, celebrated traveller, died, 1853. Her last journey was to Madagascar.	6 47r	8 23	6
28 Tu	Smeaton died, 1792.	4 39s	9 41	7
29 W	Tower of London burnt, 1811.—"A most extraordinary spectacle presented itself in the warriors carrying the crown and other appurtenances of royalty between groups of soldiers, policemen, and firemen."	6 51r	11 5	8
30 Th		4 35s	After Mid-night	9
31 F		6 55r	0 35	10

NOTES TO THE ABOVE ILLUSTRATION.

JOHN SMEATON, the celebrated engineer, was born in the year 1724, at a place called Rushthorpe, near Leeds. At an early age he showed great strength of understanding and originality of genius. His playthings were more the tools with which men work, than children's toys; and his great delight seemed to be in watching any mechanical work that was going on in the neighbourhood, and asking questions about it. As an instance of his precocious genius, it is related of him that one day, having managed to climb to the top of his father's barn, he was discovered by his family in the act of endeavouring to fix up something like a windmill! The anxiety of his family lest he should fall from his elevated position, was, as may easily be imagined, very great; and when he did reach *terra firma* he was rewarded with a good scolding—for, of course, his parents could not comprehend that this hazardous effort was but the foreshadowing of his future genius. It is also related of him that, one day watching some men fixing a pump in a neighbouring village, he picked up a piece of pipe that was left, actually making with it a working-pump that raised water—and all this occurred before he was six years old! His father, being an attorney, was anxious for his son to be in the same profession; but seeing that he had such a distaste for law, he very wisely allowed him to follow the impulse of his genius, and he accordingly became a mathematical instrument maker. Previous to this, however, when but fourteen years of age, he made himself an engine to turn rosettes, and several of his friends received presents of boxes of wood or ivory turned by him. He also made (which was in that day most uncommon) a lathe, by which he cut a perpetual screw in brass (which was said to be the invention of Mr. Henry Hindly, of York, a man of most wonderful genius, and with whom Mr. Smeaton was very intimate, spending whole nights with him, conversing until daylight on subjects in which both took such a deep interest). Mr. Smeaton had by his great talent and industry acquired, at the age of eighteen, a large set of tools; and, what was more, the art of working without a master!

In 1755, the second Eddystone Lighthouse,* a wooden structure erected by a Mr. Rudyerd, was destroyed by fire, when Mr. Smeaton (being highly recommended for the purpose) undertook to rebuild it; and he completed it (in 1759)

* The first Eddystone Lighthouse was commenced in 1696, and finished in 1699, by Mr. Winstanley, an enterprising, but incompetent person. He had originally been a silk-mercant in London, and having acquired a competency, he amused himself with making curious but useless mechanical toys—and the Eddystone Lighthouse which he constructed was just such a specimen of misapplied ingenuity as might have been expected. But Winstanley was very confident of its stability; and he used to say that he should like to be in it during the greatest storm that ever blew under the face of heaven. The vain boast was gratified!—for in the year 1703, the "Great Storm" occurred, when the flimsy structure was swept away into the ocean, and along with it its unfortunate founder, and five other persons who were with him—they having gone there to do some needful repairs.