



CATHARINE OF RUSSIA INTRODUCED TO HER LONG-LOST BROTHER.

1874—MAY—31 days.

THE MOON'S CHANGES.		Sea Rises & Sets.	Moon Rises & Sets.	Age
Full Moon, 1st, 4-9 aft. New Moon, 15th, 10-17 nt. Last Quar. 9th, 7-12 m. First Quar. 23rd, 3-19 m. Full Moon, 31st, 6-46 morn.				
1 F	Prince Arthur born, 1850.	4 34r		⊙
2 S	Mary Queen of Scots made her romantic escape from Lochleven Castle, 1568.	7 22s	8 45	16
3 S	4th Sunday after Easter.	4 30r	10 1	17
4 M	Seringapatam stormed and taken, and Tippoo Sahib killed, 1799.	7 26s	11 14	18
5 Tu	Bonaparte died at St. Helena, 1821. (Born at Ajaccio, Corsica, 1769.)	4 27r	After Mid-	19
6 W	The great Battle of Prague, in which the Prussians defeated the Austrians, 1757.	7 28s	night	20
7 Th	Robespierre born, 1758.—Guillotined the 28th of July, 1794.	4 22r	1 8	21
8 F	Diamonds discovered in Cape Colony, South Africa, 1867. A fine one, valued at £25,000, called the "Star of South Africa," was brought to England in 1870.	7 31s	1 45	22
9 S		4 19r	2 12	⊙
10 S	Rogation Sunday.	7 34s	2 32	24
11 M	(Madame Elizabeth, sister of Louis XVI. guillotined, 1794.	4 16r	2 48	25
12 Tu	"Fear is one part of prudence."	7 38s	3 1	26
13 W	The rights of Primogeniture abolished in France, 1790.	4 13r	3 17	27
14 Th	Holy Thursday.	7 40s	3 33	28
15 F	Daniel O'Connell died at Genoa, whilst on his way to Rome, 1847.	4 10r	3 41	⊙
16 S	Battle of Albuera, and defeat of the French with great loss, by the British, 1811.	7 43s	P.M.	1
17 S	Sunday after Ascension.	4 7r	10 25	2
18 M	Catharine I. of Russia died, 1727.	7 46s	11 33	3
19 Tu	The right to report Parliamentary debates was established in England in 1771.	4 4r	After Mid-	4
20 W	Columnas, worn out in body and broken in spirit, died, 1506.	7 49s	night	5
21 Th	"For mad words deaf ears."	4 2r	0 56	6
22 F	The first meeting-house of the Wesleyan Methodists founded at Bristol, 1739.	7 52s	1 21	7
23 S	Janz Tasman discovered Van Dieman's Land (now called Tasmania) in November, 1642.	3 59r	1 36	⊙
24 S	Whit Sunday.—Queen born, 1819.	7 56s	1 50	9
25 M	Princess Helena born, 1846.—Married Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, 1866.	3 57r	2 1	10
26 Tu	Michael Barrett executed at the Old Bailey, London, for the Clerkenwell explosion, 1868.	7 58s	2 12	11
27 W	Mr. Edgeworth, philosopher and educational writer (with his daughter), published <i>Practical Education</i> , 1798.	3 54r	2 22	12
28 Th		8 1s	2 34	13
29 F	Restoration of Charles II., 1660, after an interregnum of 11 years and 4 months.	3 52r	2 47	14
30 S	"Every cross hath its inscription."	8 3s	3 3	15
31 S	Trinity Sunday.	3 50r	3 27	⊙

NOTES TO THE ABOVE ILLUSTRATION.

FEW names in the pages of history tell of such remarkable vicissitudes of fortune as that of CATHARINE I., Empress of Russia, who, from a humble peasant girl, became the wife of Peter the Great, and died Empress of Russia. The principal incidents in her chequered and eventful life are thus briefly given:—

She was born of poor parents, in Lithuania, in the year 1682. When only three years old she lost her father, who left her with no other support than the scanty maintenance produced by the labours of an infirm and sickly mother. The young girl grew up handsome, well formed, and was possessed of a good understanding. On the death of her mother, an old Lutheran minister, named Gluck, took her to his home, and employed her in attending to his children. Catharine fully availed herself of the lessons given to the children; but upon the death of her benefactor—which happened not long after her reception into his family—she was once more plunged into the depths of poverty, and she then went to seek an asylum at Marienburg. Shortly after her arrival there, she married a Swedish dragon; but, on the day of their marriage, Marienburg was besieged by the Russians, and her husband, whilst assisting to repel the attack, was killed! General Basser seeing Catharine among the prisoners, and being smitten with her youth and beauty, took her to his house, where she superintended his domestic affairs. Prince Menshikoff happening, however, to see her one day, was no less struck with her attractions, and she went to live with him as his mistress. Catharine soon attracted the notice of Peter the Great, who first made her his mistress; but she won so much on his affections that, in the year 1711, he privately married her; and in 1712 the marriage ceremony was again solemnized with great pomp at St. Petersburg.

Peter was for some time ignorant of her humble origin, and only discovered it through the keen observation of an envoy-extraordinary from Poland to the court of Russia, and which occurred in the following manner:—

On the envoy's return to Dresden, he stopped at an inn, in Courland, where he happened to be the eye-witness of a quarrel between the ostler and some of the stablemen, all of whom were drunk. The envoy was struck with the superior air of one of the disputants, and asked some particulars respecting him. He was told that he was an unlucky Pole, named Charles Scorsowski, whose father, a peasant of Lithuania, had died early, and left his son in a miserable condition, and one daughter, long since lost sight of. The minister fancied he detected in Scorsowski a resemblance to the noble features of the Empress Catharine, and recollecting the obscurity which it was said hung over her origin, fancied there might be some relationship between them. He wrote an account of his adventure to a friend at the Russian court; and in some way or other it found its way to the Emperor. The Empress had always pretended to the Czar to be perfectly ignorant of her family, remembering only (as she declared) that she had a brother who was long since lost. Peter's curiosity was aroused by the letter of the Polish envoy. He therefore