

porch on St. Mark's Eve, from eleven till one, will see the ghosts of such of their neighbours as will die during the year.

### MAY.

In honor of the *majores*, the Senate of the original Roman Constitution. Among the Saxons, the month was called Tri-Milchi, they milking their cows now 3 times a day. The Romans thought it unlucky to be married in May, and traces of this superstition are still to be found in Europe.

1st. *St. Philip and St. James; May Day.* The St. James commemorated on this day, is St. James the Greater, the first bishop of Jerusalem, who was killed by the Jews. Little is known of St. Philip. He is said to have preached the Gospel in Phrygia. May Day used to be a day of universal festivity in England, but the old customs have nearly fallen into disuse, except in some country parts and Chimney Sweeper's festival in London. In France, the May Queen is still enthroned, and May Day is observed in the Tyrol. Birth Day of the Duke of Wellington and of Prince Arthur.

8. *Invention of the Cross.* In commemoration of the traditionary discovery by the Empress Helena of the true cross, A. D. 326.

18. *Rogation Sunday.* from rogare, to beseech. The Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Ascension Day are called Rogation Days. It was an old custom in England and has in many parishes been revived, that on these days, the clergyman, followed by his people, should make the entire circuit of his parish and then returning to the Church, unite in the common Prayer. The 103rd Psalm was appointed to be said, and the people admonished to thankfulness.

22. *Ascension Day, Holy Thursday,* in memory of Our Lord's ascension into Heaven 40 days after the resurrection. In some parishes the parochial bounds are beaten by the charity children attended by the beadle and other parish officials.

24. *Queen's Birthday.*

26. *St. Augustine,* first archbishop of Canterbury, A. D. 597.

27. Venerable Bede, born at Junow, regarded as a prodigy of learning and much esteemed for his saintly life.

29. Restoration of King Charles the Second, commonly called Royal Oak Day, from the King having hid in an oak after the battle of Worcester. In some places in England the day is celebrated like May Day. Oak Apples are worn as decorations.

### JUNE.

Dedicated to the young men as May was to the elders; considered the most propitious month for marriage among the Romans.

1. *St. Nicomede,* a disciple of St. Peter, Martyr, A. D. 902. *Whit Sunday,* Pentecost, 50 days after Easter, one of the great festivals of the christian year. Whit Monday and Tuesday are holy days, which the working classes in town and country make one of their great festivals.

5. *St. Boniface,* an Englishman, the apostle of Germany, martyr at Utrecht 755.

8. *Trinity Sunday.* In commemoration of the Holy Trinity.

11. *St. Barnabas,* Apostle and Martyr, companion of St. Paul, stoned to death at Salamis.

12. *Corpus Christi,* not in the Anglican Calendar, instituted by Pope Urban IV 1263

in honor of the doctrine of Transubstantiation.

17. *St. Alban.* The first English Martyr, A. D. 303.

20. *Accession of Queen Victoria,* Anniversary of the translation of King Edward the martyr.

24. *St. John the Baptist, Midsummer Day.* The Church celebrates the birthday of the Baptist. The other Saints' days are the days of their martyrdom. There are many charms and ceremonies for Midsummer Eve, similar to those on Halloween and St. Mark's Eve.

29. *St. Peter,* Apostle and Martyr, one of those most honored by the Saviour's friendship and one of the boldest and most zealous of the Apostles, and with St. Paul, the founder of the Church at Rome. He was crucified, with his head downwards, by his own request.

### JULY.

Named in honor of Julius Cæsar.

2. *Visitation of the Blessed Virgin.* Instituted by Pope Urban VI, in commemoration of the visit of the Virgin to Elizabeth, mother of the Baptist.

4. *St. Martin's.* In Scotland if this day is fine, it betokens an early harvest. On the continent of Europe, if it rain, it is believed it will continue to do so for 20 days.

10. Korban Beisam, one of the great Mohammedan festivals on which every family offers a sheep.

15. *St. Swithin.* "If on St. Swithin's Day it proves fair, a temperate winter will follow; but if rainy, stormy, or windy, then the contrary." Even in Anglo-Saxon times, it was an article of popular belief that if it rained on St. Swithin's Day, it would rain for 40 days.

20. *St. Margaret,* Martyr, A. D. 278. This was one of the most popular English Saints. 238 English churches were dedicated to her.

22. *St. Mary Magdalene.* After the Ascension, she is said to have lived with the Virgin Mary at Ephesus.

25. *St. James the Great,* Apostle and Martyr, brother of St. John. He is the patron Saint of Spain, where he is said to have preached, and on his return to Jerusalem, to have been the first martyr among the Apostles, A. D. 43. He is the patron Saint of pilgrims.

26. *St. Anne,* mother of the Virgin Mary.

### AUGUST.

From the Emperor Augustus.

1. *Lammas Day.* A corruption of Loaf Mass Day. The offering of a loaf made with new corn was made to Ceres by the ancient Britons on this day; the early Christians retained the custom, offering the first fruits at the altar. This is one of the Scotch quarter days.

6. *Transfiguration.* Instituted by the Greek Church, 700, in remembrance of the transfiguration of Our Lord.

7. *Name of Jesus.*

10. *St. Lawrence,* a Spaniard, martyred by being burnt on a gridiron, A. D. 258.

24. *St. Bartholemew,* Apostle and Martyr, supposed to have been the same as Nathaniel. He preached in Armenia and India and was flayed alive. Anniversary of the fearful massacre of Protestants at Paris. This saint displaces St. Swithin in the weather calendar.

"All the tears St. Swithin can cry,  
St. Bartlemew's mantle wipes dry."

27. *Landing of Cæsar* in Britain, 65 B. C.

29. *St. John the Baptist* beheaded.