

HINTS FOR JUNE AND THE HOLIDAYS.

Mine are the longest days, the loveliest nights;
 The mower's scythe makes music to my ear;
 I am the mother of all dear delights;
 I am the fairest daughter of the year.

—Longfellow

June may bring us "more gems than the two that went before;" she certainly does not bring the anniversary of the birth of Robert Louis Stevenson, as the writer of these papers incorrectly and carelessly stated last month. Stevenson was born in November, as we must remember when that dull month comes round.

June has days of her own that deserve remembrance. First comes the King's birthday. King George has made known that on account of the war, he desires no special celebration this year, but there is no fear of the reason for a school holiday being forgotten.

St. John the Baptist, and St. Peter, whose days come on the 24th and 29th, respectively, were remembered by the pious French discoverers of our country who left the names of the saints in the regions they explored. It was on St. John's day, 1604, Champlain sailed into the river which ever since has born the name. Prince Edward Island was first called St. John's Island; and St. Peters in Cape Breton, and the island of St. Pierre recall the name of the great apostle. St. John Baptist's day is called Midsummer Day in England, and curious legends and custom cluster round Midsummer Eve. Readers of "Puck of Pook's Hill" will remember how when Puck appeared to the children and Dan said, "We didn't expect anyone," Puck answered, "Then what on Human Earth made you act Midsummer Night's Dream three times over, on Midsummer Eve, in the middle of a Ring?"

June 11, is St. Barnabas Day, of which old rhymes say

and "Barnaby Bright,
 All day and no night."

"On Saint Barnabas
 Cut the first grass."

The story of St. Alban, the first Christian to be martyred on British soil, should be told in connection with the history of Roman Britain. When the Roman Emperors were persecuting the Christians, early in the fourth century, a Christian priest took refuge with Alban, who

was a heathen. The priest taught him, and he became a Christian. When the soldiers came to take the priest away and put him to death, Alban dressed the priest in his own clothes, and himself putting on the priest's cloak, gave himself up, so that the priest had time to escape. When Alban was brought before the judges, they tried him for sheltering a Christian, and when he declared, "I am a Christian," and refused to sacrifice to idols, they condemned him to death. He was beheaded on top of the hill where now stands the Abbey church of St. Alban's, overlooking the little town of the same name. St. Alban's day is the seventeenth of June.

Charles Kingsley was born on June 12. His "Water Babies" should be in every school library, and selections from the story of Tom's adventures are just the things to read aloud on a warm sleepy afternoon. The song that the brook sang, "Clear and Cool," and "The Lost Doll," are good poems for the children to learn.

June 18 is the centennial anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, and interesting comparisons can be made between the present war and the great struggle in which England was engaged in 1815. The magnificent description called, "Going Down with Victory," from DeQuincey's "English Mail Coach" is a historical picture that High School pupils would enjoy.

Lowell says, "In June 'tis good to lie beneath a tree," but the time for that does not come until after school closings, and June is a busy, hurried month for most teachers. "Hurry," says someone, "is an ungentle state, and leads to hasty words and actions that would have stained a calmer moment; and in the flurry which prevents all recollections, there will be many negligences." Especially in the schoolroom there is the temptation that comes with a sense of time wasted in the past, to try to hurry the children and visit our impatience on them. The "ungentle state" may often be avoided by forcing ourselves to take a quiet-half hour and writing down the things that must be done, calculating very carefully how long each will take, and assigning a certain time to each one. This may save marring the last days of school by irritability and impatience. Be resigned to giving up what cannot be done without too great a strain on nerves and temper.

And if you can see now how things might