

14. *Purim*, a feast observed with much rejoicing, in commemoration of the delivery of the Jews in the days of Mordecai and Esther from the snares of their arch enemy Haman.

15. *Purim Shushan*. Es. ix. 18.

16. Feast because the walls of Jerusalem destroyed by the Grecians were recommenced. D.

20. Fast because *Honi Hamangal* obtained rain by his intercession at a time of great dearth. D.

28. Feast because the edict of Antiochus which forbade circumcision was recalled. D.

29. The first of the three terms for tithing cattle commenced, being 15 days before Passover; the other two being 15 days before Pentecost and Tabernacles. They were tithed thus long before the festival, that sufficient might be supplied the people assembled in Jerusalem, who could not make use of them untithed.

The last Sabbath but one before Nissan, when 1st of Adar is on Sabbath, is called *Shabat Parah*, or of the Heifer, because that portion (Num. xix.) is read to remind the people of the required purifications for the approaching Passover. *Shabat Hahodesh*, or of the month, is the Sabbath before Nissan, when the portion, Ex. xii. 2, electing Nissan as the first month, is read.

ADAR SHENI.

This month occurs only in Embolismic years, "There is no difference between Adar and Adar Sheni (as to observances,) except the reading of the Megillah and the bestowal of gifts."

NISSAN.

WEATHER

Still rains. Thunder and hail. Warm and temperate; sometimes extremely hot. Western winds. Ther. at beginning of month 52°, towards end 56° a 58°, Var. 5° a 8°.

PRODUCTIONS.

Thyme, sage, rosemary, artichoke, fennel, &c. Rice, Indian wheat, Damascus corn are sown. Beans, chick-peas, lentils and gervansos gathered. Every tree in leaf.

1. Fast for the death of Aaron's sons. D.

10. Fast for the death of Miriam. D. The lambs were to be provided on this day for the fourteenth. Israelites passed the Jordan.

The Sabbath before Passover is called *Shabat Hagadol*, or great Sabbath, because the Israelites were not molested when they took the lamb as commanded, though it was regarded as a god by the Egyptians—therefore deemed as much a miracle as any wrought in Egypt.

14. Fast observed by all the first born, in commemoration of the death of the first born of Egypt, while the first born of the Israelites were saved. Ex. xii. 12.

15. *Pesach*, the Passover, or Feast of Unleavened Bread, (Ex. xii. 3, &c.) instituted in memorial of the departure from Egypt. During the continuance of the festival no leaven is permitted, either as food, or to remain in the houses. On this day, prayers for dew to bless the world are read in the Synagogues.