

*overcurious* who assign not only the day but the year, but he says there were some who celebrated the Nativity on the 20th of May, others on the 6th, and others on the 10th of January, and still others on the 21st and 22nd of April, conclusively proving that the day was not generally recognised in his time, and it was not until about the year 380, that the Romish Church enacted that the Nativity should be observed on the 25th December.

These are facts and it is folly to ignore them.

Every other Christian date but that of the Sabbath and of the Lord's Day have been lost, and why? And why, and by whose appointment have those dates been always preserved?

We hear too much of THE CHURCH and too little of CHRIST.

It was THE CHURCH (*i. e.* the Council of Laodicea, about A.D. 372, followed by the equally unimportant Council of Lerida in 546—the Greeks called them Synods) that prohibited marriages in Lent; probably to enhance the power of the bishops by enabling them to grant dispensations, *gratis* if necessary, to curry favour with the great, and for the £. s. d. to others; and this canon, not of a General, but a provincial Synod, and that too of the "lukewarm" Church of Laodicea is still considered so valid that the Queen created much dissatisfaction among the Ritualists by allowing some of the royal marriages to be solemnized in Lent. Although Wheatley (not a Low Churchman) acknowledges "there is no canon nor custom of this realm, that prohibits marriages to be solemnized at any time."

The Latin Church gradually extended their prohibitions, and the Greek Church as well, so far indeed that although they are CHURCH Laws, they are not fit to be published, and these laws, if not all still binding in the Roman, are to this day enforced in the Greek Church, and there is no relief except by dispensation or absolution.

It was THE CHURCH (*i. e.* Pope Leo the Great, A.D. 440-461) that established the Ember weeks, or Fasts of the Four Seasons. They were established in the Gallican Church about the time of the Council of Maintz, A.D. 813, and about the same time, or possibly earlier,