

THE MONTH IN PROSPECT.

September, so called, from having been the seventh month in the Roman year before the Julian reform of the Calendar, is the ninth in ours; and is a most delightful period in the Maritime Provinces, as well as other parts of this Dominion, and in the neighboring States. The vernal season has run its course and now terminates. The hay and grain harvest is now gathered—the root crop comes to full growth, and waits to be drawn forth and stored—the orchard's latest ripening treasures are well-nigh perfected—and the abundance of the year's whole yield is at hand for export or home consumption. The Harvest Home glad and thankful festival should not be omitted. The fruit of the earth is for all, and we may say to each

"Think, O grateful think,
How good the God of harvests is to you."

21st. *St. Matthew the Apostle.* Our Blessed Lord, walking by the sea side, saw Matthew sitting in his office, and called him away from the employment he was following, which was that of a collector of tribute for the Roman Government. The Pharisees used this fact as an argument against becoming disciples of the Saviour; but He replied that such as these were sick and needed a physician. Publicans were usually oppressive exactors. Like others of the Apostolic Band, St. Matthew went forth to preach the Gospel to every creature, and sealed his testimony with his blood. Forsaking a lucrative employment to follow a lonely and despised Master, he evinced the sincerity of his faith. His having been a Publican, an office most offensive to the Jews, was no hindrance to his selection to the Apostleship by our Lord, who was himself of the stock of Israel. Fleetwood remarks that "the rest of the Evange-

lists are careful to mention the honour of his Apostleship, but speak of him in his former course of life only as Levi, while he himself sets it down under his own Christian name of Matthew. The eve of St. Matthew's Day is appointed to be observed with fasting. All the church's arrangements are made for the benefit of her children, fast as well as festival.

The great Festival of this month is Michaelmas Day, 29th, which brings us to devout contemplation of St. Michael and all the Holy Angels. We believe there are good spirits abroad, to "minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation;" and teach our children to have faith with reference to their guardianship. The idea is a consoling one, and well warranted by scripture testimony; and the oldest among us are moved soothingly, when the little ones address their evening hymn to the Lord of angels, singing

"In the long night watches,
May thine angels spread
Their bright wings above me,
Standing round my bed."

Great is the help that may be derived from the belief that our gracious Lord has provided pure, faithful and loving messengers and guides, to attend, comfort and support those who are reaching after perfection, and striving to do what will commend them to His favor. "The angels of the Lord encamp about them that fear Him, and deliver them."

Michaelmas has been distinguished from an early period as the time for the annual election of corporation officers, and other civil guardians and administrators. It is remarked in Chamber's "Key to the Calendar," that the selection of the day for this purpose might arise from the old opinion of tutelary spirits, who have, or are thought to have, the particular charge of certain bodies of men, or districts