

WHITSUNTIDE.

THIS Festival closes the annual "Christian Jubilee" as the 50 days of Eastertide are called by an early writer.

The Jewish corresponding festival was the "Feast of weeks" which closed the wheat harvest, the Feast of the Passover being the signal for its commencement. On the morrow of the Passover the first sheaf of freshly cut wheat was offered at the altar, and at the Feast of weeks, two loaves of bread made from the new wheat were offered. Christ risen from the dead is the first fruits of the spiritual harvest field; the Church, born at Whitsuntide, is the "one bread" (1 COR. X. 17.)

The Greek-speaking Jews of Alexandria gave the name 'Pentecost', to the Festival, the word meaning *Fiftieth*, inasmuch as it was the fiftieth day from the Passover. But the word does not appear in the septuagint translation of the scriptures, though it is used to designate this Festival in the Book of Tobit and the second book of the Maccabees. By the time of our Lord it had become the common Greek name for the Feast, which is called Pentecost three times in the New Testament.

The name Whitsunday has three derivations: some suppose Whitsun to be a corruption of Pfingsten, the German name for the festival; a more probable one is to derive the first syllable *Whit* from the *white* robes of those baptized at this season, for the eve of Pentecost was one of the great Baptismal days, and the newly baptized, in early times wore white garments. A third derivation is one which we would prefer if we could reconcile ourselves to the dropping of the letter *h*, and understand the name as having

reference to the gift of wisdom or *wit* at the first Christian Pentecost.

A writer of the 14th century was of this opinion:—

"This day Witsonday is cald
For wisdom and wit sevenefold
Was goven to the apostles as
this day."

It is the Birthday of the Church of Christ, the Festival of the Holy Spirit, the time when all Christians commend themselves again to His guidance and seek His sevenfold gift, and one of the "three times" for receiving the Holy Communion required "at the least" by the Rubric of our Prayer Book.

JUNE 20th.

The Bishop has authorized the clergy of the Diocese of New Westminster to make use of such parts of the Thanksgiving Service appointed for June 20th., as shall seem edifying to them in the public services of the Church on that day.

There will certainly be no one among all loyal subjects of her Majesty who will neglect to thank God that the reign of Queen Victoria has thus been prolonged to cover sixty full years. May she be spared for some years to come!

The purity of her court has been the greatest power for good. We have not to go far back for scandals near the throne. The year after Victoria was born, the King of England, George IV., tried to have his marriage set aside by Parliament. Thank God we all must say Victoria's court has ever been above reproach; and none can estimate the power for good this has been in the domestic morals of her subjects.

Her beautiful sympathy has endeared her to her subjects perhaps more than anything else. Her own