

28. Feast, because R. Simeon, in the days of Alexander Jannæus, drove out the Sadducees, and introduced the Pharisees into the Sanhedrin. D.

SHEBAT.

WEATHER.
Still cold. Snow. Heavy rains, especially at night. Wind generally W. Ther. 40°, 46°, Var 3° a 4°; on rainy days 1° a 2°. Latter end month hot.

PRODUCTIONS.
Corn sown. Beans blossom. Trees in leaf. Winter fig, cotton tree, cauliflower, hyacinthe, violet, tulip, worm-wood, anemones, colchicas, &c.

2. Feast of rejoicing for the death of Alexander Jannæus. D. (The atrocity referred to the dying moments of this king is also related, with some variation, of Herod's death, for which, according to some, the seventh Kislev was observed as a feast.)

4. Fast in memory of the Elders who succeeded Joshua. D.

15. *Rosh Hashanah Leaylanot*, New year for Trees, or *Tubishbat*, i.e. 15th Shebat. The reckoning of the tithes for trees was regulated accordingly as they were planted before or after this day. It is affirmed that the daughters of Shiloh went into the fields to dance on this day, clothed in white, and that great rejoicing then prevailed. (Judges, xxi. 21.) It is still observed as a feast, characterised by the variety of fruits procured therefor.

22. Fast for the division between Benjamin and the tribes. D.

28. Feast for raising siege of Jerusalem. D.

29. Memorial of death of Antiochus Epiphanes. D.

The last Sabbath in this month, when the first of Adar or Veadar is on a week day, is called *Shabat Shekalim*, because that portion (Ex. xxx. 13,) is read which refers to the collecting of the annual tax of the half-shekel for the sacrifices, now collected on Purim, and generally appropriated to the relief of the Jews of Palestine.

ADAR.

WEATHER.
As last month. In South, snow and cold cease. Rains, warmer. Wind N. or E. Ther. 42° a 47°, Var. 1° a 3°.

PRODUCTIONS.
Latter crops appear. Barley sown. Cauliflowers and water parsnips gathered. Peach and apple, blossom. Variety of herbs in the fields.

5. Feast for dedication of Temple. Ezra, vi. 15. D.

7. Fast for death of Moses.

9. Fast for dissensions of Hillel and Shammai. D.

12. Fast for the martyrs Hollianus and Pipus. D.

13. Fast of Esther, observed in commemoration of the one kept by her. Es. iv. 1. When it falls on Sabbath, it is observed on the preceding Thursday.

The Sabbath immediately preceding *Purim* is called *Shabat Zachor*, Sabbath of Remembrance, from the initial word of the additional portion read thereon, (Deut. xxv. 17,) and which refers to the enmity of Haman's forefathers, the Amalekites.