

*la premier pas qui coute*" (The distance is of no consequence; it is the first step only that is difficult). But this part of the story is undoubtedly of later date, and arose from the fact that in pictures of martyrs who have been decapitated, the martyr is represented carrying his head in his hands, to show the manner of his death. St. Denis became the patron saint of the French monarchy, and had the same place of honour with the French army as was given to St. George by English soldiers. The oriflamme, or royal standard of France, was the banner consecrated upon his tomb. An old ballad says:

St. George he was for England,  
St. Denis was for France,  
Singing "*Honi soit qui mal y pense*."

October 18th is the day of St. Luke the Evangelist. We are told very little of St. Luke in the Bible. He appears to have been a native of Antioch. St. Paul calls him "the beloved physician," but there is a tradition that he was an artist, and he has been chosen as the patron saint of artists and academies of art. He is sometimes represented in pictures as painting a portrait of the Virgin. His symbol is the winged ox; this is because the ox is the emblem of sacrifice, and St. Luke's gospel deals especially with the priestly office of our Saviour in offering Himself as a sacrifice for all mankind. The book of the Acts was also written by St. Luke, who accompanied St. Paul on many of his journeyings. He continued his missionary labours long after the death of St. Paul, and is believed to have been martyred at the age of eighty.

St. Crispin's day falls on the 25th of this month. St. Crispin and St. Crispian were brothers, who went with St. Denis from Rome to preach the gospel in France. They supported themselves by making shoes at Soissons; but the governor of the town, finding that they were Christians, caused them to be beheaded. They are called the patron saints of shoemakers. The battle of Agincourt was fought on St. Crispin's day, 1415, "a day," says the old chronicler, "faire and fortunate to the English, but most sorrowful and unluckie to the French." Shakespeare puts the following words into the mouth of King Henry V, as he encourages his men before the battle:

This day is called the feast of Crispian:  
He that outlives this day, and comes safe home,  
Will stand a tip-toe when this day is named,  
And rouse him at the name of Crispian.  
He that shall live this day, and see old age,

Will yearly on the Vigil feast his neighbours,  
And say, 'Tomorrow is Saint Crispian.'  
Then will he strip his sleeves and show his scars,  
And say, 'These wounds I had on Crispin's day.'

This story shall the good man teach his son;  
And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by,  
From this day to the ending of the world,  
But we in it shall be remembered.

The apostles St. Simon and St. Jude are together commemorated on the 28th of October. Very little is known about them. St. Jude, in his epistle, calls himself "the brother of James." Traditions agree that they were martyred in Persia. A superstition very like that attached to St. Swithin's day is held of St. Simon and St. Jude's day.

October 31st, the eve of All Hallows, or All Saints' day, Hallow E'en, as it is popularly called, has from very early times been held to be a season when supernatural influences had especial sway, and when the future could be divined by certain rites. This questioning of the future generally turns on the subject of the future husband or wife, and the ceremonies observed are very much the same wherever they are practised. The poet Burns, in his "Halloween," gives a full account of these sports as they were carried on in Scotland in his day. Nuts and apples are always eaten, and play an important part in divination. A common name for the Eve is "Nut Crack Night." In some parts of Great Britain, an old custom is to light a fire and arrange in a circle in the ashes a number of stones, one for each person in the assemblage. When the fire goes out the stones are sought for, and if any have been displaced or injured, ill luck is foretold for their owners. A common superstition says that children born on this day have certain supernatural powers. Scott, in "The Monastery," makes use of this belief. The little heiress of Avenel is said to have seen the ghost of her father, and the gossips explain:

Touching the bairn, it's weel kend she was born on  
Hallowe'en was nine years gane, and they that are born  
on Hallowe'en whiles see mair than ither folk.

"Now children," said the teacher, "see who can make up a 'story' containing the words 'boys,' 'bees,' and 'bear.'" The freckled boy's hand was up at once. "Well, Michael." And Michael responded: "Boys bees bare whin they goes in shwimmin'."