

3. *Tsom Gedaliah*, Fast of Gedaliah, observed to commemorate the treacherous murder of Gedaliah ben Ahikam, Governor of Judea, (2 Kings xxv. 25,) called by Zechariah (viii. 19,) the Fast of the Seventh Month. If it fall on Sabbath, it is kept on the morrow, Sunday. Aben Ezra, in his comment on Zech. viii. 19, says the "four fasts" were not instituted by a prophet, but voluntarily adopted by the people.

5. Fast for the death of R. Akiba ben Yoseph, &c.—Discontinued.

7. Fast for the apostasy of the Golden Calf. D.

9. Moses descended Sinai with the second Tables. (Abudaram, p. 115.) Feast thereof. D.

10. *Yom Hakippurim*, Day of Atonement, most strictly observed as a day of expiation and fasting; Ex. xxx. 10. Its appropriate ceremonies and observances are detailed in the Portion of the Day and in the additional service. Excision is denounced against those who profane it; Lev. xxiii. 26. Its special offerings; Num. xxix. 7. The Year of Jubilee was proclaimed in the Temple on this day with the sound of trumpets. "All the feasts will be abrogated except the Day of Atonement and Purim."—*Vayikrah Rabbah*.

15. *Succot*, Feast of Tabernacles, called also *Hag Haasiph*, Harvest Feast, commemorates the Israelites dwelling in *Succot*, or booths, on their departure from Egypt; also, the houseing of the harvest. Ex. xxiii. 16; Lev. xxiii. 33. Num. xxix. 12; Deut. xvi. 13; 2 Chron. vii. 8; Neh. viii. 14. It lasts seven days, exclusive of the Feast Eighth of Assembly. It is now solemnised by "dwelling in the Tabernacle," taking the Palm-branch, Citron, Willow, and Myrtle; besides the special services of the Synagogue. On this, as on the Passover and Pentecost festivals, all the males were obliged to go up to Jerusalem. The intermediate days are called *Hol Hammoed*, or lighter festival.

21. *Hoshanganah Rabbah*, the seventh and last of the festival, so called, because (seven) additional circuits were made in the Temple, and additional *Hosannahs* are addressed to the Throne of Grace on this day. It is observed with heart-stirring and special solemnity by the Portuguese Jews.

22. *Shemini Atseret*, Feast of the Eighth Day, (Lev. xxiii. 36,) whereon the people prepared to take leave of one another, and the *Biccurim*, or ripe fruits, were offered with great rejoicing. Prayer for rain to nourish the world is offered on this day.

23. *Simhat Torah*, Festival of rejoicing for the Law. On this day the reading of the law is finished, but immediately recommenced, that there may be no intermission therein, in accordance with the scriptural ordinance. Two persons are appointed for this honorable duty; first is *Hatan Torah*, Bridegroom of the Law, who finishes the reading; and, second, *Hatan Beresheet*, Bridegroom of the Beginning, who recommences it. The Sabbath following this festival, when the whole of the first section of the Law (*Beresheet*) is read, is called *Shabbat Beresheet*. Dedication of Solomon's Temple finished.