

land, that when it rains on St. Swithin's Day, the saint is christening the apples.

The poet Gay protests against the current saying in the following lines :

"Now if on Swithin's feast the welkin tours,
And every penthouse streams with hasty showers,
Twice twenty days shall clouds their fleeces drain,
And wash the pavements with incessant rain.
*Let not such vulgar tales debase thy mind,
Nor Paul nor Swithin rule the clouds and wind.*"

The festival of St. James the Great occurs on the 25th of July. This is that St. James, who was Bishop of Jerusalem, the first of the apostles to suffer martyrdom, and the only one whose death is recorded in the New Testament. "Now about that time Herod the King stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James, the brother of John, with the sword." (Acts xii, 1, 2). Tradition tells that while the apostle was on his way to execution, his accuser repented, and, having received the blessing of his victim, professed himself a Christian, and also suffered martyrdom.

St. James the Great is the patron saint of Spain, and stands in the same relation to Spanish history that St. George does to that of England. The cry of "St. Jago" was heard, together with that of "St. George for England," as the Christian hosts went forth against the Mahometans. The famous Spanish order of "St. James of the Sword" was instituted to commemorate the deliverance of the Christians in battle with the Moors, 841.

August was so named in honour of the Emperor Augustus, not because it was the month of his birth, but because in it his greatest good fortune had happened to him.

The first day of August is called Lammas Day. This day was one of the four great pagan festivals kept in Britain, the others being the first days of November, February and May. It probably was kept to celebrate the coming in of the first-fruits of harvest, and in this way was made a holy day by the Christians. The name is thought to be a corruption of the Anglo-Saxon "Hlaf-mass," "loaf-mass," in reference to a loaf being offered at the service.

St. Laurence was an archdeacon at Rome, and suffered martyrdom on the 10th of August, 258, during the eighth general persecution of the Christians. He was burned to death on a gridiron over a slow fire. Philip II of Spain, having gained the battle of St. Quentin, on August 10th, 1557,

made a vow to the saint whose day it was, and redeemed this vow by the erection of one of the most remarkable buildings in Europe—the Escorial. This great building, which includes a church, a convent, a palace, and a mausoleum, stands about twenty-seven miles north-west of Madrid. It is dedicated to St. Laurence, and the ground plan is like a gridiron.

The festival of St. Bartholomew is kept on August 24th. Of this apostle nothing but his name is recorded in the New Testament; and though it has generally been supposed that Bartholomew and Nathanael are two names for the same person, authorities are not agreed on this point.

The common tradition regarding St. Bartholomew says that he evangelized Northern India, and that, having once escaped crucifixion through the relenting of his persecutor, he was finally martyred at a town on the Caspian Sea.

In reference to the change of temperature about this time, there is an English saying :

"St. Bartholomew
Brings the cold dew."

Dog-days, the period during which the dog-star rises and sets with the sun, extend from July 3rd to August 11th.

The months of the year obtained their names from widely varying sources. January was named from the Roman god Janus, the deity with two faces, one looking to the east and the other toward the west. February comes from the Latin word *februus*, to purify. It was the ancient Roman custom to hold festivals of purification during that month. March owes its name to an old god of war. Among the Saxons this month was known as *lenst*, meaning spring, which was the origin of the word *Lent*. It is claimed by some that April was named after the Latin word *aperire*, open, in signification of the opening buds. In Saxon days it was called *eastre*, in honor of *Eastra* the Goddess of Spring, from which comes our word *Easter*. May was named after *Maia*, the Roman goddess of growth or increase, and June was from the Latin *juvenis* (young). Julius Cæsar himself named July in his own honor, and August was likewise named by Augustus Cæsar. September is from the Latin word *septem*, meaning seven, it being the seventh month of the year according to the old Roman calendar, and October, November and December likewise retain the names they were known by in the old Roman calendar.