

Sabbaths of years," or "seven times seven years," and dated its commencement from the Day of Atonement. It was enacted that in this year all property which had been alienated, no matter how often or from what cause, should revert to its original masters, in order to preserve to the several tribes, families and individuals of the nation the inheritances primarily apportioned to them. All lands were bought and sold subject to this condition. Indeed, the land itself was never bought and sold, the true object of purchase being the usufruct of the soil of an estate which could under no circumstances remain in alien hands beyond a maximum period of forty-nine years. The absolute property of the soil rested in God only. "The whole country," in the words of Philo Judæus "was cilled the possession of God." And it was impious for any one else to be recorded as the masters of the possessions of God. The property of a Hebrew in the person of another Hebrew was in like manner terminable by the year of Jubilee; at which time also a Hebrew servant of a sojourner in the land was entitled, if not previously redeemed, to his free discharge.

This great social and economic charter of the Jews naturally passed as a symbol into other spheres of thought, and took deep root and threw forth wide-spreading branches in the Christian system, the hymnology of which it has so much enriched by the abundance of its poetical affinities. The word "Jubilee" has acquired a peculiar and technical significance in the Church of Rome, where it is defined as a "plenary indulgence in its most ample form, granted at different periods by the sovereign pontiff to those who, either residing in the city of Rome, or visiting it, perform there the visitation of the churches and other prescribed works of piety, prayer, fasting, and alms-deeds, with confession and communion, which are always enjoined for the giving of these indulgences in order to facilitate the return of sinners to God by the last-mentioned exercise of religion." In the Church of Rome the Jubilee is observed every twenty-fifth year, from Christmas to Christmas. Its institution does not go further back than to the time of Boniface VIII., whose bull is dated April 22nd, 1300. Originally the churches of St. Peter and St. Paul in Rome were the only Jubilee churches; but the privilege was afterward extended to the Lateran Church and to that of Santa Maria Maggiore; and it is now shared also from the year immediately following that of the Roman Jubilee by a number of specified provincial churches. At the request of the Roman people, Clement VI. appointed that the Jubilee should recur every fifty years instead of every hundred years as had been originally contemplated in the constitution of Boniface. Urban VI., reduced the interval still further to thirty-three years, the supposed duration of the earthly life of Christ; and by Paul II. it was finally fixed at twenty-five years. According to the special ritual prepared by Alexander VI. in 1500, the Pope, on the Christmas Eve with which the Jubilee commences, goes in solemn procession to a particular walled up door *Porta aurea*, of St. Peter's and knocks three times, using at the same time the words of Psalm cxiii. 19, "*Aperite mihi portas justitie.*" The doors are then opened and sprinkled with holy water, and the Pope passes through. A similar ceremony is conducted by cardinals at the other Jubilee churches of the city. At the close of the Jubilee the special doorway was again built up, with appropriate solemnities. The last ordinary Jubilee was observed in 1875; and extraordinary

Jubilees are sometimes appointed on special occasions.

Royal Jubilees, in the nature of things, cannot be of every-day or even of very frequent occurrence, for they presuppose the necessity of at least one out of two things—a very early succession, or the attainment of a period of life more than ordinarily extended. In the whole course of British history, only three of the predecessors of Queen Victoria have celebrated such an event—Henry III., Edward III., and George III. Of the two former, which took place in the ages before history had begun to be written in such overwhelming detail by competing and contending newspapers, not many particulars are recoverable to-day. It is known, however, that the Jubilee of Henry III. was observed on the 19th of October, 1265, when the king entered upon the fiftieth year of his reign. It has been remarked that it appears to have been anything but a joy inspiring Jubilee. The country had scarcely recovered from the shock of the recent battle of Evesham; in which, although it proved decisive in favor of the Royal party, the king's life had been in imminent danger. The victory had been used with moderation; with a clemency, in fact, so remarkable that no blood had been shed on the scaffold. Yet the unsettlement of the time remained to such an extent that there were very few few feasts or signs of rejoicing outside the Royal Court; while, contrary to the general softness of the king's character, the citizens of London are said to have had the Jubilee unpleasantly fixed in their minds by the harsh treatment they received at the hands of their sovereign.

The next Royal Jubilee was that of Edward III., which was celebrated on the 25th of January, 1377, at the conclusion of the forty-ninth year of his reign, when the court itself was under the shadow of the failing health of the king and the gloom of the recent death of the Prince of Wales, illustrious on the glory roll of England as the Black Prince, who had left behind him a character adorned with every eminent virtue, and calculated to throw luster on the most shining period of ancient or modern history. Edward III. distinguished his Jubilee by making concessions of a political kind to his subjects, then bowed down with many causes of depression; and at the end of the year granted a general pardon to all prisoners confined for petty offences. He remitted fines due from crown debtors, and bestowed many marks of his favor on his courtiers and officers. Very soon after, however, a serious riot occurred in the city, on a rumor that the office of mayor was to be abolished and a captain appointed instead. But the mayor and citizens made their peace with the king, and pending the collection of the new tax of a groat a head, His Majesty applied to the City of London to lend him £4,000. This the corporation seem to have been loth to grant, and the king, therefore, had the mayor deposed, and put another alderman in his place. Whether or not the new mayor got the money for the king is not recorded, for the latter died a few months after, being then in the sixty-fifth year of his age, and the fifty-first year of his reign, one of the longest and most glorious in the annals of this country.

A venerable octogenarian died a few weeks ago who remembered the funeral of Nelson in St. Paul's Cathedral. Such a man might, *a fortiori*, remember at least some of the circumstances of the Jubilee of George III., which was celebrated on Wednesday, 25th of October, 1809, when the King entered on the fiftieth year of his reign. All kinds of

military pageants, splendors, and spectacles distinguished the occasion, and all kinds of civil display and municipal hospitalities. The Archbishop of Canterbury issued a special form of thanksgiving, and a notice in the *Gazette* proclaimed a general holiday. Unfortunately, the times were not quite opportune for unmixed and universal rejoicing. The state of the king's health was just uncertain enough to cause constant anxiety, a war with France was in progress, and many families were in mourning, food was almost at famine prices, and there was much distress among the poorer classes. Nevertheless, the preparations progressed, and the first thought everywhere seems to have been to insure the happiness of those who had not the means of securing enjoyment for themselves. Successful subscriptions were set on foot for the release of prisoners for small debts. Although somewhat late in the year, the weather was fine and warm all over the kingdom, and the outdoor proceedings were everywhere carried out successfully. The day was ushered in by joyous peals from numberless steeples, the churches and chapels of every denomination were opened for special services, and were attended by large congregations. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs attended service in St. Paul's in state; the Guards went to the Chapel Royal, Whitehall, used for the first time as a chapel; the Volunteers mustered in great strength, and, after attending church-parade, were reviewed in Hyde Park, where they fired a *Jeu de joie*, while the Park and Tower guns fired a salute of fifty guns. Every province and parish throughout the country was *en fete*. Memorial works of art and engineering, of beauty, utility, and philanthropy were commenced and prosecuted, so that at the close of the Jubilee year many commemorative works, which had been in progress during the previous twelve months, were completed and duly inaugurated amid renewed expressions of loyalty and joy. The gentry planted memorial trees and distributed memorial medals. A Jubilee medal in particular was struck by Bisset, of Birmingham, having on the obverse a bust of the king, with the following legend: "King George the Third ascended the Throne of the Imperial Realms of Great Britain and Ireland, October 25, A. D. 1760. Grand National Jubilee. Celebrated October 25, 1809." On the reverse was the guardian genius of England, represented as Fame, seated in the clouds, and triumphing over mortality. She displayed a centenary circle, one-half of which showed the duration of the king's reign up to that time, while rays from heaven illuminated a throne. — *London Society*.

New Courts.

COURT SAULT ST. MARIE, NO. 249, SAULT ST. MARIE, MICH.

Instituted 28th June, 1887, by Bro. F. D. Phillips, D.S.C.R.

OFFICERS INSTALLED.

C.D.H.C.R., Augustus Matthews.
C.R., Augustus Matthews.
V.C.R., Stephen P. Tracy, M.D.
R.S., Grey B. Dougal.
F.S., Alexander Comb.
Treas., Malcolm Blue.
S.W., John Comb.
J.W., Abraham Mitchell.
S.B., Geo. H. Miner.
J.B., Wm. L. Hedges.
Chaplain, James D. Murdock.
Physician, Augustus E. Bacon, M.D.