

THE MONTH IN PROSPECT,
JULY.

After the reform in the Calendar by Julius Cæsar, this the seventh month of the year, in which he was born, was in honor of him called July.

The only Festival to be observed in this month besides the Sundays is that of St. James the Apostle which occurs on the 25th. We find this Saint to have been of high repute among the Brethren in his day; he was appointed to preside in the Apostolic Convocations, and gave his decisions as supreme arbiter in words that reveal his right so to do. The Fast preceding this and some other Festivals is important, as the pleasure of a holy feast is ever enhanced by our being prepared for it by self-denial and restraint of our natural appetites, whereby we raise to greater spirituality. St. James was beheaded by order of the Tetrarch Herod.

For information of our young readers, who no doubt puzzle themselves over the Calendar as it stands on the first pages of our Prayer Book, we give the following particulars of what are termed the

BLACK LETTER DAYS,

occurring in the month of July.

In this restless and distracted age, when things which at all times, every where, and by all Christians, have been accepted and believed, are subjected to change and threatened with revision, it is somewhat strange that the Calendar of the Church is left undisturbed, and some of the most doubtful names and ridiculous legends have been preserved, even although they have no real significance, do nothing for edification, and scarcely serve the purpose of amusement. Of such is the *Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, as it stands on the 2nd of July, of which we have the following

account: "This Festival was instituted by Pope Urban about the year 1338, in consequence of the great schism in the Church of Rome between two anti-popes, Urban VI. and Clement VII., the first chosen by the Italians and the other by the French, among the Cardinals. To avoid in future a similar disorder, Urban set apart a day to the memory of that journey which the Virgin Mary took into the mountains of Judea, to visit Elizabeth the mother of John the Baptist. This was confirmed by Boniface IX., and was ordered at the Council of Basil to be celebrated in all churches, that she being honored with this solemnity, might reconcile her son by her intercession, and that she might grant peace and unity among the faithful.

July 4th. Translation of St. Martin.—St Martin was in Pannonia and for some time led the life of a soldier, but after awhile took Holy Orders and was made Bishop of Tours. He died in the year 100, after he had exercised his Episcopate for 26 years. Formerly he stood first in the estimation of the French people, and his military helmet was carried by the army in battle as a charm. He is twice celebrated in the Calendar of the Church, here and on the 11th November. This day is noted as a memorial of the removal of his body from a humble resting place to a more distinguished and magnificent tomb. St. Martin's at Canterbury, the oldest church in England, derives its name from this saintly Bishop and Confessor.

15th. St. Swithin's Day.—This saint was an eminently learned and pious Bishop of Winchester, and lived about a thousand years ago. He was the diviner and originator of tithes in England. He was by his own request buried in the churchyard of the Cathedral, and a hundred years after, the