

THE MONTH IN PROSPECT,  
OCTOBER.

The Festivals in October, for which special services are appointed, are those of St. Luke and St. Simon and St. Jude. One Fast of the month is the eve of the latter of these. Every Friday throughout the year is appointed to be observed as a Fasting Day, by those whom we regard reverently as having authority in matters of faith and practice, "for the edifying of the Body of Christ," which is the "Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church."

The 18th of October was appointed to be St. Luke's Festival in the 12th century. Luke, the Physician of bodies and afterwards of souls, was eminent for learning; and to him we are indebted for the book known as "the Acts of the Apostles." Some of the Apostles are spoken of as "unlearned and ignorant men;" but St. Luke was not one of these. The Church for the time in which he lived, and for all time, finds need for the service of learned, and eloquent persons. Because some of our Lord's Apostles were unlearned, there has been an opinion prevailing among some sects that human learning is not needed by Preachers and Teachers in religious matters; but the Church has never decided thus. While it is encouraging to the ignorant to know that such as themselves have been instruments of righteousness in a very high degree, it is surely desirable that all the aids which can be brought to give the instructor and guide power and influence with the masses, should be brought forward. The learning of St. Paul as well as that of St. Luke, we and all Christians are deriving the benefit. It is generally believed that nothing, under Divine Providence, saved our nation from the infidelity that overran France, and caused the

most horrible of revolutions, but the learning and piety of the English Bishops, who were able to combat successfully with the philosophers and literary men of that age. We know that in this day men of great learning and research are required to prevent gross heresies from carrying the multitude away from those wholesome truths which were "delivered to the saints" in former ages, and are unalterable; and our Holy Records would be short of needed information, were the book of the Acts of the Apostles taken from them.

*October 23th.* Festival of St. Simon and St. Jude.

Simon is believed to have been one of a sect or party called Zealots. These were, so Fleetwood says, a branch of the Pharisees, and ventured to exercise authority even to the inflicting of punishments; but their zeal for religion and order degenerated into wild extravagance, until they became a pest. They were continually prompting their countrymen to throw off the Roman yoke; and Josephus bewails them as the great plague of the nation. St. Simon, having been one of these, after his conversion exercised the lively zeal that was natural to him in behalf of Christianity. Our Lord saw his fitness for zealous action, and called him out of darkness into the marvellous light of the Gospel dispensation; where, under right direction he became eminently useful.

St. Jude's name is found in the catalogue of the twelve Apostles, and his presence at the last supper is declared; but it is not known where or by what means he became an Apostle. There are differing accounts of his labours and death; but most who have written about him say that he suffered martyrdom for the cause of his Lord and Master.

*October 31st.* Eve of all Saints,