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### THE CALENDAR.

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#### MINOR HOLY DAYS OF APRIL

[Continued from last year].

#### S. JOHN *ante Portam Latinam.*

This festival was instituted in memory of the miraculous deliverance of S. John from death, when he was cast into a cauldron of boiling oil before the Latin Gate of Rome, by order, and, perhaps, in the presence of Domitian. Our Lord had promised that deadly things should not hurt those who believed in Him; and thus His word was fulfilled, as it had been before, when S. Paul took up the serpent at Melita. The Emperor attributed the apostle's deliverance to the power of magic, and banished him to Patmos, where he received and recorded the Apocalypse. There has been a church, at Rome, on the spot where the event above mentioned occurred ever since the time of the first Christian emperor. The day is kept as a great festival at S. John's College, Cambridge, and at the more recent foundation of S. John's, Hurstpierpoint.

S. DUNSTAN. This Saxon saint was born about A.D. 924, at Glastonbury, of Christian parents hold-

ing a high position in society. He was educated in his native town, under a society of Irish monks then resident, and lived for some time with the Archbishop of Canterbury, his uncle, who introduced him to the notice of King Athelstan. At court he, for a time, enjoyed the highest favors, but some who envied him maligned him to the king, and he was banished from the Royal presence. He was then urged to take monastic vows by Alphege the Bold, Bishop of Winchester, and after a time became a monk, and was also ordained priest. He served the church at Glastonbury, dwelling in a small cell attached thereto. Here he fasted and prayed, and worked at copying and illumination, and at the fabrication of vestments, censers, and other church furniture. Athelstan was succeeded by his brother Edmund, who recalled Dunstan; but he soon again fell into disgrace at court, and retired to the Benedictine monastery of Fleury in France. After a few years he was recalled and made Superior of the house at Glastonbury. Here he refounded the church and convent on a larger scale, established a rule based on that of S. Benedict, and became himself the first Abbot on the new foundation, and nineteenth from S. Brithwald. King Edmund after a reign of six years and a half was murdered; and his sons, Edwy and Edgar, being too young for the throne, his brother Elred succeeded him and followed the advice of S. Dunstan in all things. He, dying in 955, was succeeded by Edwy, a profligate youth, whose vices S. Dunstan was obliged to reprove even on the day of his coronation.