

priests to do him honour, commenced removing his remains into the interior, but rain commencing which continued forty days, they desisted, believing the displeasure of the saint at their work was thus evinced. Ever since that time it has been held as a maxim, that if there be rain on St. Swithin's day, it may be expected for forty days ensuing.

22nd. *St. Mary Magdalene*.—In the First common Prayer Book of Edward VI. this Festival was observed, and the Gospel appointed for the day was the story of Mary in the house of Simon the leper, (St. Luke vii.) but, upon a strict enquiry, it appears dubious to our Reformers, whether the woman designated in this Scripture was Mary Magdalene or not. The Festival was discontinued, for what reason it is left in the Calendar does not appear.

For what reason St. Anne, mother to the Blessed Virgin, has found a place of distinction is yet more perplexing. She might have been and in all probability she was, a saintly woman, but she is not even mentioned in the sacred Scriptures, and her natural relationship could entitle her to no place of distinction in the Heralds of the Church. St. Ann was the daughter of Matthew the Priest and the wife of Joachim; we know less about her than of Martha and Mary, and Dorcas and Phœbe, all of whom are canonized by the Inspiration of God.

We could say very much more of St. Margaret, the Martyr of Antioch, the daughter of a heathen priest, who converted to the Christian faith, renounced all the temptations of wealth and honor, and proved by her pure life and heroic death, that she was sanctified and made perfect by the spirit of God. The story of her trials and her death has been wrought into a sacred Drama by Deau Milman, and

might be read with pleasure and profit by all who can admire noble deeds, and appreciate beautiful writing.

### THE PEW SYSTEM.

The pew system has some serious disadvantages, and particularly where the church has a chancel, and the pulpit ceases to be all that is regarded as worthy of special notice. Then, generally, all are not favorably situated for seeing those who are engaged in performance of Holy services; and what are regarded as the best sittings are anxiously sought. George Herbert says to church goers, "Seal up thine eyes and send them to thy heart;" and were his advice taken, we would hear but little about the best pews.

Among the disadvantages, we find that of persons taking sittings with a proviso that when what is termed a better position becomes vacant, they are to have the offer of it. Suppose there are a dozen such in a Parish; a vacancy occurs, and a stranger desiring to obtain sittings, hears of it and applies. The Wardens have a list of applicants ranged in order of priority as to dates, and they go to the first named. The family are not prepared to answer promptly, and perhaps want a Sunday to intervene, that they may see how they like the pew before they decide to change. They decline, and the Wardens have the remainder of the dozen of dissatisfied people to consult before they can give the pew to the new comer. We have known a lady who lived three pews in succession in one church, thinking by change to find greater convenience for gratification.

There are only two ways of managing the sittings with any prospect of giving satisfaction. One is the system of annually leasing to the highest bidder; and the other is the sup-