

CHATS ABOUT THE CALENDAR.

SEPTEMBER is, literally, the seventh month of the year according to the ancient Roman calendar, as established by Romulus, but the ninth of Numa's year. It derives its name from the Latin words *Septem*, seven, and *ember*, a shower of rain, as this is generally the commencement of the rainy season. Our Saxon ancestors called this month *Gerst Month*. It was thus called, says Verstegan, because "barley, which that month commonly yielded, was antiently called *gerst*, the name of barley being given unto it by reason of the drink therewith made, called *beere*, and from *berlegh* it came to be *berlegh*, and from *berlegh* to *barley*. This excellent and healthsome liquor, *beere*, antiently also called *ael*, as of the Danes it yet is (*beere* and *ael* being, in effect, all one), was first of the Germans invented and brought into use."

September is the month for the sports of the field. With the first day commences partridge shooting, and the eager sportsman, who has watched where the birds alight and feed, hastens to the stubbles with dogs and gun. The autumnal season sets in about Michaelmas with a cooler air, often cold nights, but generally fine weather. As it advances, and the temperature continues to decline, it frequently produces showers and wet weather, accompanied with high gales of wind, which prevail mostly during the night, and are often succeeded by dead calms in the daytime. Towards the end of the month the fogs become dense, and sometimes last during the day.

The first is St. Giles's Day. This saint was born at Athens, became Abbot of Nismes, in France, in 715, and died in 750. He is the patron saint of beggars and cripples. St. Giles's Church, Cripple-gate, London, and the High Church, Edinburgh, are dedicated to him. On the 2nd September, 1666, broke out the terrible fire of London, which consumed eighty-nine churches, Guildhall, the City gates, many public structures, hospitals, schools, libraries, 13,000 dwelling-houses, and 400 streets. The ruins of the city after the conflagration were 436 acres, from the Tower by the Thames side to the Temple Church, and from the north-east along the City wall to Holborn Bridge.

The fourteenth day is called Holy Cross, or sometimes Holyrood Day. It is a festival of the Roman Catholic Church, and celebrates the miraculous appearance of a cross in the sky to the Emperor Constantine. It is only noticed in our almanacs as a guide to the autumnal ember days which are governed by this holiday.

The 29th is Michaelmas Day, a festival instituted in the year 487, in honour of St. Michael and All the Angels. It is a great festival in the Church of Rome, and is still retained in the calendar of the Church of England. Wheatley, in his "Exposition of the Book of Common Prayer," remarks that the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels is observed that the people may know what benefits we derive from the Ministry of Angels. Many very curious customs are observed in different parts of the country upon Michaelmas Day. In Kidderminster the inhabitants, till within the last thirty years, assembled at a particular hour of the day, which was announced by the ringing of the town-house bell, and during one hour, termed *lawless hour*, the poorer class of people amused themselves by throwing cabbage stalks at each other, while the higher class threw apples from the Town Hail amongst the crowd. In some parts of Scotland the people bake a cake upon this day, which is called "St. Michael's bannock." In England geese are killed and

eaten, which custom is erroneously assigned to Queen Elizabeth in the following story: That, being on her way to Tilbury Fort, on the 29th September, 1588, she is alleged to have dined with Sir Neville Umfreville, at his seat near that place, and to have partaken of a goose, which the knight, knowing her taste for highly-seasoned and substantial dishes, had provided; that after dinner she drank a half-pint bumper of Burgundy to the destruction of the Spanish Armada, soon after which she received the joyful tidings that her wishes had been fulfilled; that, being delighted with the event, she commemorated the day annually by having a goose for dinner, in imitation of Sir Neville's entertainment, and that consequently the Court adopted the like custom, which soon became general throughout the kingdom. That Queen Elizabeth did dine with this gallant knight is not to be disputed, and the currency of the story renders it more than probable that a goose formed part of the banquet. But the custom is of much older date, and equally observed on the Continent as in England. Among other testimonies of its having been a long established luxury may be adduced a well-known and feeling wish expressed by Christiern, king of Denmark, who reigned from 1455 to 1493, "that he hoped to see the time when not only nobles, but good burghers through his land, should feed on a fat goose every St. Michael's Day."

"The decline of the year has now commenced. The leaves of the trees are donning their golden and tawny tints. The orchard trees are laden with pears, plums, and apples. The hedgerows are brightened with the scarlet berries of hips, haws, and honeysuckles, as well as with the bright fruit of the privet, the thorn, the elder, and the blackberry. The harvest is over, and we cannot but feel thankful to the Giver of all good things for it, and the many bounties which we now so freely enjoy."

September is allegorically represented as a young man, dressed in a garment of carnation and yellow, indicative of the hue of the trees at this season; his head is decorated with a garland of acorns and oak leaves, and his face is "full of merry glee." In his right hand he holds a basket of medlars, chestnuts, mushrooms, and other fruits, "ripe and rare;" while in his left hand he grasps the sign *Scorpio*, the scorpion, symbolical of the sun entering that constellation on the 23rd day of the month.

CRAYONIUM.

THE present age is one of surprises, which follow each other in such quick succession that no sooner do we understand the workings of one invention, than another springs up, attracts our attention, is tried, and supersedes the first either for its novelty or utility.

The new aid to drawing known as Crayonium can fairly be said to have a claim to both the above terms, it being decidedly a novelty, and it also enables any person to obtain a perfect outline of any design, and to enlarge or decrease the same, without having to learn to draw.

For mechanical drawing, for enlarging plans, copying architectural pictures, the instrument used is invaluable, while it will give a perfect sketch of a head, full-length figure, or of any landscape, and will leave nothing for the artist to do in the way of outline, and only requires to be finished by shading to become a perfect picture. An invention that thus confers the power of drawing upon anyone will be a great boon to people who are fond of the art and have a decided taste for colouring, and who at the same time have not the power of sketching

correctly or of copying a likeness. When from a small picture of a friend or some celebrated person a life-like enlargement is thus obtainable, half the trouble of the work is over, and what is more important the likeness is not lost, as is so often the case in enlargements, where one line too short or too broad will alter the whole effect.

The manner of working is as follows: The instrument used can only be obtained of Miss Gaspard, 200, Regent-street, who is the sole registree of the same, and this is screwed down upon a flat table. It is fitted with movable arms, to the *shortest* of which is fixed a fine-pointed tracer, under which the design to be enlarged is secured. The second and longer arm stretches to the right of the tracer, and is so made that its length can be regulated so as to enable the worker to produce an exact copy of the picture, a slight enlargement, or a life-size enlargement. To the end of this long arm a pencil or sharp-pointed black crayon is secured, and under it the drawing-paper, canvas, or whatever is to be used for the background of the enlargement is placed.

The worker holds the pencil lightly in the right hand, and moves it with her eyes fixed upon the tracer, so that she makes the tracer which moves with the pencil accurately pass over every line of the design, lifting it away from the design when any break in a line occurs, and going over every part—such as all the curls in the hair, every part of the features, every fold in the drapery, any ornaments either upon the figure or in the background, and in fact everywhere where a line of any size or of the slightest importance occurs. While the attention is thus fixed upon the tracer, the pencil held in the right-hand is repeating all the lines made by the tracer, and from its position making a long line to correspond with a short line made by the former, and thus the enlargement is mechanically obtained, the worker having nothing to do with it except keep the point of the pencil upon the paper, and so regulate the action of the tracer that it perfectly goes over the lines of the design.

A perfect facsimile of the picture obtained, the finishing has to be considered. For a plan or outline, simply deepening the lines with Indian ink is enough. For a chalk drawing or real "Crayonium," stumps and black chalk are required. The hair and features are worked up like an ordinary chalk drawing, with lights and shades and clearly defined strokes, while all the shadows upon the face, neck, arms, or drapery are made by stumping in powdered chalk in those parts, or rubbing the same on with the first finger. Depth of shade is given by rubbing in a good deal of chalk where this occurs, lighter shadows by using but little chalk, and soft tones melting into the lights, by softening the chalk upon the picture with bread crumbs. White chalk should be rubbed in for the very highest lights. Coloured Crayoniums are either worked up like French pastilles with coloured chalks, or are painted with water-colours, while for oil paintings the same finish is required as for ordinary pictures, the Crayonium in them only giving the correct outlines.

Pictures instead of being enlarged by this process can be decreased. This is done by reversing the positions of the pencil and tracer and putting the latter and the picture to be decreased under the long arm of the instrument. Lessons and instrument can be obtained at 200, Regent-street.

We need hardly point out to our readers that Crayonium is an art that anyone with a little patience can excel in, and that being such, it is sure to become a fashionable accomplishment.

B. C. S. WARD.