

ple. Later, synagogues were erected, where the Law and Prophets were read and expounded. (Ag. xiii: 15.)

The monthly festivals were held at the appearance of the new moon. Labor was not suspended on these days as on the weekly Sabbaths, but particular offerings were made. They were announced by a certain signal—the sound of silver trumpets blown by the sons of Aaron.

The yearly festivals were three. At these all the male adults were required to appear at the sanctuary, the tabernacle or temple.

The passover commenced in the evening on the 14th of Abib, the first month of the ecclesiastical year. It was kept in commemoration of the exodus from Egypt, when God spared the firstborn of the Israelites from destruction. All leaven was then removed from every house. A lamb was slain for every household. Its blood was sprinkled on the door-posts, the lamb roasted whole, with two spits thrust transversely through it, and was then eaten with bitter herbs. Unleavened bread was broken by the head of the family and distributed to each member. No fewer than ten and not more than twenty were admitted to the feast. Wine was also distributed and songs of praise were sung. Sacrifices were offered every day during this festival which lasted from the 15th to the 27th of the month. On the 16th the first ears of corn were presented before the Lord as a preliminary to the commencement of the harvest.

From the second day of the passover, fifty days, or seven full weeks were counted, and then came the feast of Pentecost. This feast was held at the completion of the harvest. Loaves made of the new meal and grain were then offered to the Lord as the first fruits and many burnt-offerings presented. At this time particularly, the Jews gathered in the sanctuary.

From the 15th to the 27th of the month Tisri, our October, the feast of the tabernacles was celebrated in commemoration of the sojourn of the Israelites in the wilderness. Boweries were then constructed of branches of trees and in these the people resided for one week. The feast was the most joyous of all. It was called "the great Hosanna" and more sacrifices were offered during this time than during any other time of the year.

This festival was preceded, on the 10th of Tisri, by the great day of atonement, the only fast day of the year prescribed by the law. On this day the people were called together by the sound of the silver trumpets. No work was to be done on this day on penalty of

the transgressor being cut off from the people. On this day the presiding high priest entered the Holy of Holies, where he sprinkled the blood of a goat which had previously been slain. Another goat, after the sins of the people had been confessed over it and the guilt, so to speak, transferred to it, was let loose in the wilderness. Thus the atonement of our Lord was typified and set before the eyes of the people. Through the death of one, the other was made free.

The first day of the month Tisri, corresponding to our October, was the commencement of the civil year. This was also announced by the sounds of the silver trumpets. On this day no work was to be done and sacrifices were presented before the Lord.

Other yearly festivals are later. These are the feast of purim and the feast of dedication. The first falls on the month Adar (March) and commemorates the victory of Mordecai over Haman, when this Babylonian minister plotted the destruction of the captive Jews; the second is celebrated in remembrance of the re-establishment of the worship of God in Jerusalem, after the defeat of the tyrant Antiochus Epiphanes. It was held for eight days from the 25th of Kislev (December), and is also known as the feast of lights, from the illuminations which were customary at that festival.

Besides these yearly festivals, every seventh year was a Sabbath year. The land lay untilled and the fruits were not gathered during that year. What grew spontaneously was for the poor. The people were free, during this year, to engage in commerce, build, or hunt and fish as usual. But the land was to rest, and the poor were to have the benefit of the products of the soil. Moses predicts (Lev. xxvi: 34, 35) that the people should soon disregard the law concerning the Sabbath year, and that this would be one of the reasons, why they would be scattered among their enemies, and this prediction was literally fulfilled. After the return from Babylon, the law was again observed and many of the Jews today, in Palestine, particularly around Hebron, scrupulously observe it.

Every fiftieth year, moreover, was a year of jubilee. This year was announced on the 10th of Tisri, the day of atonement, and was, indeed, a jubilee year. Then all servants and all slaves were set free. All land and all houses in the cities of the Levites which had been sold during the preceding fifty years, were returned to the sellers, except such property as had been consecrated to the Lord. All mortgaged lands, too, were released

without charge. The year of jubilee was therefore a complete type of the millennial dispensation, yet to come, according to the predictions of the prophets.

The tendency of all these festivals was clearly to unite the people in a holy brotherhood and to separate them from the heathen. They preserved the memory of past mercies and illustrated the holiness of their God. They preserved the Israelites from the corrupting influences of incessant application of their minds to worldly pursuits and they were calculated to lighten the burdens of the poor. They, finally, suggested many spiritual truths, to be revealed in greater fullness in later dispensations.

In conclusion, we may say of the law of Moses, that the whole system is one grand lesson, eminently suited to the condition of the people to whom it was first given, and a close study of its provisions is instructive to all nations. To the religious it manifests the wisdom of Jehovah in adapting his laws to the conditions of the people to whom they are given.

PROGRESSIVE ANTI-"MORMONS."

UNDER the head of "What the Gentiles have accomplished among the Mormons of Salt Lake City," Pomeroy's *Advance Thought* makes the following statement of facts:

"That anti-Mormon government has increased the city taxes three hundred per cent. The city recorder has turned out a defaulter. Nine gambling houses and thirty-one houses of prostitution have been opened there since the great anti-Mormon movement struck its gate. At this rate, Salt Lake City will soon be as big a hot-bed for vice, crime and dissipation as is Denver or New York City."

Commenting on this the *Jamestown, N. Y., Sun* says:

"At this rate Utah will soon be ready for admission into the Union, and be a leader of fashion in Washington."

AN INTERESTING DISCOVERY.

A SHORT time since a telegram from Leadville, Colorado, stated that a man named John Sanger had brought to that city an arrow head, made of tempered copper, and a number of human bones, which were found in a mine, 450 feet below the surface of the earth, imbedded in a vein of silver-bearing ore. Over \$100 worth of ore clung to the bones when they were removed from the mine. The arrow head is four inches long and 1½ inches wide at the widest part. The shank is 1½ inches long and has a hole pierced through the center by which the shaft was fastened to the spike. The ore clung to it when taken from the vein, and was with some difficulty removed. One of