

**FAMOUS FROSTS AND FROST
FAIRS IN GREAT BRITAIN:
CHRONICLED FROM THE
EARLIEST TO THE PRESENT TIME**

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Famous Frosts and Frost Fairs in Great Britain: Chronicled from the Earliest to the Present Time
by William Andrews

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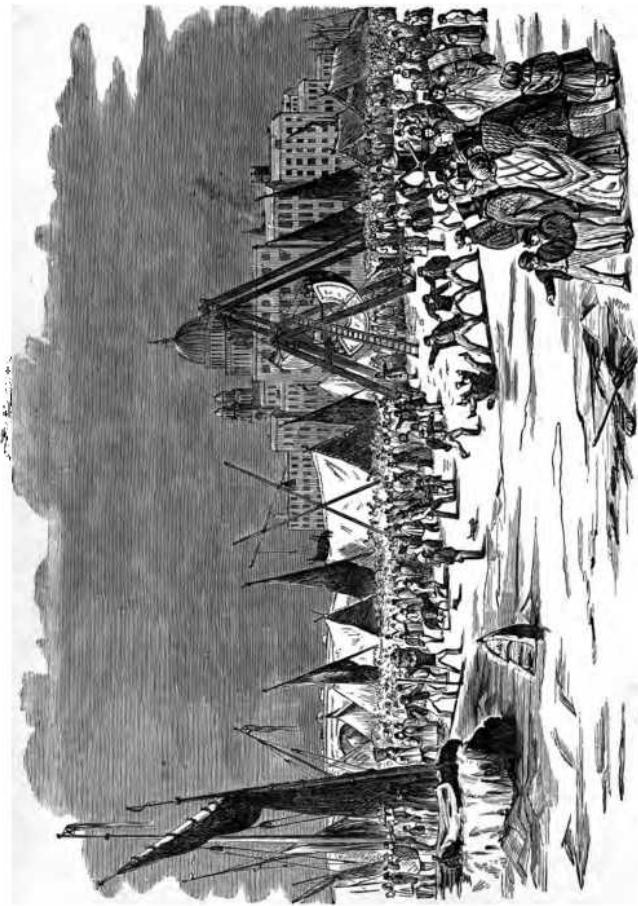
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WILLIAM ANDREWS

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FIRST FAIR ON THE RIVER THAMES, IN 1844.

FAMOUS FROSTS
AND
FROST FAIRS
IN
GREAT BRITAIN.

Chronicled from the Earliest to
the Present Time.

BY
WILLIAM ANDREWS, F.R.H.S.,
Author of "Historic Romance," "Modern Yorkshire Poets," etc.

LONDON:
GEORGE REDWAY, YORK STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

1887.

ALBANY, N. Y.

63288



PREFACE.

THE aim of this book is to furnish a reliable account of remarkable frosts occurring in this country from the earliest period in our Annals to the present time. In many instances, I have given particulars as presented by contemporary writers of the scenes and circumstances described.

In the compilation of this Chronology, several hundred books, magazines, and newspapers, have been consulted, and a complete list would fill several pages. I must not, however, omit to state that I have derived much valuable information from a scarce book printed on the Ice of the River Thames, in the year 1814, and published under the title of "Frostiana." I have gleaned information from the late Mr. Cornelius Walford's "Famines of the World," which includes a carefully prepared summary of "The Great Frosts of History." Some of the poems in my pages, bibliographical notes and facts, are culled from Dr. Rimbault's "Old Ballads Illustrating the Great Frost of 1683-4," issued by the Percy Society. It will be also observed that I have drawn curious information from Parish Registers and old Parish Accounts.

Several ladies and gentlemen have rendered me great assistance, and amongst the number must be named, with gratitude, Mfs. George Linnæus Banks, author of "The Manchester Man;" Mr. Jesse Quail, F.S.S., editor of the *Northern Daily Telegraph*; Mr. C. H. Stephenson, actor, author, and antiquary; Mr. W. H. K. Wright, F.R.H.S., editor of the *Western Antiquary*; Mr. W. G. B. Page, of the Hull Subscription

Library; Mr. Frederick Ross, F.R.H.S., and Mr. Ernest E. Baker, editor of the "Somersetshire Reprints." Mr. E. H. Coleman kindly prepared for me a long list of books and magazines containing articles on this subject. I have to thank Mr. Mason Jackson, the author of "The Pictorial Press," for kindly presenting to me the quaint cut which appears on page 29 of my work.

In 1881, the greater part of the matter contained in this book appeared in the *Bradford Times*, a well-conducted journal, under the able editorship of Mr. W. H. Hatton, F.R.H.S. The articles attracted more than local attention, and I was pressed to reproduce them in a volume, but owing to various circumstances, I have not been able to comply with the request until now. The record is now brought up to date, and many facts and particulars, gleaned since the articles appeared, have been added.

WILLIAM ANDREWS.

Rose Cottage, Hessle, Hull,
January, 1887.



Famous Frosts and Frost Fairs in Great Britain.

A.D.

- 134 THAMES frozen over for two months.
- 153 Very severe frost, lasting nearly three months.
English rivers frozen, including the Thames.
- 173 A frost lasted three months, and was followed by
a dearth.
- 220 A continuous frost of five months in Britain.
- 250 Thames frozen for nine weeks.
- 290-91 Severe frost lasted six weeks. English rivers
frozen.
- 359 The frost very severe in England and Scotland. It
lasted fourteen weeks in the latter country.

B

- 474 Four months' frost, and great snow.
- 507-8 Frost lasted two months : rivers frozen.
- 525 Thames frozen for six weeks.
- 604 A frost lasting four months, followed by dearth in Scotland : also very severe in England.
- 670 " A fatal frost."—SHORT.
- 695 Thames frozen for six weeks, and booths erected on the ice.
- 759-60 Frost from October 1st, 759, to February 26th, 760.
- 821 Great frost after two or three weeks' rain.
- 827 Thames frozen for nine weeks.
- 908 The greater part of the English rivers frozen for two months.
- 923 Thames frozen for thirteen weeks.
- 962 The frost this year was so great as to cause a famine.
- 975 Severe frost.
- 987 This year is notable for a frost lasting one hundred and twenty days.
- 998 Thames frozen for five weeks.

J. G. V. N.