

**HOLY-DAYS AND  
HOLIDAYS; OR, MEMORIES  
OF THE CALENDAR FOR  
YOUNG FOLKS**

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Holy-Days and Holidays; or, Memories of the Calendar for Young Folks by J. R. S. Clifford

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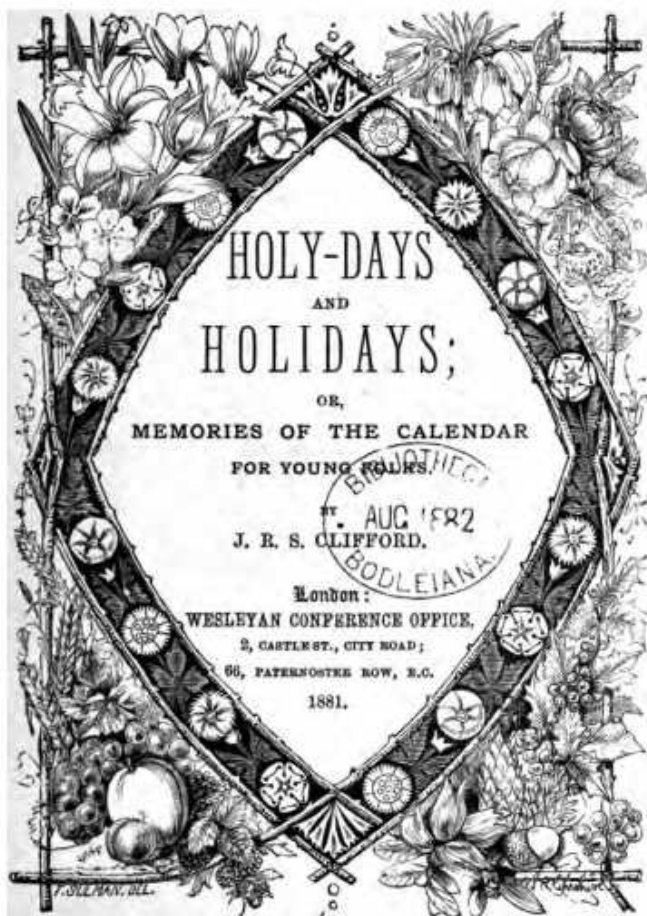
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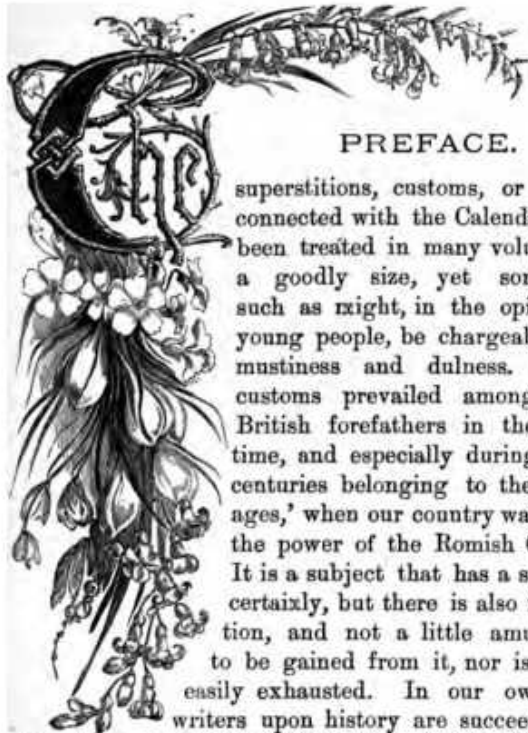
*J. G. Smith*  
1841

THE FOUR SEASONS.



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## PREFACE.

superstitions, customs, or games connected with the Calendar have been treated in many volumes of a goodly size, yet sometimes such as might, in the opinion of young people, be chargeable with mustiness and dulness. These customs prevailed amongst our British forefathers in the olden time, and especially during those centuries belonging to the 'dark ages,' when our country was under the power of the Romish Church. It is a subject that has a sad side, certainly, but there is also instruction, and not a little amusement to be gained from it, nor is it one easily exhausted. In our own day, writers upon history are succeeding in bringing many interesting facts to light which had been overlooked before; and there cannot be a doubt



that by enquiring into the habits of the people, we gain more real knowledge of the history of a nation, than from the details of battles and sieges, or the doings of warriors and statesmen. It is from the little incidents of the daily domestic, or the occasional holiday life of our ancestors, that we may picture to ourselves best what 'manner of men' they were, and see in what ways we excel them. That we do excel them we may adopt as a settled conclusion; yet there are things which if they saw, they might shake their heads wisely at us, and express surprise, that, with all our advantages, we do not know and act better in this fourth quarter of the nineteenth century.

The influence of the Bible, and the progress of civilization have done much, indeed, for the elevation of our people, and towards the chasing away of superstition and childish beliefs; but Britain has not yet become what she ought to be. Not only are there old errors that still require to be rooted up, and which hold to the ground firmly; there are, beside these, new errors (old ones dressed up afresh generally) brought in by those who would Romanise our religious and domestic life, and bring in again many of those superstitious customs our Puritan ancestors contended against, polished up or glossed over to suit the present time. Happily, the Calendar is not to the majority of us what it was to the men, women, and children of even

three hundred years ago, not to speak of a more benighted period, and in noticing some of their doings on the saints' days and other holidays, we may be interested and amused, but we shall find very little to admire or to imitate. Though we must not be too hard in our censures; our forefathers were without many of the privileges that we possess, and many of them lived honestly up to the light they had.



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