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England's May Celebrations Carry Traditions Centuries Old

Latin Service Held on May Day on Magdalen Tower, Oxford.

The folklore of the month of May is so extensive that one can scarcely do more than glance at the subject in an article of this length.

Among the many interesting observances which still survive, none is more impressive than the Latin service which is held at 6.00 a.m. on May Day on top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford. Granted a fine day, it is an unforgettable experience to gaze down upon the "city of dreaming spires" bathed in the early sunshine, whilst beneath one's feet the tall grey tower sways to the pealing of the bells.

In point of fact this particular service is said to have originated as a Requiem Mass for the soul of King Henry VII; but like the similar service held at the same hour on top of the Bargate at Southampton, it accords with the earliest traditions of thus greeting the dawn of summer.

There is no doubt that many of the customs of May Day are pre-Christian in origin, and perpetuate something of the pagan spirit even in their present form. Nowhere is this more clearly seen than in the Hobby-horsing which takes place at Minehead, Somerset, and the little Cornish town of Padstow.

The Padstow celebrations begin at midnight on April 30, when a party of men and women take their way round the town singing verses from the "Morning" song:

Unite and unite, and let us all unite,

For summer is a-com'nti day,
And whither we are going we all will unite,

In the merry morning of May.

Next day the fearsome-looking hobby-horse makes its appearance in the streets. The men who accompany the "horse" are dressed in strange and grotesque costumes. All of them wear flowers in their hats, whilst the doorways of many of the houses are decorated with green boughs. Throughout the day, the frolic continues in the streets, the horse making wild rushes wherever the crowd is thickest, and bumping against the women "for luck."

A week later, on May 8, the famous Furry Dance takes place at Helston. Here the custom has become more formalized, the men of the leading couples being attired in top hats and morning coats, and the ladies in their best frocks. Led by a brass band, the dancers traverse the town, jiggling it in through the front doors of the houses and out by the back.

Formerly the festivities of Furry Day started at 6.00 o'clock in the morning when the young people would go forth into the country to gather flowers and green boughs. About 8.00 o'clock they returned once more to town, bearing with them the symbols of summer. As they entered the streets, the Morning song was struck up to the accompaniment of a drum-and-fife band:

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Old Fortifications In Scotland Were Built By Romans

Defensive Posts Constructed Usually One Day's March Apart.

Sir George Macdonald, Edinburgh, president of the Society of Antiquaries, in a talk to St. Andrews Prehistorians on Roman Scotland, made reference to their ingenious methods of fortification.

One interesting relic, he said, was an example of an old defensive device. The Romans made holes in the ground around their forts and put in sharp spikes, which were covered over with brushwood. When the invaders rushed into the trap they were thrown into confusion and provided easy targets for missiles thrown from the ramparts. A similar device was used by Julius Caesar and Robert the Bruce, and also in the Russian-Japanese War and on the Western Front in the Great War.

The Romans built little defensive posts throughout Scotland which varied in size and were usually at intervals of a day's march. There were also camps intended for permanent occupation, and these were connected by roads. Describing the details of the forts, Sir George said that Agricola intended that every fort should be able to hold out for a year and have an adequate supply of food and arms.

One Red Rose Paid Rent For House In Buckinghamshire

Upton Court Now Restored To Its Original State.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Upton Court, Uptoncum-Chalvey, Buckinghamshire, which is for sale, was let to one of the stewards of the Royal Household at a rental of one red rose given annually.

An early record of the property shows that it was given by William the Conqueror to one Beauchamp. Since then it has been occupied by many well known families; and Herschell, the astronomer, made some of his most important discoveries from a room now called the Herschell chamber. During part of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Centuries the house was a monastery, and a party of Cistercian monks journeyed from Merton, Surrey, to take up residence at Upton Court.

The house was in the occupation of the Harewood family for about 150 years; and was visited by the late King George and Queen Mary, accompanied by Viscount Lascelles and Princess Mary (Now the Princess Royal), on June 4, 1922.

The present owner, who pur-

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CHANCELLOR PREPARES BUDGET



NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, puts the final touches to the Budget before presenting it to the House of Commons. On the left of the picture is the famous dispatch box which has carried more budgets to the House than it would care to remember.

More Saints In Cornwall Than There Are In Heaven

Upheld Christian Faith in England 1,500 Years Ago —Interesting Legends of Early Christianity.

It is an old saying that "there are more saints in Cornwall than there are in Heaven." A visitor to the Duchy observing the number of places beginning with the prefix "St." might almost feel disposed to grant this, writes A. K. Hamilton Jenkin. Though the majority of these saints are not, strictly speaking, Cornish, they are nearly all of Celtic origin, which accounts for their unfamiliar names.

During the fifth and sixth centuries, when the Romans had withdrawn from Britain, Christianity was mainly kept alive in the Celtic countries of Ireland, Wales, Cornwall and Brittany. Between these centres there was a great deal of "saintly" coming and going, for each appears to

have had grave doubts (and in many cases not without reason) of the other's orthodoxy.

The story of St. Sampson, who was a Welshman, illustrates this. About the year 521 it is said that an angel appeared to him in a vision counselling him to go overseas. Accordingly he took ship and landed near Padstow. Despite the fact that Cornwall at this time was professedly Christian, the saint on his way across the county, came upon a crowd of people worshipping an "abominable image." By a miracle he persuaded them all to be baptised and thereupon commemorated his triumph over paganism by cutting a cross in a rock which stood near by. From Cornwall he passed over to Brittany, where he

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English Rafterers Are No Longer In Much Demand

Only Four Left Now in the Port of London.

London, England.—Forty years work in peril of his life, walking over rickety, floating logs of wood in the Surrey Docks—that has been the experience of Mr. Mutimer, one of the last "rafterers" on this side of the Atlantic, writes a correspondent of the Morning Post.

"Rafterers" are the men who tie up the planks unloaded from timber vessels neatly into floating rafts to await sale. And in the old days, when many more varieties of timber used to arrive in the Thames, the occupation was a flourishing one.

"There are only four of us left now," said Mr. Mutimer, as we walked gingerly over a great stretch of floating planks, "and I shall be retiring soon. You see, there is not such a need for specialization in these days since communications are so much faster and they have so much more machinery over on the other side. Nowadays a man can order timber and get exactly what he wants, ready cut and prepared, from a ship. He couldn't do that before.

"When I started," he said, "we used to get all sorts of wood—Pensacola oak, ash, birch and elm, besides the Oregon pine, pitch pine and onslow spars, which are about all that's left now. And a modern ship can carry more on her deck alone than the old ones used to take in their holds."

Conditions are easier now than (Continued on Page 26, Col. 5)

New King of Egypt



Although he is only sixteen years old, FAROUK becomes King of Egypt in succession to his father, Fuad I., who died last week. The country will be ruled by a regency until Farouk reaches his majority.

Red Rose Tea

"is good tea"

—Always worth a little more than you pay