
Notices of Fugitive Tracts, and Chap-Books

Halliwell James Orchard

Title: Notices of Fugitive Tracts, and Chap-Books

Author: Halliwell James Orchard

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CONTENTS OF VOL. XXIX.

NOTICES OF FUGITIVE TRACTS AND CHAP-BOOKS.

EDITED BY J. O. HALLIWELL, ESQ.

THE MAN IN THE MOONE.

EDITED BY THE SAME.

THE USE OF DICE-PLAY.

EDITED BY THE SAME.

THE LOYAL GARLAND.

EDITED BY THE SAME.

POEMS AND SONGS ON THE ASSASSINATION OF
THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.

EDITED BY F. W. FAIRHOLT, ESQ.

FUGITIVE TRACTS.

A Horn-Book:



PRINTED
ABOUT 1570,
(See p. 30.)

TWO-THIRDS OF
THE ORIGINAL
SIZE.

NOTICES
OF
FUGITIVE TRACTS,
AND
CHAP-BOOKS

PRINTED AT ALDERMARY CHURCHYARD
BOW CHURCHYARD, ETC.

BY
JAMES ORCHARD HALLIWELL, ESQ., F.R.S.,
HON. M.B.I.A., HON. M.B.S.L., F.R.A.S., ETC.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR THE PERCY SOCIETY,
BY RICHARDS, 100, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

M.DCCC.XLIX.

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P R E F A C E.

ALL that has been attempted in the following pages is to give the reader a general view of a class of tracts which issued in such numbers from the presses of the publishers who supplied the chapmen of the last century. They have been selected from a large collection of such pieces in the possession of the Compiler, not because they are the most curious that might have been found, but rather that his leisure was not sufficient to permit a course of research in our public libraries. It is hoped this will be considered an adequate apology for the miscellaneous and somewhat incongruous nature of the contents of the volume.

25th April, 1849.

NOTICES OF FUGITIVE TRACTS.

1. **THE HUSBANDMAN'S PRACTICE, OR PROGNOSTICATION FOR EVER;** as teacheth Albert, Alkind, Haly and Ptolomy, with the shepherd's perpetual prognostication for the weather. 12mo. London. Printed for Will. Thackeray in Duck-lane, n.d.

IN black-letter, with wood-cuts, containing much that is curious and illustrative of old popular notions. Under this heading, "the mind of the fathers of the nature of the fire," we are told,—

"When the fire sparkleth, it betokeneth rain. When the fire giveth much flame, or else when a man taketh an hasten, and lifteth it up by the coals, and if the coals do hang thereon, that betokeneth wind and rain.

"When the cold in the winter ceaseth,
And when a man snow findeth,
If there be dark clouds thereby,
Then look for rain verily:
If the frog in the morning do cry,
Betokeneth rain great plenty."

“When the husbandman should practise, and what rule he should follow. The wise and cunning masters in astronomy have found that man may see and mark the weather of the holy Christmas-night, how the whole year after shall be in his working and doing, and they shall speak in this wise:—

“When on the Christmass night and evening it is very fair and clear weather, and is without wind and without rain, then it is a token that this year will be plenty of wine and fruit. But if the contrariwise, foul weather and windy, so shall it be very scant of wine and fruit. But if the wind arise at the rising of the sun, then it betokeneth great death among beasts and cattel this year. But if the wind rise at the going down of the same, then it signifieth death to come among kings and other great lords. But if the wind arise at north Aquilon at midnight, then betokeneth the year following to be a fruitful year and a plentiful. But if the wind do arise and blow at south Austro in the midst of the day, that wind signifieth to us daily sickness to reign and be amongst us.

“Of Christmass Day.—If Christmass Day be on the Sunday, that year shall be a warm winter, and beginning fast with sorrow; there shall be great winds and tempests. The Lent shall be mild, warm, and moist. The summer, hot, dry, and fair. The harvest, moist and cold, much like unto winter. Wine and corn shall be plenty and good, and there shall be much honey, and the sheep shall prosper well. The small seeds and fruits of gardens shall flourish also.