

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

Brief sketch of the Saxon Idols from which the Days of the Week received their names.

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THE idols which our Saxon ancestors worshipped were various; but those which are delineated in the Frontispiece, and from which the days of the week derive their names, were the principal objects of their adoration.

The Idol of the SUN.

This idol, which represented the glorious luminary of the day, was the chief object of their adoration. It is described like the bust of a man, set upon a pillar; holding with outstretched arms, a burning wheel before his breast. The first day of the week was especially dedicated to its adoration, which they termed the *Sun's daeg*; hence is derived the word SUNDAY.

The Idol of the MOON.

The next was the Idol of the MOON, which they worshipped on the second day of the week, called by them *Moon's daeg*; and since by us MONDAY.

The form of this Idol is intended to represent a woman, habited in a short coat and a hood, with two long ears. The moon which she holds in her hand designates the quality.

The Idol of TUISCO.

TUISCO was at first deified as the father and ruler of the Teutonic race, but in course of time he was worshipped as the son of the earth. From him came the Saxon words *Tuisco's daeg*, which we call TUESDAY.

He is represented standing on a pedestal, as an old venerable sage, clothed with the skin of an animal, and holding a sceptre in the right hand.

The Idol WODEN, or ODIN.

WODEN, or ODIN, was the supreme divinity of the Northern nations. This hero is supposed to have emigrated from the East, but from what country, or at what time, is not known. His exploits form the greatest part of the mythological creed of the Northern nations, and his achievements are magnified beyond all credibility. The name of the fourth day of the week, called by the Saxons *Woden's daeg*, and by us WEDNESDAY, is derived from this personage.

Woden is represented in a bold and martial attitude, clad in armour, with a broad sword uplifted, in his right hand.

The Idol THOR.

Thor, the eldest and bravest of the sons of *Woden* and *Friga*, was, after his parents, considered as the greatest god among the Saxons and