

for some crime against the gods.

They had three great annual festivals; one on the first of May, another at Midsummer, and a third on the first of November. The first was to secure the favour of the gods on the growing crops; the second, to get a good harvest; and the third, to return thanks for the same. On the evening before the last, all the people put out their fires, and the next day re-kindled them by consecrated fire from the altar, provided by the Druids.

We keep up some remains of these old festivals still, very foolishly, in the merry-makings on May-day, Midsummer-day, and All-Hallow-e'en.

Besides these festivals, they had another on their New Year's day, which is our 10th of March, for the purpose of gathering and consecrating the mistletoe. The mistletoe is a curious plant, with green berries, which grows on oak trees, and was looked on by the Druids as a sacred plant, and believed to work many wonders.

I might have told you of more of their superstitions, such as pretending to foretell future events, by examining the entrails of animals and so on, but have no more room. I cannot close, however, without asking you to think over all these dreadful cruelties and superstitions, and compare them with our present religious privileges. On the very spots where human sacrifices bled, and heathen temples stood, "the church-going bell," and the hymn of holy praise, and the sweet message of the precious gospel, now sound upon the ear.

Christ Shining on the Mountain.

Did you ever try to think how the Lord Jesus looked when he was walking about this world? There is no picture of him to be seen, but we find in the Bible that he appeared like other men. He was not bright as angels are, neither did he wear fine clothes, as princes do. If you had seen him, you would have taken him for a poor man;

you could not have told by his look that he was the Son of God, that he was the King of kings, the Creator of the world and of the sun, and of the moon, and of all the stars. We are quite sure that there was a meek, kind, gentle look in his face, because his heart was full of love. We know, also, that he was sorrowful, and that he often shed tears, and groaned, and prayed. There must have been a look of sorrow in his face.

But one day he let his friends see a wonderful change in him. He took three of his disciples to the top of a mountain; their names were Peter, James, and John. I am not sure what was the name of the mountain, but I believe it was called Tabor. When Jesus wished to be in a quiet place, he often went to a mountain, because it is not easy to climb up high places, so that it is very seldom that people come there. Why did Jesus wish to find a quiet place? Because he was going to pray to his Father in heaven. While he was praying, the disciples saw a great change in him. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as snow, and as bright as the light. There were never any clothes seen on earth so white and shining.

Two men were with Jesus. Where had they come from? From heaven. They were two men who had lived upon the earth a long while ago, and who had been taken to heaven; and now they were come down to talk with the Lord Jesus. One of these men was named Moses; he had once died, and God had buried him. The other man was Elijah; he had never died, but had gone to heaven in a chariot of fire; he had been carried by bright angels into heaven. And what were these men talking about? They were speaking about a very sad and sorrowful thing that would soon happen—about Jesus being nailed to the cross for our sins. How sweet it must be to listen to heavenly men, and to hear them talk with the Son of God!