

Puss on the hearth, with velvet paws,
Sits wiping o'er her whiskered jaws :—
'Twill surely rain, I see, with sorrow ;
Our jaunt must be put off to-morrow.

THE GREGORIAN CALENDAR.

The Julian calendar was framed about 46 years before Christ. Cæsar made the year consist of 365 days ; and the annual excess of 6 hours, which amounted to one day in four years, was taken into account by making every fourth year (leap-year) consist of 366 days. But Cæsar's correction of the calendar was imperfect, being founded on the supposition that the solar year consisted of 365 days and 6 hours, whereas the true solar year consists of 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and $45\frac{1}{2}$ seconds. Thus the Julian year exceeded the solar 11 minutes and $14\frac{1}{2}$ seconds,—which amounted to a whole day in 130 years. In consequence of this inaccuracy, the vernal equinox, which happened on the 25th of March in the time of Julius Cæsar, had receded to the 21st of March in the year 325, and was fixed to that day by the Council of Nice. Attempts were afterwards made to effect some change in the calendar ; but a complete reformation was not made until 1582. Pope Gregory XIII. invited to

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