

Another curious superstition concerning clover belongs to the vicinity of Altenburg. It is held there, that if a farmer take home with him a handful of clover from the four corners of his neighbour's field, all will go well with his cattle during the year.

Clover has some reputation as a weather-prophet. "Trefoile, or Clovergrasse, against stormy and tempestuous weather," says an old writer, "will seem rough and rise up, as if it were afraid of an assault." Pliny also tells how clover leaves were influenced by storms.

THE LEEK, which forms the national emblem of Wales, has, at least, an ancient and useful history to boast of. It was the food of the poor in Egypt, as we learn by an inscription on one of the Pyramids. The phrase "to eat the leek," it has been suggested, may naturally enough have taken its rise from this early connection with poverty. The adoption of the plant, as the national device of Wales, commonly worn by Welshmen on St. David's Day, the 1st of March, has been accounted for in various ways. According to some, it is because the leek possesses the old Cymric colours, green and white. Others affirm it to be in memory of a great victory obtained over the Saxons. It is said that during the conflict the Welshmen, obeying the command of St. David, put leeks into their hats to distinguish between themselves and their foes.

To quote the *Cambria*, of Rolt, 1759,—

— "Tradition's tale
 Recounting tells how famed Menevia's priest
 Marshalled his Britons, and the Saxon host
 Discomfitted, how the green *leek* his bands
 Distinguished, since by Britons annual worn,
 Commemorates their tutelary saint.

Shakespeare gives a different account of the origin of the practice. According to him it dates from the battle of Crecy. In the play of Henry V., Fluellin addressing the monarch, says,—
 "Your grandfather, of famous memory, an't please your Majesty, and your great uncle, Edward the Black Prince of Wales, as I have read in the chronicles, fought a most prave pattle here in France.

"*King*.—They did, Fluellin!

"*Fluellin*.—Your Majesty says very true; if your Majesty is remembered of it, the Welshmen did goot service in a garden where leeks did grow, wearing leeks in their Monmouth caps, which your Majesty knows to this hour is an honourable padge of the service; and I do pelieve your Majesty takes no scorn to wear leek on St. Tavy's Day."

Mr. Robert Chambers, however, in his "Book of Days," takes a very commonplace view of the adoption of the leek as the Welsh emblem. "Perhaps," he says, "the English, if not the Welsh reader, will pardon us for expressing our inclination to believe that the custom had no romantic origin whatever, but merely