

a season ruled the realm of pleasure as absolutely as the monarch whom he counterfeited and partly supplanted ruled the State. Mr. Francis Vivian, who was Lord of Misrule or Christmas Prince in the reign of Charles I., spent £2,000, equivalent probably to \$100,000 now, on the maintenance of his mock dignity, besides his allowance from the Crown. To all this the more serious and austere spirit which was then gaining ascendancy in Merrie England was fatal, and the Restoration, though it brought back the May-pole, failed to revive such laborious and thoroughly antiquated tomfoolery as the reign of the Lord of Misrule. "Our Christmas Lords of Misrule," says Prynne, "together with dancing, masques, mummeries, stage-playing, and such other Christmas disorders now in use with Christians were derived from these Roman Saturnalia and Bacchanalian festivals, which should cause all pious Christians eternally to abominate them." The words are quoted in Mr. Hervey's "Book of Christmas," where all the lore concerning the Lord of Misrule will be found. Prynne is right in connecting the reign of Misrule, morally at least, with the Saturnalia; it was not only a vast "spree," but, like the Saturnalia, a temporary relief from the rigidities of social arrangements and a sort of social safety-valve at the same time. Another festival which used to be kept in England when the writer was a boy, and which had a strong and most pathetic tinge of the Saturnalia, was the festival of the chimney sweeps on the first of May. Those hapless boys, mostly parish apprentices, and the lowest and most miserable slaves of civiliza-