

of Midian, on the opposite side of the Red Sea. Having been introduced into the family of Jethro, the priest of the country, by helping his daughters to water their flocks, he marries the eldest, whose name was Zipporah. One day, about forty years after his arrival in Midian, while tending his father-in-law's flock in Horeb, he beholds the extraordinary sight of a bush burning but not consumed. He goes near to examine what it could be, when a voice from the midst of the bush calls to him, "Moses, Moses, draw not nigh hither; put off thy shoes from off thy feet; for the place where thou standest is holy ground. I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." The voice then, after referring to the distressed condition of the children of Israel in Egypt, commands the Hebrew shepherd of Midian to go forth to their deliverance. After many objections on the part of Moses, which were all obviated by the Angel of the Lord, and after having been invested with the power of working miracles, he quits the sheep-fold, bids farewell to his father-in-law, and returns to Egypt on his important mission.

THE IDOLATRY OF OUR ANCESTORS.

Nothing is recorded in history concerning Britain, till the landing of Julius Cæsar, about fifty years before the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The religion of Britain at that period was the superstition of the Druids.—The Druids were the priests of the Island. They worshipped Mercury as a chief deity, and had various images in honor of him, as the inventor of all arts, and the guide and protector of their journeys and marches. They worshipped Apollo, as the healer of their diseases. They believed that Minerva laid the foundation of works of art and manufactures. They ascribed to Mars the government of war: and sacrificed to his honor all the cattle which they obtained by their victories, and the spoils of their enemies. Many cities were conspicuously adorned with large heaps

of these trophies, in consecrated places; those were regarded with such superstitious reverence, that they were seldom secreted or pillaged: such a crime subjected the guilty person to torture and the severest punishment.

The Saxons, (who monopolized this country) had a great number of idols, the names of which are perpetuated in the names of our days. They set up an image or *Idol* to the *Sun*, which they worshipped on the day attributed to it, namely, *Sunday*.

They had another *Idol* to represent the *Moon*. This *Idol* claimed peculiar devotions on her day, called *Moon-day*, now *Monday*.

Tuys or *Tuisco*, was worshipped, from whence our *Tuesday* is denominated.

Woden, this *Idol* was set up in memory of one of their victorious princes. To him they offered human sacrifices. They ascribe to him a day, namely, *Wodensday*, now *Wednesday*.

Thor, another of their *Idols*, they worshipped on *Thorsday*, now *Thursday*.

They dedicated to *Friga*, or *Frea*, the sixth, called *Freasday*, now *Friday*.

For the worship of *Seatar*, they appointed the seventh day of the week, calling it *Seatarsday*, now *Saturday*.

They had another *Idol* resembling the image of *Death*: they called him *Flint*. Before his shrine they executed or sacrificed offenders for extraordinary crimes.

An ancient writer, Dr. Playfere, in a sermon preached before the University of Cambridge, in the year 1573, says, "Before the preaching of the gospel of Christ, no church here existed, but the temple of an *Idol*; no priesthood but that of paganism; no God but the Sun, the Moon, or some hideous image. To the cruel rites of the Druidical worship succeeded the abominations of the Roman idolatry. In Scotland stood the temple of Mars; in Cornwall, the temple of Mercury; in Bangor, the temple of Minerva; at Malden, the temple of Victoria; in Bath, the temple of Apollo; at Leicester, the temple of Janus; at