

---

# THE QUEBEC MAGAZINE

---

FOR APRIL 1793.

---



MAY POLE, and APRIL FOOL.

An account of two Hindu festivals, the Bhava'ni' and Huli from the Asiatic researches.

In a letter from Colonel Pearse to the Society in Bengal.

I BEG leave to point out to the Society, that the *Sunday* before last was the Festival of BHAVA'NI' which is annually celebrated by the *Gopas* and all other *Hindus*, who keep horned cattle for use or profit: on this feast they visit gardens, erect a pole in the fields, and adorn it with pendants and garlands. The *Sunday* before last was our *first of May*, on which the same rites are performed by the same class of people in *England*, where it is well known to be a relique of ancient superstition in that country: it should seem, therefore, that the religion of the East and the old religion of *Britain* had a strong affinity. BHAVA'NI' has another festival; but that is not kept by any one set of *Hindus* in particular, and this is appropriated to one class of people: this is constantly held on the *ninth of Baisac'h*; which does not always fall on our *first of May*, as it did this year. Those members of the Society, who are acquainted with the rules, which regulate the festivals, may be able to give better information concerning this point: I only mean to point out the resemblance of the rites performed here and in *England*, but must leave abler hands to investigate the matter further, if it should be thought deserving of the trouble. I find, that the festival, which I have mentioned, is one of the most ancient among the *Hindus*.

During the *Huli*, when mirth and festivity reign among *Hindus* of every class, one subject of diversion is to send people on errands and expeditions, that are to end in disappointment, and raise a laugh at the expense of the person sent. The *Huli* is always in *March*, and the last day is the greatest holiday; all the *Hindus*, who are on that day at *Jagannat'h*, are entitled to certain distinctions, which they hold to be of such importance, that I found it expedient to stay there till the end of the festival; and I am of