



Keeping Christmas: A Christmas Card (Classic Reprint) (Paperback)

By Goldwin Smith

Forgotten Books, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from Keeping Christmas: A Christmas Card 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 con necting 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 civilization, had that one privileged day of merriment and feast ing in the year. They used to dance on the lawn round Jack in the Green, clattering their brushes and wooden shovels, after which they were regaled by the charitable with beef and plum pudding. Happily that caste of misery and degradation has now ceased...



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