

CH. 7.
Peculiar Customs that prevail among the Common People at
Ford on the several undormentioned Days.

1. On Thros-Tuesday the School boys are allowed to fight sack a Cock upon paying the School-master a penny; The Boy's Cock who wins the most Battles gives the Boy the Title of Victor; the Boy, whose Cock is second, is call'd the Victor's Man.— On Palm-Saturday the Victor has the Honor of running for the Church about a Mile & back again attended by his Man; the rest of the Boys run thrice about the Church with long Palm Rods in their Hands, & then set off in pursuit of the Victor: & if they overtake him before he reaches the Church again, 'tis well if he escapes a severe flogging, tho' his Man or Second ^{Man} ~~to~~ ward off the Blows as much as possible.
2. On Thros-Tuesday likewise in the Evening a Collection is made to purchase a Foot-ball, when the Married Men play a match ag^t the unmarried; the married Men play tow^d the Church, & the unmarried for it.— Before they begin, they oblig^e all that are married the preceding Year to jump or wade through a wide, deep, watry Hole, w^{ch} they call the Handy Loup. Whoever refuses, is not allow'd that Year to play at Foot-ball amongst his Companions.
3. On Easter-Tuesday they assemble in the Street join'd by many from the neighbouring Villages, where they form a Ring, & having all danc'd till they are satisfy'd, Two female Combatants are singled out to dance with each other as long as they can: a Pidgeon decorated with various kinds of Ribbands is held up by the Foot all the time they are dancing; w^{ch} Ribbands are the prize divid'd between the Combatants.— This they call the Low-dancing.— The Evening they spend in Merriment & Feasting.
4. On Midsummer-Eve they ~~use~~ to have a great Collection of Horses Bones, with w^{ch} they make a Bone-fire on an Eminence above the Village— a Custom now almost forgot.
5. On All-Saints-Eve, commonly call'd nut-crack-night, the young Fellows generally meet in a Body, & after robbing all the Cabbage-yards they can, they have a Gothic Custom of throwing the Cabbages down People's Chimneys— w^{ch} is often attended with dangerous Consequences.— This Custom prevails in many Parts in Scotland & in the neighbouring Villages.