

For release  
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May Day! In former times May Day was widely celebrated; it was a public holiday, and all classes, young and old, went early to the woods bringing back branches of trees and flowers, and a May-pole of birch. In this case the pole was temporarily set up, but in larger towns, the May-pole was permanent. As May Day was generally considered the end of winter and beginning of summer, another feature was a mock battle between one party of young folks representing the waning winter and another the more vigorous and coming summer. Both sides were gaily and appropriately attired to represent the two opposing seasons. This drama always ended by the triumph of summer.

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