

fourth, an event happened which put an end to this joyous festival. A letter arrived from Lucius, the procurator or ruler of Rome, upbraiding Arthur for his conquest of Gaul, and commanding him to pay tribute to the Roman senate. It also told him to come immediately to Rome to answer for his conduct.

This message caused the utmost indignation. The festival was at once broken up, and Arthur called a meeting of all the tributary kings and British princes, to consult with him as to what answer should be sent to Rome. It did not take long for them to decide as to what this answer should be. One and all said that the only reply to such a message was a declaration of war.

The utmost enthusiasm prevailed among the princes. They were all eager to go and fight against Rome. Everyone promised to support Arthur. "We will fight for you, whether we conquer or whether we die," was the cry of them all.

It was not long before the army was ready. Britain was left in the care of Modred, Arthur's nephew, as Arthur himself went to Rome to lead his army in person.

Once more good fortune attended all he did. In every fight he was successful. Every plan