

A wider world.—The world of the Romans comprised little except the basin of the Mediterranean. The Romans nowhere penetrated very far inland. Africa, except for a narrow strip along the north coast, was a region of unknown horrors; Asia, with the exception of Asia Minor, was not much better known; and Europe itself, with the exception of its three southern peninsulas, with France, part of Britain, and a small part of Germany, was unconquered. Compare the extent of the British Empire.

Cæsar.—Caius Julius Cæsar is perhaps the greatest name in history. He lived in the latter days of the Republic, was a great military leader, as well as author, orator and statesman. He conquered Gaul, invaded Britain, defeated the party of his rival Pompeius in a great civil war, and was successful in all his military undertakings. He gained almost despotic power at Rome, but was assassinated by the Republican party. Soon after his death, his adopted son, Julius Cæsar Octavianus, became the first Emperor of Rome. All the succeeding emperors also took the title of Cæsar. Notice how the same word appears in the modern "Kaiser" and "Czar."

Where his eagles never flew.—The eagle was called by the ancients the "bird of Jove." It was borne on the Roman standard. Many modern nations, as France under the Bonapartes, Russia, Prussia, Austria, the United States, etc., have adopted it as their national emblem.

Empire is on us bestowed.—It was not the race of Boadicea, however, *i.e.*, the Celtic race (to which the British belonged), that was destined to reach glories. On the contrary, the British was overcome by the English (Angles and Saxons) and it is *their* descendants who have built up the present mighty British Empire. Are you disposed to criticize the poet's representation of the matter?

III.—QUESTIONS AND EXERCISES.

- I. (1) What personages are represented in this poem?
- (2) Describe each of them fully. (2) Why should the Queen seek counsel of the gods? (4) Describe the feeling of the Queen on approaching the Druid. (5) Describe the scene of their meeting.
- (6) What do we know of Boadicea from the poem; what from history? (7) With what feelings does the Queen regard the Druid? (8) What feelings throng through the mind of the priest?
- (9) What curse did he pronounce? (10) How was cursing looked upon in ancient times? (11) What effect had the Druid's words upon the Queen? (12) Does she misunderstand his prophecy? (13) Do you sympathize with Boadicea or with the Romans, and why?