

BRITISH HISTORY NOTES.

THE ROMAN PERIOD.

55 B.C.-410 A.D.

Characteristics.—The introduction of the arts of peace; the opening up of the country; and the maintaining of law and order.

1. **The Ancient Britons** were the people who inhabited the country now called Britain, before the beginning of the Christian era. They were a brave and hardy race, living on flesh and milk, and dressing in the skins of animals. They were divided into many tribes, but in times of danger all united under a common leader. Their religion was called **Druidism**, and their priests, known as **Druids**, were really the rulers of the people. They worshipped one God, but such objects of nature as the sun, the moon, and the oak, shared their veneration. They offered many human sacrifices.

2. **The Roman Conquest.**—To punish the Britons for assisting the Gauls, and to extend the Roman empire, **Julius Cæsar** invaded Britain in 55 B.C. The Romans, under **Claudius**, came again in 43 A.D., and gradually conquered the country, putting the Druids to death. The Britons struggled nobly under **Caractacus**, and then under **Boadicea**, to defend their homes, but the arms of Rome prevailed. Caractacus was taken a prisoner to Rome,