

easily believe what we are told of the effects upon the minds of Donnacona and his warriors. They thought the very heavens were about to tumble down upon them, which made them take to shewing their feelings by howls and loud cries.

13. Two days later, Cartier chose about 50 of his followers to go with him, in the *Emérillon*. He wished to visit another Indian town called *Hochelaga*. He was told that it was not safe to venture up the river so far, and that those who went would perish. In fact, Donnacona tried to prevent Cartier from going. But the pious French captain would not be guided by him, and said that "God would guard all true believers from all danger."

However, Taiguragny and Domagaya pretended to be afraid, and said they would stay with Donnacona rather than go with Cartier to *Hochelaga*. These two young men were far from being true to the French.

14. On Sept. 19th, Cartier began his passage to *Hochelaga*. As the *Emérillon* and two barges moved up the river many savages were seen on the banks. They did not appear to be unfriendly.

In that part of the river, now called *Lake St. Peter*, the *Emérillon* several times ran aground. Cartier's party, therefore, finished their passage in two barges. About a fortnight was spent on the way to *Hochelaga*.

15. This Indian town was found to have about one thousand inhabitants. It was near the site of the modern city of Montreal.

## HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

### The Sovereigns of England.

#### THE EARLY KINGS.

We know very little of the kings who ruled in Britain before the Romans, led by Julius Cæsar, invaded the country; but we read that they fought very bravely, and that some of them were taken to Rome as captives. The Romans stayed in Britain for about 400 years; but in the year 428, the Emperor Honorius, being greatly troubled in his own country, sent for all the Roman soldiers who were in Britain, and they never came back again. The people of the southern part of his country, being left to themselves, chose several kings, who quarrelled very much among themselves, and several of the kings were murdered. At length they agreed that Vortigern should be the King of South Britain. Ever since the Romans had left, the Picts and the Scots, who lived in the north country, which we now call Scotland, had been in the habit of coming into England, robbing and killing; and as the Britons were not able to resist them, King Vortigern asked some of the principal Saxon tribes, called Saxons, Danes, and Jutes, who inhabited Germany and Denmark, to come over and help to drive back the Picts and Scots. The Saxons thought that they should like to come to such a fine country as England, and two of their chiefs, Hengist and Horsa, landed with an army on the Isle of Thanet, in Kent. They were soon followed by others; and in the year 450, twenty-two years after the Romans had left, King Vortigern married Rowena, the niece of Hengist, and made that chief King of Kent. The Britons soon found that they were worse off with the Saxons than they had been with the Picts; for those who came to help wished to be masters, and when asked to return to their own country, refused, and defeated the Britons in several battles. For about 130 years there was terrible fighting. Some of the British chiefs, especially, it is supposed, Arthur, about whom and his Knights of the Round Table so many interesting stories have been told, fought very bravely against the Saxons; but their courage was useless, for fresh armies continually arrived, and at length the Britons were driven into Cambria (now called Wales) and Cornwall, where for several hundred years they struggled as well as they could to keep their freedom. About the year 585 the Saxons, having conquered all the rest of the country, agreed to give the name of England, that is, the country of the Angles, to the seven kingdoms—Kent, the South Saxons, the West Saxons, the East Saxons, Northumberland, East Anglia, and Mercia—which they had established. Northumberland was afterwards, for some time, divided into two kingdoms, Deira and Bernicia; but the seven kingdoms first established were known as the Heptarchy. It generally happened, however, that one king was stronger than the others, and so was called King of England, or the Bretwalda, an old word meaning the same thing. The names of the kings who were so called were Hengist, King of Kent; Ella, Cerdic, Kenrick, and Ceaulin, Kings of the West Saxons; Ethelbert, King of Kent; Redwald, King of the East Angles; Edwin, Oswald, and Oswy, Kings of Northumberland; Wolfhere, Ethelred, Kenred, Ceolred, Ethelbald, Offa (who was born lame, deaf, and blind), Egfrid and Renwulf, Kings of Mercia; and Egbert, King of the West Saxons. This last king was so powerful that he subdued the rest, became the

first sole king of all England, and was solemnly crowned at Winchester in 827.

In the year 596 the Pope sent Augustine to teach Christianity in England, where the people except some of the native British, who, in Wales and Cornwall, preserved the Christian faith—were sad heathens. He was well received by Ethelbert, King of Kent, whose wife, Queen Bertha, daughter of Chilperic, King of France, was a Christian, and had a little church, which still stands, near Canterbury. Augustine converted the king and many of the nobles, and in the course of a few years all the kings of the seven kingdoms professed to be Christians, and abolished the worship of Odin and Thor, and the sun and moon, which they had practised.

Soon after Egbert had united all England into one kingdom, there came a new trouble, which for nearly 200 years kept England in a state of war, and caused such terrible doings that we would rather not relate them all in full. The Danes—that is, the people of the countries now known as Denmark and Norway—had long watched with envy the success of the Saxons in this country, and being a very brave race, and used to the sea, they determined to invade England, drive out the Saxons, and obtain the country for themselves. The "sea-kings," as they were called, had made themselves very terrible to the other northern nations, for they would send their ships suddenly to parts of the coast where the people were rich, and land warriors, who murdered the inhabitants and carried off their wealth. They had, before Egbert was crowned, twice visited in this alarming manner the English coasts; and soon after he was King of all England, made their appearance in great force in Dorsetshire, and were not driven back until after a great battle. Egbert died in 838, having been twenty-six years King of the West Saxons, and ten years King of England; and was succeeded by his son Ethelwolf who, dying in 857, was followed on the throne by his four sons in this order: Ethelbald, Ethelbert, Ethelred I., and Alfred the Great. During their reigns there were frequent battles with the Danes, who landed many times, and several severe battles were fought, respecting which we shall say something when we are writing about Alfred. Edward the Elder was the eldest son of Alfred, and succeeded to the throne; and Athelstan, Edmund I., and Edred, three of his sons, were the next kings. Then came Edway and Edgard, sons of King Edmund, and Edward II., son of Edgar, generally called the Martyr, because he was murdered at Corfe Castle, Dorsetshire, by his step-mother, Queen Elfrida, who, however afterwards professed great penitence, and shut herself up in a nunnery for the rest of her days. Edward's half-brother, Ethelred II., succeeded him; and in his reign the Danes were so troublesome that he was glad to pay them very large sums of money to keep them away. This tribute was called the Danegelt, or the Dane's gold. Two very powerful Danish chiefs, Sweyn and Canute, several times landed and subdued a great part of the kingdom. Sweyn was proclaimed King of England, but was killed at Thetford, in Norfolk, and Canute was also proclaimed king; but Ethelred was able to regain his throne. After his death, his son Edmund II., or Ironside, was proclaimed king in one part of England, and Canute in another; and after several battles they agreed to divide the kingdom. When Edmund died, Canute succeeded to the throne. His sons, Harold I. and Hardicanute, were the other Danish kings; and then Edward III., the Confessor, seventh son of the Saxon King Ethelred, was chosen to be king. He promised William, Duke of Normandy, that he should be his successor; but when he died, in 1066, Harold, son of Godwin, Earl of Kent, a very powerful nobleman, and much liked by the people declared himself king, and was crowned at Oxford. The Duke of Normandy was determined to assert his right, and landed with a large army at Pevensey, in Sussex. Harold opposed him, but was killed at the battle of Hastings, on the 14th of October, 1066; and Duke William, thenceforth called William the Conqueror, became King of England.

#### ALFRED THE GREAT.

Born at Wantage, in Berkshire, 849. Died at Farrington, in Berkshire, 901. Reigned 33 years.

There is no king of England of whom we are all prouder than Alfred. When only five years old he was taken by his father to Rome, and there probably gained that love for learning which through his life he exhibited. During the reign of his brother, Ethelbert, the Danes frequently ravaged the country; and when Ethelred was king, young Alfred, then only seventeen years of age, assisted him in his efforts to drive them out of the country. There were nine great battles in one year, in most of which Alfred was engaged; and there may still be seen, rudely cut out of the chalk on a hill-side in Berkshire, an immense figure of a horse, which keeps in remembrance a great victory which Ethelred and Alfred obtained over the Danes at that spot. The white horse was painted on the Saxon standard, as a raven was on the Danish; and the valley at the foot of the hill is still