BRIEF HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

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I.—THE ROMAN PERIOD.

55 B.C. to 410 A.D.

LEADING FEATURES: Britain a Roman province for three centuries and a half-The Britons unable to defend themselves when the Romans withdrew.

1. The Celts who inhabited Britain were disturbed in the year 55 B.C. by the arrival of Roman soldiers under Julius Caesar. The Roman Period of British history then began. It lasted four hundred and sixtyfive years.

2. It was not until the reign of Claudius, 43 A.D., that the Romans gained any decided success in Britain. Shortly after that time, 51 51 A.D., a brave British chief, named Carádoc or Caractacus (Ca-A.D. răc-ta-cus), was defeated and taken prisoner; and the Druids, as the priests of the Britons were called, were expelled from Mona (Anglesey).

3. Agricola was the chief Roman governor of Britain. During seven years (78-85 A.D.) he held power; and, having invaded Caledonia 84 (Scotland), he defeated a chief named Gal'gacus in the Battle of A.D. Mons Grampius, or Graupius, 84 A.D.

4. The Romans built several walls across Britain, to secure their conquests from the attacks of the Picts or Caledonians. The 121 principal of these were the Wall of Hadrian, 1 from the Tyne to A.D. the Solway Firth (121 A.D.); and the Wall of Antonine,2 from 140 the Forth to the Clyde (140 A.D.). In 208 the Roman Emperor A.D. Severus (Se-vē'rus) marched through Caledonia, as far as to the Moray Firth.

¹ Wall of Hadrian. - Afterwards repaired and strengthened by Severus; | the emperor, Antonine's Wall: and, in in later times called The Picts' Wall.

² Wall of Antonine.—Called, after later times, Grime's Dyke.