



THE DATE PALM OF THE EAST.

notably St. Martin's, Canterbury, St. Mary's in Dover Castle, and the ruins of Perranzabuloe. And the British Christians had won over not a few of their pagan lords to the faith, for Christians were found among the household officers of Constantius—though it is true the numerous relics of Roman occupation unearthed from time to time from the sites of villas and temples, do not yield many emblems of Christianity.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE ROMANS, A. D. 410.

This was the condition of the island when our story proper opens with the evacuation of the Roman garrisons. The mistress of the world had for nearly two centuries been showing symptoms of decay. Her home population was depleted by her wars of foreign conquest and domestic faction, and their resources exhausted by fiscal exactions. Brigandage and piracy were rampant, and incursions of northern barbarians harassing her coasts were taxing all her means of defence.

It was necessary to concentrate the scattered legions for the protection of the empire. Under these critical circumstances the Emperor Honorius determined to abandon some of the outlying provinces, and in A. D. 410 withdrew from Britain the whole staff of Imperial officers and the 20,000 troops that formed the garrison.

With the court and the military establishment, the Roman residents of wealth and pleasure also naturally withdrew, and Britain, no longer a province of the Empire, was left to its own resources. The result was very disastrous. Accustomed for no less than 300 years to be governed by a strong and able administration the British had lost the power of self government: they had no organization of any kind; indeed, they were constitutionally incapable of combination except in presence of a common foe for the defence of their loved hearths and homes, and they speedily fell into a state of disintegration. In addition to this misfortune, the disturbed state of Europe, coupled with the withdrawal of the strong protection of Roman arms and Roman fleets, put a serious stop to trade and commerce with the continent.

The communication, however, which had been from the beginning so constant between the Churches of Britain and Gaul, was still maintained for a few years longer.

PELAGIAN HERESY, A. D. 429.

It was not quite twenty years after the withdrawal of the Romans, that a danger threatening the faith of the Church was the occasion of renewed intercourse between them. The Pelagian heresy had found its way into Britain and threatened to spread seriously there, not only from the circumstance that its founder Morgan, *i.e.* "seaborn" (Latin *Pelagius*) being a fellow countryman, but because its fundamental principle, an exaggerated idea of the human will, had formed a feature in the teaching and traditions of the Druids.

GERMANUS AND LUPUS.

The British Church was conscious of a lack of learning in its own clergy to meet and confute the subtleties of the new doctrine, and therefore appealed for assistance to the Gallican Bishops—the monasteries of Gaul being at this time distinguished for learning and the cultivation of literature. The Church thus appealed to convened a Synod and deputed Germanus, Bishop of Auxerre, and Lupus, Bishop of Troyes, to visit Britain. They crossed the Channel in a storm in the winter of A. D. 429; and on landing preached incessantly—in churches, at cross-roads and in the open country—and always with great success. The Pelagian teachers for a time shrunk from an encounter with these apologists of the truth, and when at length they ventured upon a public disputation, the result was a triumphant vindication of the Faith.

Two incidents in the mission of S. S. Germanus and Lupus are of special interest—their visit to the shrine of St. Alban the Verulam, and their routing of a host of Picts and Scots, who had come down to attack the British army, just baptized, by the simple ruse of placing a body of men in ambush and instructing them, at given signal, simultaneously to raise three times the shout "*Hallelujah*."

GERMANUS AND SEVERUS, A. D. 447.

This mission lasted about two years; but in A.