

treasures, conjointly with his own daughter, in expectation of securing thereby Nero's protection for his family and people; but he was no sooner dead than the Emperor's officers seized all. Boadicea's opposition to these unjust proceedings was resented with such cruelty that orders were given that she should be publicly whipped. The Britons took up arms, with Boadicea at their head, to shake off the Roman yoke; the colony of Camalodunum, or Colchester, was taken and the Romans massacred wherever they could be found. The whole province of Britain would have been lost to Rome if Suetonius Paulinus (the Governor) had not hastened from Mona (Anglesea) and at the head of 10,000 men engaged the Britons, who are said to have numbered 230,000. A great battle was fought, which resulted in the complete defeat of the Britons (63 A.D.). Boadicea, who had displayed extraordinary valor, soon after despatched herself by poison. ("Encyclopædia Britannica." See also Freeman's "Old English History.")

II.—EXPLANATORY.

Her Country's Gods. Spreading Oak. Druids, etc.—"There was something grand and yet horrible in the religion of the Britains. They had priests called Druids, who had secret doctrines of their own, and who are said to have offered up men and women as sacrifices; but the people seem chiefly to have worshipped nature. They adored the genii of the streams, woods and mountains. The oak, with the mistletoe growing on it, was their emblem of Divinity; and they met for worship in caverns and in the depths of the forest." ("High School History.")

Rome shall perish.—The founding of Rome is ascribed by tradition to Romulus, in the year 753 B.C. At first she found it difficult to maintain her own independence, exposed as she was to the attacks of hostile tribes, but with a growth that was truly marvellous, she not only reduced all Italy to subjection, but became mistress of the world. The conquest of the Italian peninsula was perhaps her most difficult, as it was her first conquest. It was not till 264 B.C., at the close of more than a century of almost uninterrupted fighting, that she became undisputed mistress of the whole peninsula. Then the fatal lust of conquest seized her. Across the sea, on the northern African shore, was a rival city, Carthage, mistress of the sea, and greatest commercial power in the world. Carthage had been making settlements in Sicily and Spain, and Roman jealousy was aroused. A struggle for supremacy commenced, which resulted in the three well-known Punic (Puni, Poeni, the Carthaginians) wars, in the second of which Rome was almost conquered by the great Carthaginian general, Hannibal. However, she finally succeeded