

CHAPTER II.

*Roman Britain.*

15. Who first invaded Britain ?

The Romans, under Julius Cæsar, 55 years before Christ.

16. Did the Britons oppose the Romans ?

Yes ; and several battles ensued ; but the Britons being defeated were compelled to sue for peace. Yet, after a short campaign Cæsar was obliged to return into Gaul.

17. Did Cæsar come back to England ?

Yes ; in the following summer, with a great increase of force, an army of 20,000 foot, a considerable body of horse, and a fleet of 800 ships.

18. Who was the commander of the British forces in the time of Julius Cæsar ?

Cassivelaunus, King of the Trinobantes.

19. Did the Britons oppose the second landing of Cæsar ?

Yes ; but the contest was vain ; for Cæsar advanced into the country, burnt Verulam, the capital of Cassivelaunus, and forced the Britons to submit to a yearly tribute ; after these achievements he again withdrew his forces to the continent, and the Britons remained in quiet nearly a century.

20. Who next undertook to conquer Britain ?

Claudius Cæsar, the fourth emperor of Rome ; but he did not complete his purpose.

21. What British king made a noble stand against him ?

Caractacus, though he was at last taken captive, and carried to Rome.

22. What was his exclamation when led in triumph through Rome ?

“ How is it possible that a people possessed of so much magnificence at home, should envy me an humble cottage in Britain ? ”

23. What British queen opposed the Romans with great personal valor ?

Boadicea, queen of the Iceni (the inhabitants of Norfolk and Suffolk), but she was at last defeated, and in one great battle, A. D. 61, lost 80,000 of her men. To avoid the insults of the Romans, she poisoned herself.