

mitted to inflict in this world, they inculcated the doctrine of the eternal transmigration of souls; and thus extended their authority as far as the fears of their votaries. They sacrificed human victims, which they burned in large wicker idols, made so capacious as to contain a multitude of persons at once, who were thus consumed together; to these rites they added the austerity of their manners and the simplicity of their lives; they lived in woods, caves, and hollow trees; their food was acorns and berries, and their drink was water; by these arts they were not only respected, but almost adored, by the people, whose manners took a tincture from the discipline of their teachers: their lives were simple, but they were marked with cruelty and fierceness; their courage was great, but neither dignified by mercy nor perseverance.

Q. Did the Britons long remain in this rude state?

A. The Britons had long remained in this rude, but independent state, when Cæsar having victoriously over-run Gaul, and willing still farther to extend his fame, determined upon the conquest of a coun-