

Roman Emperor Hadrianus built (A.D. 120) a great wall between the Solway Firth and the mouth of the Tyne to keep back the Caledonians, as the people who dwelt in the north were then called; parts of this wall still remain and are the greatest memorials of the Roman rule in our land. Besides these things, the Romans were the means of Christianity coming into the land, and the Church spread among the Britons. After a rule of 350 years the Romans left Britain. For the German tribes on the borders of the Empire began to grow stronger as they learned from the Romans, and at length attacked the Romans themselves, so that they were forced to withdraw from the outlying provinces and fight for those nearer home. The Britons were gradually left to themselves; and when the Romans ceased to fight for them (A.D. 409), they found it hard work to keep off the barbarous tribes of the north—the Picts, as the Caledonians were now called, and the Scots, a tribe who had come over from Ireland. At last things went so badly with them that they welcomed the coming among them of a German people, who had been sailing for some time around their shores, and who they hoped would fight for them against the Picts and Scots. This people was called the English, and its home was on the coast of the North Sea, by the mouths of the river Elbe.

3. There were three tribes of these English—the Jutes, the Angles, and the Saxons. The first who came were the Jutes (449), who, when they found that Britain was a pleasant land, brought over their wives and children, and drove out the Britons, whom they called Welsh, or strangers. The first settlement of the Jutes was in Kent (451). Soon came the Saxons and set up a kingdom of the South Saxons, or Sassen, in 477, and a kingdom of the West Saxons in 519. A little later (547) came the Angles, who

X (English conquest of Britain, 449-524.