

landed on the isle of Than^et.* 5. There they did not long remain inactive; but being joined by the British forces, they boldly marched against the Picts and Scots, who had advanced as far as Lincolnshire, and soon gained a complete victory over them. (A. D. 450.)

The Saxons, however, being sensible of the fertility of the country to which they came, and the barrenness of that which they had left behind, invited over great numbers of their countrymen to become sharers in their new expedition. 6. Accordingly they received a fresh supply of five thousand men, who passed over in seventeen vessels, and soon made a permanent establishment in the island.

The British historians, in order to account for the easy conquest of their country by the Saxons, assign their treachery, not less than their valour, as a principal cause.

7. They allege, that Vor^tigern was artfully inveigled into a passion for Roweⁿa, the daughter of Hen^gist; and, in order to marry her, was induced to settle the fertile province of Kent upon her father, whence the Saxons could never after be removed.† It is alleged, also, that upon the death of Vor^timer, which happened shortly after the victory he gained at Eg^glesford, Vor^tigern, his father, was reinstated upon the throne. 8. It is added, that this weak monarch, accepting of a festival from Hen^gist, three hundred of his nobility were treacherously slaughtered, and himself detained captive.

After the death of Hen^gist, several other German tribes allured by the success of their countrymen, went over in great numbers. 9. A body of Saxons, under the conduct of Ella and his three sons, had some time before laid the foundation of the kingdom of the South Saxons, though not without great opposition and bloodshed. This new kingdom included Surry, Sussex, and the New Forest; and extended to the frontier of Kent.

10. Another tribe of the Saxons, under the command of Cerdic, and his son Kenrick, landed in the west, and from thence took the name of West Saxons. These met with

* Thanet is an island of Kent. Margate and Ramsgate are its principal towns.

† Our old English historians say, that when the beautiful Rowena was first introduced to Vortigern, "she presented him on her knee with a cup of wine, saying 'Waes heal, hlaforð cyning; or 'Be of health, Lord King!' to which Vortigern, being instructed in the custom, answered, 'Drinc heal; or, 'I drink your health.'"—It is proper here to observe, however, that some able historians have declared, that no authentic documents exist concerning these stories of Vortigern and Rowena, or of the slaughter of the British nobles; and that they are inclined to believe the whole a fiction, or at least very much exaggerated.