

3. The inland inhabitants are represented as extremely numerous, living in cottages thatched with straw, and feeding large herds of cattle. They lived mostly upon milk, or flesh produced by the chase.* What clothes they wore to cover any part of their bodies, were usually the skins of beasts; but the arms, legs, and thighs were left naked, and were usually painted blue. 4. Their hair, which was long, flowed down upon their backs and shoulders; while their beards were kept close shaven, except upon the upper lip, where they were suffered to grow. The dress of savage nations is everywhere pretty much the same, being calculated rather to inspire terror than to excite love or respect.

5. As to the government, it consisted of several small principalities, each under its respective leader; and this seems to be the earliest mode of dominion with which mankind are acquainted, and is deduced from the natural privileges of paternal authority. Upon great and imminent dangers, a commander-in-chief was chosen by common consent, in a general assembly; and to him was committed the conduct of the general interest, the power of making peace or leading to war, and the administration of justice.

6. Their forces consisted chiefly of foot, and yet they could bring a considerable number of horse into the field upon great occasions. They likewise used chariots in battle, which, with short scythes fastened to the ends of the axletrees, inflicted terrible wounds, spreading horror and devastation wheresoever they drove.† Nor while the chariots were thus destroying, were the warriors who conducted them unemployed: they darted their javelins against the enemy, ran along the beam, leaped upon the ground, resumed their seat, stopped or turned their horses at full speed, and sometimes cunningly retreated to draw the enemy into confusion.

8. The religion of the Britons was one of the most considerable parts of their government; and the Druids,‡

* The ancient Britons were so habitually regular and temperate, that they only began to grow old at a hundred and twenty years.—PLUTARCH, *De Placitis Philosophia*.

† Caesar gives a most animated description of the dexterity of the Britons in managing their war-chariots, which he ascribes to constant use and incessant exercise; thereby intimating that the Britons were continually engaged in intestine wars.—*Cæsar's Com.* lib. iv.

‡ The Druids were divided into three different classes; the Bards, who were the heroic historians and genealogical poets; the Vates, who were the sacred musicians, the religious poets, and the pretended prophets; the third