

who planted this country, must have come to it by sea, and consequently must have had some skill in maritime affairs, even prior to their settling here. Secondly, the surrounding seas, the convenient ports, and the prospect of the opposite shore, must, doubtless, have encouraged them when settled here, to practise, and thereby extend, that skill in navigation, which, as I have said, they must have had before they came hither. Hence I think it might have been rationally concluded, that our *British* ancestors had performed something worthy of notice at sea, before the *Roman* invasion, even though there had been no records to attest their actions.

*Polybius* <sup>c</sup> mentions this island and its commodities. *Lucretius* <sup>d</sup> also takes notice of it, and these were both writers elder than *Cæsar*. <sup>e</sup> The author of the book *de mundo*, which goes commonly under the name of *Aristotle*, speaks of the *British* islands, and distinguishes between *Albion* and *Hierna*, that is, between *England* and *Ireland*. *Athenæus* <sup>f</sup> tells us, out of *Moschion*, that the main-mast of king *Hiero's* great ship was found by a swine-herd in the mountains of *Britain*, and by *Phileas Tauromenites* conveyed into *Sicily*; and *Solinus* <sup>g</sup> speaks of an altar engraven with *Greek* characters, which *Ulysses* met with in *Caledonia*. It is not easy to conceive how so remote a country should be so well known in those times; if the *Britons* had not both power and commerce by sea. But, to put this matter out of dispute, the learned Mr. *Selden* <sup>h</sup> owns himself convinced, even by *Cæsar's* writings, that

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<sup>c</sup> Hist. lib. xi.    <sup>d</sup> De Nat. Rer. lib. iii.    <sup>e</sup> Aristot. opera. Tom. ii. p. 206. Edit. Aurel. Allobrog. 1606.    <sup>f</sup> Deipnosophist.  
<sup>g</sup> Polyhist. cap. 35.    <sup>h</sup> Mare Clausum Lib. ii. cap. 2.