

are all the spirits of darkness, who inspired evil designs, and assisted in the execution of them. So are the angels of God, those eyes of the Lord that run to and fro over all the earth, who watched over your soul, and laboured for your good, so far as you would permit. So is your own conscience, a thousand witnesses in one, now no more capable of being either blinded or silenced, but constrained to know and to speak the naked truth, touching all your thoughts, words, and actions.—And is conscience as a thousand witnesses? Yea, but God is as a thousand consciences! O who can stand before the face of God, even our Saviour, Jesus Christ!

See, see! he cometh! He maketh the clouds his chariots! He rideth upon the wings of the wind! A devouring fire goeth before him, and after him a flame burneth!—See, he sitteth upon his throne, clothed with light as with a garment, arrayed with majesty and honour! Behold, his eyes are as a flame of fire, his voice as the sound of many waters!

How will ye escape? Will ye call to the mountains to fall on you, the rocks to cover you? Alas, the mountains themselves, the rocks, the earth, the heavens are just ready to flee away! Can ye prevent the sentence?—Wherewith? With all the substance of thy house; with thousands of gold and silver? Blind wretch! thou comest naked from thy mother's womb, and goest more naked into eternity. Hear the Lord, the Judge! "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Joyful sound! how widely different from that voice which echoes through the expanse of heaven, "Depart, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels!" And who is he that can prevent or retard the full execution of either sentence? Vain hope! Lo hell is moved from beneath, to receive those who are ripe for destruction! and the everlasting doors lift up their heads, that the heirs of glory may come in!

5. "What manner of persons then ought we to be, in all holy conversation and godliness?" We know it cannot be long before the Lord will descend with the voice of the Archangel, and the trumpet of God; when every one of us shall appear before him, and give account of his own works. "Wherefore, beloved, seeing ye look for these things, (seeing ye know he will come and will not tarry,) be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless." Why should ye not? Why should one of you be found on the left hand at his appearing? He willeth not that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance: by repentance, to faith in a blessing Lord; by faith, to a spotless love, to the full image of God, renewed in the heart, and producing all holiness of conversation. Can you doubt of this, when you remember the Judge of all is likewise the Saviour of all? Hath he not bought you with his own blood, that ye might not perish, but have everlasting life? O make proof of his mercy rather than his justice! Of his love rather than the thunder of his power! He is not far from every one of us; and he is now come not to condemn, but to save the world. He standeth in the midst! Sinner, doth he not now, even now, knock at the door of thy heart? O that thou mayest know, at least in this thy day, the things that belong unto thy peace. O that ye may now give yourselves to him who gave himself for you, in humble faith, in holy, active, patient love. So shall ye rejoice with exceeding joy in his day, when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.

HISTORY.

INVASION OF BRITAIN BY THE ROMANS.

The Britons had long remained in a rude and independent state, when Cæsar, having over-run Gaul (since called France) with his victories, remained there inactive with a powerful army. Being willing still farther to extend his fame, he determined upon the conquest of South-Britain; a country that seemed to promise an easy triumph, as he had previously gained every requisite intelligence from the masters of trading vessels, who brought tin and other commodities from this country to Gaul.

He landed, after a sharp conflict, at Deal, eight miles from Dover (54 years before Christ); and soon

obliged the Britons to submit to the Roman arms. They were compelled to accept Cæsar's terms of peace, and agreed to deliver up hostages, as a token of their submission to the Roman republic.

As soon as the inhabitants of the whole country heard of the sudden invasion and compulsive truce, they brought together such a powerful force, that Cæsar was repulsed, and obliged to retreat to his ships, and set sail for Gaul; but in the following year he returned with a more formidable fleet and army, landed near the same place as before, and encamped on Barham Downs. Several battles were fought with various successes, till at length Cæsar became victorious, and compelled the Britons to complete their stipulated treaty; and hostages were given for the due performance of it.

In the reign of Vespasian, successor to Nero, the famous Julius Agricola, being appointed governor of Britain, in the space of a few months reduced the whole island to subjection; and it continued to be a Roman province from that era, A. D. 79, to the year 410, when the Romans were obliged to withdraw all their forces to repel the Goths, who had begun to desolate the Roman empire. It was once more left to ancient inhabitants.

For some time after the Romans left it, Britain was in a state of anarchy. The Scots and Picts ravaged the northern boundaries with impunity. At length, advancing farther, Vortigern was elected governor of South-Britain, but made responsible for his conduct to the magistrates of every county. He obtained the consent of the other states to invite a body of Saxons, a warlike people of Germany, to his assistance. Hengist and Horsa, brothers, were the leaders of the Saxons, who landed on the Isle of Thanet, in Kent, A. D. 449; and Vortigern gave his daughter in marriage to Hengist, with the county of Kent as a dowry.—Hengist and Horsa assisted Vortigern in driving back the Scots and Picts to their own country of North-Britain; they then sent for reinforcements from the continent, threw off the mask, and instead of remaining as allies, in a short time became conquerors of one province after another, till at length they became masters of the whole, and established the heptarchy, or the division of South-Britain into seven kingdoms, which were in the following order.

1. The kingdom of Kent, contained the county of Kent, which was founded by Hengist, 445, and ended 823.—
2. The kingdom of South-Saxons contained the counties of Sussex and Surry; the kingdom was founded by Ella, 491, and ended in 636.—
3. The kingdom of the West-Saxons contained the counties of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Wilts, Hants, and Berks; this kingdom was founded by Cerdic, 519, and ended 828.—
4. The kingdom of East-Saxons contained the counties of Essex, with part of Hertfordshire, and Middlesex; this kingdom was founded by Erchenwin, 527 and ended 827.—
5. The kingdom of Northumberland contained Yorkshire, Durham, Lancashire, Westmoreland, Cumberland, and Northumberland, and a part of Scotland to the Firth of Forth; this kingdom was founded by Ida, 547, and ended 827.—
6. The kingdom of the East-Angles contained the counties of Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridge, and the Isle of Ely; this kingdom was founded by Uffa, 575, and ended 792.—
7. The kingdom of Mercia contained the counties of Huntingdon, Rutland, Lincoln, Northampton, Leicestershire, Derby, Nottingham, Oxford, Chester, Salop, Gloucester, Worcester, Stafford, Warwick, Buckingham, Bedford, and Hertford; this kingdom was founded by Creda, 582, and ended 827.

The sovereigns of the seven kingdoms, which had been more than a century in forming, made war upon each other at different times, and weakened each others power so much, that in course of time they brought on a dissolution of the heptarchy.

Egbert, of the race of Cerdic, founder of the kingdom of the West-Saxons, the heptarchy had been reduced to five kingdoms, of which his own was the most considerable; and the remaining kingdoms were either defeated or surrendered to him without opposition. As this totally put an end to the heptarchy, so it laid the foundation of the English monarchy.

England, at different periods, has been under the sovereignty of the Britons, the Romans, the Saxons, or Angles (from whom it derived its names), the Danes, and the Normans.

Egbert, the first monarch of England, of the Saxon line, ordered the south part of Britain to be called England, and took the title of the King of England: he reigned from 823 to 838.

Ethelwolf, the eldest son of Egbert, succeeded his father in the year 838, and reigned till 857.

Ethelbald, the eldest son of Ethelwolf, succeeded his father, jointly with his brother Ethelbert, in the year 857, and reigned till 860.

Ethelbert, the second son of Ethelwolf, succeeded his brother Ethelbald, as sole monarch of England, in the year 860, and reigned till 866.

Ethelred, the third son of Ethelwolf, succeeded his brother Ethelbert, in the year 866, and reigned till 872.

Alfred, the fourth son of Ethelwolf, succeeded his brother Ethelred, in the year 872, and died on the 28th of October, 900, in the 28th year of his reign, and was buried at Winchester.

It was Alfred that framed the excellent code of laws for the security of his subjects, which were the groundwork of the present; he divided the kingdom into Shires, or counties, the counties into hundreds, and the hundreds into tithings.

King Alfred knew too well the value of time to lose any part of it in trifling pursuits, but to make the best of every moment; when he was not engaged in war, of which he had his share, for it is said he fought 56 pitched battles with the Danes, he spent eight hours every day for acts of devotion, eight hours to public affairs, and eight hours to sleep, study, and necessary refreshment. As clocks and hour-glasses were not yet introduced into England, he measured the time by the means of wax candles, marked with circular lines of divers colours, which served as so many hour lines; and to cause them to burn steadily he invented horn lanterns, which were made of pieces of horn scraped thin, and fixed in frames of wood to defend the candles from the wind. Thus lanterns were the invention of a king.

Edward the Elder, the eldest son of Alfred, succeeded his father in the year 900, and reigned till 925.

Athelstan, the eldest son of Edward, succeeded his father in the year 925, and reigned till 941.

Edmund I. second son of Edward the elder, succeeded his brother Athelstan, in the year 941, and reigned till 948.

Edred, the next son of Edward the elder, succeeded his brother Edmund, in the year 948, and reigned till 955.

Edwy, the eldest son of Edmund, succeeded his uncle Edred, in the year 955, and reigned till 959.

Edgar, the second son of Edmund, succeeded his brother Edwy, in the year 959, and reigned till 979.

Edward the Martyr, the eldest son of Edgar, succeeded his father, in the year 975, and reigned till 979.

Ethelred II. the second son of Edgar, succeeded his half-brother, Edward the Martyr, in the year 979, and reigned till 1016, nearly 37 years.

Edmund II. surnamed Ironside, son of Ethelred, succeeded his father, in the year 1016, and reigned only till 1017, having been murdered at Oxford by two of his chamberlains. He left two sons and two daughters; from the descendants of one of whom, by marriage with Malcolm III. king of Scotland, his present Majesty George IV. is descended in a direct line. James VI. of Scotland, I. of England, whom Queen Elizabeth nominated her successor, as being her nearest relation, was a descendant of Malcolm.

Canute, son of Swoyn, of the Danish line, succeeded Edmund; though Sweyn had been proclaimed king, in the reign of Ethelred II. by the Danes residing in England, and the English who were disloyal to Ethelred; but as the latter was not deposed, therefore Sweyn is not placed in the list of the kings of England. Canute reigned from the year 1017 to 1035; he made an alliance with Normandy, and married Emma, Ethelred's widow. He died at Shaftesbury in the 19th year of his reign.

Harold I. son of Canute by Alfwine, his first wife, succeeded his father in the year 1035, and reigned till 1069.

Hardicanute, son of Canute by Queen Emma, the widow of Ethelred II. succeeded his half-brother, Harold I. in the year 1069, and reigned till 1041, and died of a plethory at Lambeth.

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