

HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

CHAPTER I.

THE COMING OF THE ENGLISH.

1. WE know very little about our country, until just before the time of the birth of Christ, when it was visited by the Romans, the great conquering people of old times, who spread their arms and their laws all along the Mediterranean Sea, and then northward through Gaul, till they reached the shores of the Channel. Their great general, Caius Julius Cæsar, who had conquered Gaul, came over to Britain, B.C. 55 and 54, and fought against the Britons to prevent them from sending any help to the Gauls, who were their kinsfolk. In this way the Romans got to know of Britain; and when Gaul had entirely submitted to them, they sent an army to Britain (A.D. 43), and after some fighting conquered the island as far north as the Firth of Forth and the Clyde (A.D. 78).

Romans at
Britain.
A.D. 43-78.

2. The Britons were a rude people, who lived in huts in small villages, and were often at war, one tribe against another. The Romans, when they came among them, did as they did everywhere they went—built towns, made roads, kept order and peace throughout the land. To guard the northern boundary of their province of Britain, the

The Roman
rule, 78-409.