

HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

CHAPTER I.

The Roman Period.

FROM B. C. 55 TO A. D. 450.

1. THE authentic history of Britain begins with the invasion of the country by the Romans. In the fifty-fifth year before the birth of Christ, the famous statesman and general, Julius Cæsar, having subdued Gaul, landed on the eastern shores of England, near Deal in Kent, with a force of about twelve thousand men. He was not, however, allowed to disembark from his ships without a fierce contest with the natives; but the genius of the Roman general, and the discipline of his troops, were more than a match for the headlong rashness and desperate bravery of their rude and savage opponents. After being defeated by the Romans, the Britons tendered their submission which Cæsar accepted; and the winter season approaching, he returned to Gaul after an absence of only fifteen days. The next year, he came back with a larger fleet, and an army of more than thirty thousand men, including two thousand cavalry. The Britons retired into the interior; and having elected as their leader the chief of the Tribonantes, called by the Romans, Cassivelaunus, they