

to the various contenders for the empire, who, failing in every attempt, only left the name of tyrants behind them.* In the mean time, as the Roman forces decreased in Britain, the Picts and Scots† continued still more boldly to infest the northern parts; and crossing the friths, which the Romans could not guard, in little wicker-boats covered with leather, filled the country, wherever they came, with slaughter and consternation.

13. The Romans therefore finding it impossible to stand their ground in Britain, in the reign of the emperor Valentinian took their last leave of the island, after being masters of it for nearly four hundred years, and now left the natives to the choice of their own government and kings. They gave them the best instructions the calamitous times would permit, for exercising their arms, and repairing their ramparts; and helped them to erect a new wall of stone across the island, for they had not at that time artisans skilful enough among themselves to repair that which had been built by the emperor Severus. The ruins of this wall, and the fortresses by which the Roman colonies were defended, are among the most interesting relics of antiquity in England.

Questions for Examination.

1. What prevented Augustus from visiting Britain?
Did Tiberius make an attempt upon Britain?
2. What exposed Caligula to ridicule?
3. Who was the first person that was willing to repel the invaders?
How long did Caractacus harass the Romans?
4. What remarks did Caractacus make on witnessing the splendour of Rome?
5. What caused the Britons to rebel?
Who commanded Boadicea to be ill-treated?
6. What were the consequences?
7. Who commanded the Roman forces at that time?
8. What was the fate of London and its inhabitants?
9. Describe Boadicea's conduct, and the result of this battle.
10. At what time did peace prevail in Great Britain?
11. What was the situation of Rome at this time?
12. What were the nations that infested the northern parts?
13. When did the Romans take their leave of Britain? And how long had they been masters of it?

* According to the "*Notitia Imperii*," no less than twelve British corps of infantry and cavalry were constantly dispersed in the distant provinces of the empire; while foreign soldiers were, according to the invariable policy of the Romans, stationed in Britain.

† The names by which the inhabitants of Scotland were at that time distinguished. "The Picts (so called from *Pictich*, a plunderer, and not from *Picti*, painted), and the Scots (from *Scuith*, a wanderer, in the Celtic tongue) were only different tribes of Caledonians."—*Dr. Henry*.