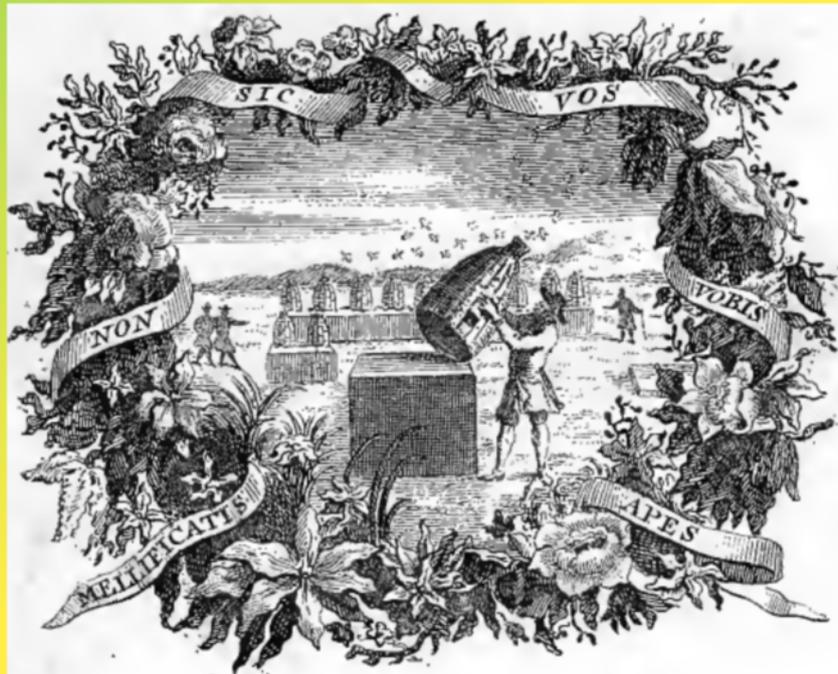


Rapin's History of England



Book Two

Translated from French By
N. Tyndal M. A. Vicar of
Great Waltham
Essex

**The History
of
England
Written in French
By
Mr. Rapin de Thoyras**

Translated from French

By

N. Tyndal M. A. Vicar

Of

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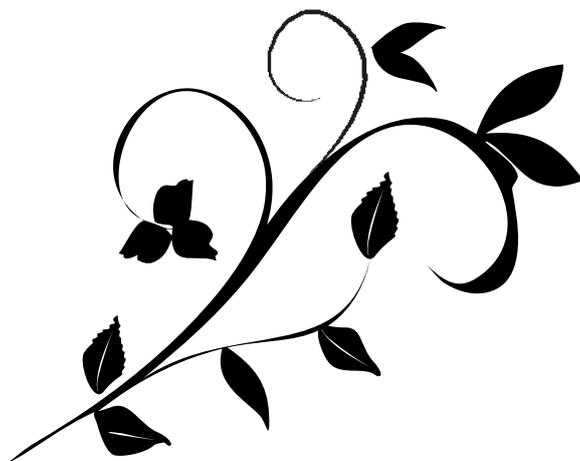
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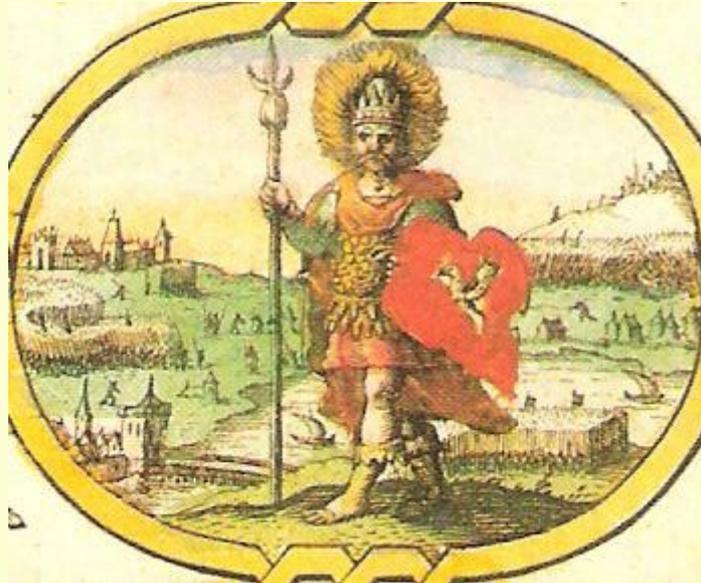
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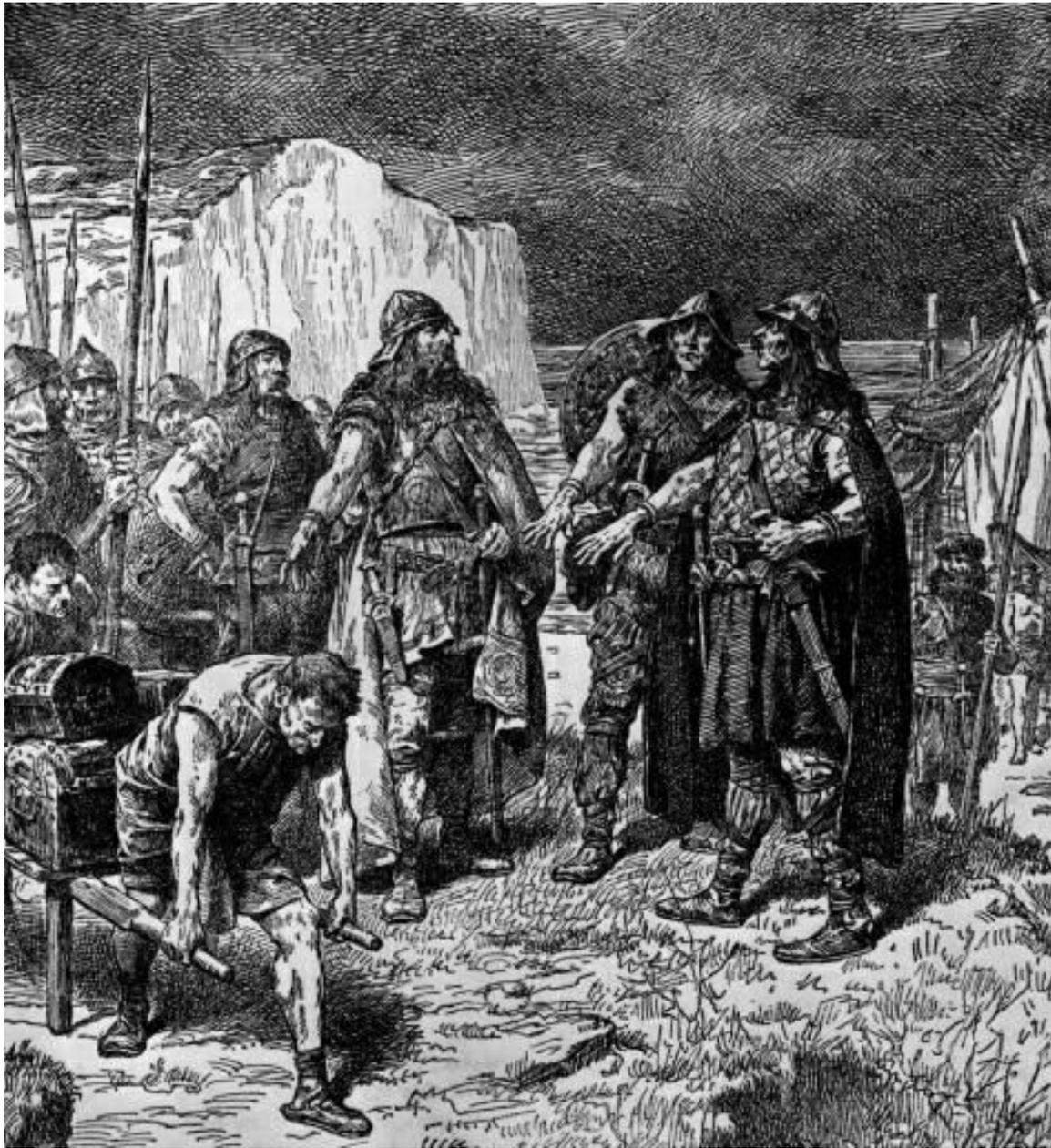
Book Two

The Post Roman Period



A depiction of Cerdic from John Speed's 1611 "Saxon Heptarchy"

It is from Cedric the kings of England are descended, in the male line, down to Edward the Confessor, and in the female, down to the illustrious House of Brunswick.



Treaty of Hengist and Horsa with Vortigern, king of the Britons in A.D. 449





Ambrosius Aurelianus

WE KNOW FROM GILDAS that he was of high birth, and had Roman ancestry; he was presumably a Romano-Briton, rather than a Roman from elsewhere in the empire, though it is impossible to be sure. It also appears that Ambrosius was a Christian: Gildas says that he won his battles "with God's help". According to Gildas, Ambrosius organised the survivors into an armed force and achieved the first military victory over the Saxon invaders. However, this victory was not decisive: "Sometimes the Saxons and sometimes the citizens [meaning the Romano-British inhabitants] were victorious.





THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND BOOK II

FROM THE ARRIVAL OF THE SAXONS TO THE RETREAT OF THE BRITONS INTO WALES COMPRISING THE PERIOD OF ABOUT A HUNDRED AND THIRTY YEARS



THE Saxons returned a favourable answer to the Britons, assuring them that they would stand by them in their pressing necessities. They also agreed to grant them an aid of nine thousand men, on certain terms, the principal whereof was, that the Saxons should be put in possession of the Isle of Thanet, adjacent to Kent, where they were to land, and their troops be paid and maintained by the Britons.—Hengist and Horsa,[1] both sons of Witigisil, were appointed to command the troops designed for the aid of the Britons.

Hengist was about thirty years old. He first bore arms under his father Witigisil; after which, for his improvement in the art of war, he served in the Roman armies, where the emperors generally kept some Saxon troops in their pay. This young warrior was endowed with all the necessary qualifications for accomplishing the undertaking committed to his management. His valour and experience, the solidity of his judgment, his address, his easy and engaging behaviour, warranted, in some measure, his success. All these excellent qualities determined the Saxon general to procure for his son so fair an occasion to display his talents. Of his brother, Horsa, nothing particular is said.

The Saxons, notwithstanding their promise, did not think proper to send over at once so considerable a body of forces as nine thousand men, into a country but imperfectly known to them. Wherefore, pretending that the rest were not ready, by reason of their great distance from the place of embarkation, they caused only 1600 to be put on board three vessels. Historians have not expressly marked the place of this first embarkation; but it probably was Zealand, as that country was then in possession of the Saxons, and as it would have been difficult to chose a more convenient place, or one nearer the isle of Thanet, where they might land. Hengist and Horsa accordingly arrived at Ebbesfleet in the isle of Thanet, about the year 449, or 450; and, when they had refreshed themselves, Vortigern led them against the Picts and Scots that were advanced as far as Stamford in Lincolnshire. In the first battle the islanders, according to their custom, began with throwing their darts.

The Saxons stood this first charge without the least motion, then advanced in good order, and coming to close fight, quickly routed their enemies, which were already terrified by their very looks. The future attempts of the Scots had no better success; and, in all their encounters with

the Saxons, they were worsted. Quite discouraged by these frequent defeats, they gradually abandoned their conquests, and retired into their own country.

Vortigern was overjoyed to see his projects succeed thus happily. But his main point, the winning the Saxons to his particular interest, was yet unexecuted. To that end, he presented the two brothers with some lands in Lincolnshire where they gave the enemies the first repulse. But if Vortigern were pursuing his ends, Hengist was no less mindful of his own interest. The moment he perceived the weakness of the Britons, he entertained hopes of procuring a settlement in Britain, and began to lay his measures accordingly.

The lands given him by Vortigern furnished him with an opportunity to cause the Britons to fall into the snare he intended to lay for them. He represented to the king, that the service he was doing the Britons in the north, keeping him at a distance from the isle of Thanet, he had no place to secure the booty taken from the enemy, and therefore had reason to fear that whilst he was employed in the northern wars, he might be deprived of the fruits of his labours. For this cause, he desired leave to build a little fort somewhere on the lands lately given him. Vortigern readily complied with his request. If most of the historians may be credited, he only desired to wall in as much land as an ox hide could surround, which being granted, he cut the hide into small thongs, and enclosing with them a space large enough for his purpose, hastily ran up a fort, before the Britons had time to oppose it. This circumstance seems to be confirmed by the name of the fort itself, Thongcaster, that is, the Castle of thongs.

The Britons seeing a castle built in the heart of their country, began to murmur against their king, and to suspect him of secretly favouring the Saxons. These murmurs gave Hengist an opportunity to take advantage of Vortigern's circumstances; He represented to him, that the Britons were grown so insolent since their deliverance from their enemies, that they only waited an opportunity to rob him of his crown and give it to another: that this intimation, coming from good hands, ought to make him sensible that the rebellion of his subjects was no less to be feared, than the invasion of the Picts and Scots, and therefore advised him to secure himself from the approaching storm, by sending for more Saxons, and strengthening himself with their aid against the ill practices of his subjects.

The rest of the Saxons, (continued he) designed for the assistance of Britain, are all ready, and only wait your orders, Vortigern, instead of raising objections, pressed the Saxon general to execute a design which to him seemed so advantageous. Hengist, having thus obtained Vortigern's consent, desired his father Witigisil to send over the rest of the forces out of hand. He acquainted him with the fruitfulness of the country, and effeminacy of the inhabitants, assuring him, that if the Saxons wisely improved this opportunity, they might hope for a settlement in Britain, no less advantageous and glorious than what they enjoyed in Germany, who had great expectations from his son's expedition, sent the desired supplies without delay. He equipped sixteen large vessels to transport the forces, and with them sent Escus and Rowena, the eldest son and niece^[2] of Hengist. This second body of Saxons arrived in Britain in 450, about a year after the first.

Vortigern, grown more powerful, now rendered himself more absolute. He treated his subjects with great haughtiness, and thereby more strongly confirmed their suspicions of him. He even made no scruple to assign habitations for the newcomers, without ever advising with his subjects. From that time a strict union was formed between Vortigern and Hengist. They had need of each other for their mutual defence against the Britons, who publicly expressed their discontent.

Meanwhile, Hengist neglected nothing that could promote his designs. Above all, he studied the humour and character of Vortigern, and easily perceived that love and pleasure formed his predominant passion. Accordingly he laid a snare, which he thought the monarch could hardly escape. Having repeatedly expressed his acknowledgments for the many favours received at his hands, he entreated him to honour him with his company at Thongcaster, where he earnestly desired to entertain him, and shew him some marks of his respect and gratitude. Vortigern readily

accepted this invitation. Hengist received him with all the respect due to a great king, his friend and benefactor. A splendid and exquisite entertainment was prepared for him; but, nothing pleased the Royal Guest so much as the young Rowena, the greatest beauty of her time. Hengist under colour of doing honour to Vortigern, but in reality that he might, during the feast, be gratified with so lovely an object, ordered her to place herself just before the king. The contrivance succeeded as Hengist expected. Vortigern kept his eyes continually fixed on Rowena, who by her looks gave him to understand, she was not insensible of the honour he did her.

Hengist made a sign to his niece, who, going to the side board, filled a gold cup with wine, and presented it on her knees to the king, saying in her language, *Liever Kyning, wass heal*, that is, Dear king, your health. Vortigern, agreeably surprised, turned to his interpreter, and asked what she said, and how he must answer her after the Saxon manner. Being informed, he looked very amorously on Rowena, and answered in Saxon, *Drinck Heil*, that is, Do you yourself drink the health. Whereupon Rowena, just putting the cup to her lips, presented it to the king, who, taking it, immediately rose and saluted her, Rowena, as sensible of the great honour done her, made a profound reverence, and withdrew, leaving the monarch full of love and desire.[3]

The result of this affair was, that, to obtain possession of Rowena, Vortigern invested Hengist and Horsa with the sovereignty of Kent, and allowed them to people it with Saxons.—Hengist, with the view of still farther promoting his grand object, next intimated to Vortigern, that his subjects, dissatisfied with him, held intelligence with Ambrosius Aurelianus, who was at the court of Aldroen king of Armorica, and probably had conspired to set that prince on the throne.

There was some ground for Hengist's thus artfully hinting the danger Vortigern was in from Ambrosias. That prince was of Roman extraction, and, according to the general opinion, son of one of the monarchs elected by the Britons after the departure of the Romans.[4] As he was very young when his father died, his youth screened him from the jealousy of those that ascended the throne immediately or shortly after. But it was otherwise when Vortigern came to the crown. A strong party being formed in favour of Ambrosius, the new monarch was so filled with suspicions, that he sought means to destroy the young prince.

The danger Ambrosias was exposed to obliging him to quit Britain, he retired to Aldroen his relation, where he, was waiting for a favourable opportunity to come and head his party. This being the case between Vortigern and Ambrosius, what the Saxon prince said could not but make deep impression on his mind.

Vortigern, despairing ever to regain the affection of his subjects, and considering Ambrosius, though absent, as a very dangerous rival, saw that his whole refuge lay in the Saxon prince, whom he deemed his best friend, and accordingly to him it was he applied for advice and assistance. Hengist, having[5] obtained the king's consent, sent for a fleet of forty ships, conducted by Octa his brother, who brought with him his son Ebusa, and a great number of Saxon troops.

These newcomers began with ravaging the Arcades; then, making a descent on the coasts of the Picts, obliged the inhabitants to retire northwards. As soon as the Picts had thus deserted part of their country, the Saxons seated themselves there so strongly, that it was not possible to dispossess them. At first they settled on the north side of the Tyne towards the east.

Afterwards they advanced towards the south, and drove the Britons beyond the Humber; but this was done by degrees. With these fresh supplies, Hengist found himself strong enough to be in no great fear of any attempt from the Britons; he even began to shew less respect for Vortigern; and, under colour of wanting frequent recruits to keep up the number of his forces, sent for continual supplies from Germany without asking his leave. At length he threw away the mask; and, making bitter complaints that the Saxons were not duly paid according to agreement, boldly demanded the arrears, threatening, without prompt and full payment, to do himself justice.

AD 453] The Britons, surprised at these menaces, and greatly mortified to see Hengist in a condition to do as he proudly threatened, began to rouse themselves, and to think of means to free themselves from these foreigners. Vortimer, eldest son of Vortigern, had beheld with extreme regret, how the Saxons, by his father's fault, strengthened themselves daily, and had very much dreaded the consequences thereof.

As soon as he saw the Britons in motion, he improved the opportunity, and represented to the leading men that it was time to apply an effectual remedy to the evils they lay under. He told them, that his father's cowardice, or perhaps treachery, had been the occasion of the Saxons becoming so powerful: that it was necessary therefore to prevent Vortigern from heaping any more favours on these foreigners, to the prejudice of the British nation, which was in danger of being overrun, if measures were not taken to put a stop to their growing power.

Aroused from their lethargy,[6] the leading men amongst the Britons entered into a private confederacy with Vortimer, and suddenly compelled Vortigern to make his son partner with him in the government, and to leave the administration of affairs to his care. The plot was so well laid, that in an instant Vortigern saw himself without either fortress, or troops, or credit, and constrained to do whatever was desired, he not having time to call the Saxons to his aid. Thus Vortimer was invested with the royal authority, leaving his father only the empty title of king without any power.

The new monarch found no great difficulty to persuade the Britons, that nothing but force could drive the Saxons out of their country. War, therefore, was resolved on. Hengist, finding he was likely to have a fierce war upon his hands, made haste, and concluded a peace with the Picts, who were proud of having for allies men so formidable for their arms. This precaution enabled him to make a powerful diversion in the north, by the Picts, assisted by the Saxons lately settled in those parts. As for Kent, Hengist looked upon; himself to be strong enough there to make head against Vortimer, who was preparing to attack him.

AD 455] The Britons and Saxons were not long before they came to an engagement. In the first campaign, the two armies met at Eglesford[7] in Kent, the Saxons being commanded by Hengist and Horsa, and the Britons by Vortimer. The first battle was very bloody. Hengist lost Horsa[8] his brother, and with his own hand slew Catigern[9], youngest brother of Vortimer. The British historians say, that Vortimer not only obtained a complete victory over the Saxons; but, driving Hengist as far as the isle of Thanet, compelled him to embark and fly into Germany. By what followed, however, it is evident, that if the Saxons were not victorious, they were not vanquished, since all their historians affirm, that this very year, 455, immediately after the battle, Hengist first took upon him the title of king of Kent, which doubtless he would not have done, had he been defeated and obliged to fly into Germany.

AD 457] Two years. after, another battle was fought near Crecanford[10] in Kent, wherein Vortimer was entirely defeated, with the loss of more than 4000 men and his best officers. Not being able to keep the field, he was forced to shut himself up in London, till he could draw another army together. In the mean while Hengist, to strike the greater terror into the Britons, ravaged the country in a merciless manner.

They that were. most exposed to the fury of the Saxons, quitted their houses, and fled to the woods for refuge. Some abandoned their country, and retired to Armorica, where they were civilly received by king Aldroen: During these devastations, the very churches were not spared; but all that were in the neighbourhood of the Saxons were reduced to ashes.

Reduced to. this extremity, the chiefs of the Britons assembled themselves to consider of means to prevent their total ruin. Guithelin, archbishop of London, and head of Ambrosius's party, advised them to apply to the king of Armorica for assistance. He represented to them, "that as Aldroen had always shewn great civilities to the Britons, there was room to hope he would not

abandon them in this their pressing. necessity." Adding, "that since Vortigern and Vortimer were no longer to be depended upon, he thought it necessary to invite over Ambrosius Aurelianus, who being sprung from illustrious ancestors, and having all the qualifications to be desired in a general, would, in all probability, by his valour and conduct, free them from their present danger." As they had always hated Vortigern, and, since his last defeat, were dissatisfied with Vortigern, they readily embraced the archbishop's advice, and desired him to negotiate the affair; which he gladly undertook, as enabling him to accomplish a design he had long been forming.

He set out immediately for Armorica; and, laying before Aldroen the deplorable condition of the Britons, easily obtained the aid he demanded. Aldroen, who had so generously received all the fugitive Britons, was willing to give the nation a farther proof of his friendship, by granting them an aid of ten thousand men.

He placed Ambrosius at their head, who conducted them safely to Totness.[11] This general was received with great demonstrations of joy, being looked upon as the only support of the sinking Britons. But this joy was not universal: Vortimer's party, still powerful, considered Ambrosius as one come to usurp the crown, under colour of defending it; and Vortimer himself threatened to punish severely those that should join him.

The animosity of the two Parties was so violent, that they soon came to blows, each preferring his private to the public interest.[12] The first battle was fought near Catgwaloph[13] in Carmarthenshire; but, as it is difficult, from the confused accounts of historians, to know on which side victory inclined, in this and several other engagements, we shall only observe, that the civil wars lasted till the year 465, to the great weakening of the Britons, whilst the Saxons had time to strengthen themselves both in Kent and beyond the Humber.

AD 465] At length the wisest of both parties, considering that their dissension would be the cause of their common ruin, made up the breach by parting the kingdom between the contending princes. The two British kings had the eastern, and Ambrosius the western part, divided from one another by the Roman highway, called afterwards Watling-street[14]

AD 466] The Saxons, upon the union of the two parties, joined their forces also. In the first engagement Hengist lost Wipped, one of his principal officers, from whom the field of battle was called Wipped's fleet[15] Here the British and Saxon historians give us contradictory accounts; but it appears, by what followed, that the advantage was on the side of the Saxons.

In this war it was, that the famous Arthur, at fourteen years of age, made his first appearance in the British armies, under Ambrosius. His inclination for war made him take upon him betimes the profession of a soldier, which he never quitted. He succeeded Gorlous his father in the kingdom of Danmonium[16] in 467.

He was no sooner on the throne, but he had a war to maintain against Howel king of Areclute[17], in the neighbourhood of Scotland. This prince is said, out of envy to the glory which Arthur had acquired, to have entered into an alliance against him with the Saxons in the north.[18] But instead of lessening his reputation he served to increase it considerably. Arthur, beating him back to the isle of Mona, gave him battle, and slew him with his own hand. He gained this victory in 470 being then about eighteen years old.

AD 473] The war continuing between the two nations, a battle lost by the Britons, in 473; put their affairs in extreme disorder, and gave the Saxon prince opportunity of enlarging his territories. At length Vortimer, the principal promoter of the war, died in 475, poisoned, as some say, by Rowena his mother-in-law, through the suggestion of Hengist[19]. The British historians would fain make a hero of Vortimer, by attributing to him many signal victories over the Saxons. But the growth of these last in power and dominion, notwithstanding their pretended defeats, is a clear evidence, that the advantages of Vortimer were neither considerable nor solid.

Peace was at length concluded on condition that each party should keep what he possessed. Hengist, who had entertained hopes of conquering all Britain, was not a little concerned to find himself so much appointed. He consoled himself, however, with the thoughts of effecting by policy, what he could not accomplish by force.

To this end he contrived a plot, which by its blackness sullied the glory of all his former actions. As soon as the peace was concluded, he affected to be extremely well pleased: and expressed a desire, that the two nations should live on the best terms of amity and good fellowship. Vortigern, who appears to have been a mere votary of pleasure, was so imprudent as to go to an entertainment given by Hengist, accompanied by 300 of his nobility and principal subjects.

Towards the end of the feast, Hengist ordered matters so, that, having artfully raised some subject of dispute, at a certain signal given, the British lords were all murdered[20] Vortigern, because Hengist had need of him, was only made prisoner. In vain did he complain of this treachery; he could not obtain his liberty without delivering up to the Saxons a great tract of land bordering upon Kent, with which Hengist enlarged his narrow territories.

Not content with this acquisition, he ravaged the neighbouring country in a merciless manner, and became master of London, Lincoln, and Winchester. This fatal event was attended with farther consequences. Vortigern, as he had given his subjects, more than once, cause to think him a friend to the Saxons, was reckoned as an accomplice in the massacre, as he alone was spared; and, therefore, they deserted him, and acknowledged Ambrosius for their sovereign.

Ambrosius, as soon as he saw himself sole monarch of the Britons, assumed the purple, after the manner of the Roman emperors, creating at the same time prince Arthur, who had signalled himself in the war by many brave actions, a patrician. Could Britain have been saved, it would doubtless have been so by these two great princes, who had all the qualities of the most celebrated heroes in an eminent degree. But its fate was determined, This noble country was destined to undergo an extraordinary revolution, and become a prey to the Saxons.

All that Ambrosius and Arthur could do was to protract the period of its ruin. Hengist, not a little perplexed to see his country quite dis-peopled (for the inhabitants, refusing to live under a prince that had given such evident proofs of his treachery and cruelty, retired in crowds into the other provinces) resolved to send for Ella,[21] a Saxon general, from Germany, promising part of the territories granted him by Vortigern. Ella received the offer with joy, and shortly after arrived in Britain. He landed his troops at. Whitening in Sussex, but not without opposition.

At length he drove the Britons as far as the forest of Andredswald, at that time, 65 miles in length, and 30 in breadth. The retreat of the Britons gave the Saxons opportunity to settle by degrees along the coast, and towards the Thames. During the nine years they were employed in extending their conquests in those parts, they had continual wars with the Britons, the particulars whereof are unknown. We are only told that the Saxons, settled along the, southern coast, were called Sud or South Saxons, and their country Sussex.

Hengist took care to strengthen himself, in the best manner he could, in the rest of the country given him, and planted colonies of his own countrymen. Those that were seated to the east were called East Saxons, and their country Essex; the country between Essex and Sussex was termed Middlesex. As for Kent, it retained its ancient name, the only one perhaps which the Saxons did not alter.

Hengist having thus settled matters gave those soldiers that desired it leave to return into Germany.— The Britons were not then in a condition to think of recovering the provinces usurped by the Saxons. Accordingly, without any previous truce or treaty of peace, both sides lay quiet for nine years, Hengist, no less than the Britons, had need for some respite, to put the affairs of his kingdom in order. During this interval, Ella gained ground, the Britons not daring to oppose

him, for fear of giving Hengist. a pretence to renew the war, which it was their design to avoid.

The Britons having had, time to recover their strength began to solicit Ambrosius to take arms. He was of opinion, that they must either let the Saxons remain in quiet till Vortigern's death, or rid themselves of that domestic enemy, and unite their forces against the foreigners. Such was the hatred of the generality of the Britons against Vortigern that they resolved upon the latter method, and, with one consent, prepared to put their resolution in practice, with all possible secrecy and expedition.

Vortigern so little expected to be attacked, that he had nearly fallen into the hands of Ambrosius. He had but just time to throw himself into a castle in Wales: Ambrosius, willing to complete his work, instantly besieged him. During the siege, the castle, either by accident, or the engines of the besiegers taking fire, was burnt to ashes, and Vortigern perished in the flames.[22] This was the end of that prince, advanced to a great age, after a troublesome reign of forty years. He had, besides a daughter, three sons by his first wife, Vortimer, Catigern, slain in a battle with the Saxons, and Pascentius. By his daughter, whom he is said to have seduced, he had a son named Faustus, who passed his life in a monastery, distinguished for his piety.

Ambrosius being thus rid of a formidable and hated rival, renewed the war against the Saxons. The particulars of this war are very imperfectly known; but, considering the valour and activity of the two generals, it may be supposed to have been very sharp. Historians relate but one remarkable event, namely, the signal victory obtained by Ambrosius, in the year 487, over Ella and his two eldest sons. This defeat. obliged the Saxon general to retire to his strong holds, in expectation of fresh supplies from Germany.

Hengist lived not to see the end of this war. He died in 488, aged about 69, of which he had passed 39 years in Britain, and 33 on the throne of Kent[23]. He cannot be denied the glory of being one of the bravest and most prudent generals of his time. He left two sons, Escus who succeeded him in the kingdom of Kent; and Audoacer, who stayed in Germany.

After the defeat of Ella, about a year before the death of Hengist, Escus had been sent into the north, to assist Octa and Ebusa against the Britons. But as soon as he had notice of his father's death, he hastened to Kent to take possession of the kingdom. In the mean time Ambrosius, improving his victory, retook London, Winchester, and Lincoln. Escus, wanting the qualities of his father, never endeavoured to recover these places, but preferred his ease before the fatigues of war. In all probability he obtained a truce, since, in the three following years, there is no mention of any hostilities on either side.

AD 490] During this calm, Arthur, who had all along assisted Ambrosius, finding his presence was not absolutely necessary in his. own country, made a voyage to Jerusalem: The truce, or discontinuance of the war lasted but three years.

The Northumbrian Saxons beginning to stir in 491, Arthur, who had returned from his voyage, marched against, and defeated them. At the same time Ella, having received a strong reinforcement from Germany, went and besieged Andred Cester,[24] in the forest of Andredswald. The resistance of the besieged, and an army of the enemy posted on an advantageous ground, made him lose a great deal of time. But at length, after a vigorous defence, the town was carried by storm, and entirely destroyed. Immediately after this Ella assumed the title of king of Sussex, or of the south-Saxons, which he durst not do while. Hengist was alive.

This second Saxon kingdom contained the present counties. of Sussex and Surrey. Ella was also elected monarch or general of the Saxons in the room of Hengist. For it must be observed, although Hengist was only king of Kent, he was considered also as head of all the Saxons, according to the custom of that nation in Germany, where, in time of war, they had always their general in chief;

accountable only to the states. In all appearance, Hengist's son thought himself incapable of discharging this high office, since he suffered Ella to be invested with it.

AD 491] About two years after, Arthur defeated the Northumbrian Saxons again; on the banks of the river Dugles,[25] where he had routed them three years before.

The year 495 was remarkable for the arrival of Cerdic, a Saxon general, not only upon the account of his conquests, but chiefly because from him the kings of England are descended, in the male line, down to Edward the Confessor, and in the female, down to the illustrious House of Brunswick. If we trace him higher, we And by the Saxon annals, that he sprung from Woden, the root of all the principal families of the Saxons.

He was famous also for founding a kingdom to which all the rest in the end became subject, and, consequently, he is to be regarded as one of the principal founders of the English monarchy. This warlike prince, having acquired great reputation in Germany. and, finding no farther employment there, resolved to seek his fortune in Britain, where he knew that many families of his nation had already established themselves.

To that purpose he equipped five vessels, and taking his son Cenric, advanced to man's estate, with him, sailed for Britain. Ella had brought with him three sons, Baldulphns, Colgrin, and Cissa who was very young; and the two eldest treading in their father's steps, bravely assisted him.

They are called by some Cismenius and Plentigus. Octa, commander of the Saxons in the north, having been frequently defeated by Arthur; and, perceiving himself too weak to guard all his conquests, had divided them into two parts, of which the southern was called Beira, and the northern Bernicia. He had committed the care of the first to Baldulphus and Colgrin, reserving Bernicia to himself to defend it against the continual attacks of the northern nations.

Colgrin, after the last defeat of the Northumbrians by Arthur, had shut himself up in York, where Arthur immediately went and besieged him. Nevertheless Baldulphus having been informed of Cerdic's design of coming to Britain, was gone into Norfolk to expect his arrival, and favour his landing. But Cerdic's arrival being delayed by some accident, Baldulphus marched back towards York, with intent to relieve it.

He was met upon the way by Cador, nephew to Arthur, who defeated him, and dispersed his army in such a manner, that he was forced to make his escape alone, disguised like a peasant. In that dress he safely reached the walls of York; and, making himself known, was drawn up with a rope. The news he brought of Cerdic's being about to arrive from Germany with powerful supplies, instilling new life into the besieged, they continued to make a vigorous defence.

Arthur pushed the siege briskly, in expectation of taking the town before the arrival of the Saxon prince. All this while, Cador was in Norfolk, ready to oppose the landing of the Saxons. But before Arthur had made any considerable progress in the siege, he received the ill news of Cerdic's landing at Yarmouth, and beating the forces sent against him. Upon which he raised the siege and retired to a place of security, till he could learn the exact number of the Saxons, which some had greatly exaggerated.

Baldulphus and Colgrin marched out of York, and committed great devastations in Lancashire, whilst the Britons were dismayed and terrified at the arrival of Cerdic. So great was their terror, that Arthur thought fit to keep at a distance from the Saxons for some time, for fear of not being able to inspire his troops with resolution enough to look those formidable enemies in the face.

AD 496] Pascentius, son of Vortigern, having long concealed his disgust at not having any of his father's dominions assigned him, seized upon this juncture to obtain what he thought his due.

With the assistance of those that, like him, were displeased with the advancement of Ambrosius, he drew some forces together, and, being joined by Balduphus and Colgrin, was reinforced by many of his friends in Wales. Ambrosius being grown sick and old, Arthur took upon him to chastise the rebel, and marching against him, gave him battle, and entirely routed him near the little river Dugles.

AD 497] The next year, Arthur in the same place gained another victory, and so warmly pursued the British prince, that he forced him to submit and sue for pardon. Pascentius got more by his submission, than by his arms. For besides his pardon, it procured him the possession of Brecknock and Radnor in Wales, which being erected into a kingdom, his posterity enjoyed it for many years.

About this time the Saxons in the north conquered the little kingdom of Galway, from Galvan, nephew of Arthur. This country, now part of Scotland, had remained in the hands of the Britons, and withstood the continual attacks, as well of the Saxons as Picts. Galvan having lost his dominions, retired to his uncle Arthur, to whom he was very serviceable in his wars.

AD 50] Shortly after, Porta landed at Portland[27], with fresh supplies of Saxons from Germany. This, at a time the Saxons began to be superior, obliged Arthur to quit the field and retire to London. Though he had generally the better of the Saxons in all their encounters, his troops were considerably diminished; whereas the enemy's forces were continually increasing by fresh recruits from Germany. Arthur, who had not the same supplies, would have been reduced to extremity, but for the assistance of Hoel king of Armorica, his nephew.

This young prince, greedy of glory, and glad of an occasion to signalise himself in the service of his uncle, put himself at the head of 15,000 men, and, landed at Southampton. With this aid, Arthur attacked the Northumbrians, grown formidable by the valour of Baldulphus and Colgrin, their leaders, and meeting them in Deira, obtained a complete victory over them. The two Saxon brothers, not being in condition to withstand him after their defeat, had no other course to take, but with the remains of their army to join Cerdic, then besieging Lincoln. But Arthur, fearing the loss of that place, followed them, and surprised Cerdic in so sudden a manner, that, not being able to continue the siege, or raise it, without danger, he was constrained to hazard a battle,[28] which proved fatal to the Saxons. Cerdic being defeated, was forced to betake himself to the forest of Celidon, where having suffered great hardships, he at length found means to retire towards the western coasts.

After Cerdic's defeat, all the Saxons were equally concerned to oppose the progress of Arthur, who, like an able general, wisely improved his victories to the utmost. The dread he struck them with, made them resolve to unite all their forces, and endeavour to retrieve their affairs. They consequently assembled all their troops, and conferred the command in chief on Cerdic. The infirmities and old age of Ella, who had been monarch ever since 492, were probably the cause of his not heading the army at this time. Cerdic, having divided his troops into two bodies, gave the command of the least to Baldulphus and Colgrin, and headed the other himself with his son Cenic.

While the Saxons were employed in making preparations, the Britons were exerting their utmost to raise an army capable of withstanding such powerful enemies. Ambrosius, though very old, and almost past the time of action could not see all these preparations without having his courage roused. He put himself at the head of his army; and, detaching Arthur to follow Baldulphus and Colgrin, who were marching towards the west, resolved to go in quest of Cerdic. Arthur, every where victorious, coming to an engagement with the Saxon brothers in Cornwall, obtained a signal victory over them[29].

AD 508] Whilst this great general was causing the arms of the Britons to triumph in those parts, Ambrosius advanced towards Cerdic, who had no thought of retiring. The two armies being

engaged, Ambrosius broke through the right wing of the Saxons, commanded by Cerdic, and put them to rout. But whilst he was eagerly pursuing his victory against a body that made but a faint resistance, Cenric had the same advantage over the right wing of the Britons, which he more wisely improved. Instead of losing time, in pursuing the runaways, he flew to the assistance of his father; and, falling upon Ambrosius in flank, put him in irreparable disorder. By this prudent conduct, he gave Cerdic time to rally his troops, and complete the victory by an entire defeat of the Britons.

Ambrosius, vexed to see the victory snatched out of his hands, did all he could to renew the fight. In spite of age and infirmities, he threw himself amongst his enemies, in order to animate his troops by his example. But all his efforts served only to crown his glorious life with an honourable death[30]. The fall of Ambrosius caused an universal rout among the Britons, who precipitately abandoned the field of battle to their enemies. The success of that day was, by the public acknowledgment of his father, attributed to Cenric. This battle was fought near a place called by the Saxons, Cerdic's-ford[31]. Arthur was elected monarch in the room of Ambrosius. He was without doubt the fittest person to command the army, his very name being terrible to the Saxons[32].

After his coronation at Caerleon, which he had retaken from the Saxons, he marched against the Northumbrians, and defeated them on the banks of the little river Ribroyt that runs through Lancashire. This is reckoned his tenth victory over the Saxons. In the mean time Baldulphus and Colgrin, invading the western parts, made such devastation, that he was obliged to leave Northumberland, and march against the two brothers. However, he left Hoel his nephew in Bernicia, to oppose the Saxons there, who, though often beaten, were still formidable. His usual success attended him. The Saxon brothers, being compelled by him to come to an engagement, were routed near Cadbury in Somersetshire.

AD 511] Meanwhile Cerdic, having received fresh supplies from the Saxon princes in Britain, as well as from Germany, laid siege to Bath. Baldulphus and Colgrin having joined him also with what troops they could draw together, his army was so strong, that he wished the Britons would attempt to raise the siege. His wishes were accomplished. Arthur, resolving to hazard all to save the place, came and gave him battle, which proved the bloodiest that had ever been fought between the two nations. It lasted from noon till night, without any visible advantage to either side.

Both armies kept the field, waiting for the day to renew the fight. The Saxons, during the night, posted themselves on a little hill, called Bannesdown, which was of great importance, though it had been neglected by both sides the day before. As soon as it was light, Arthur, perceiving the advantage the Saxons had gained by seizing that post, was resolved to dislodge them, which he effected after a long and obstinate fight. The Britons, animated by the presence and valour of their king, perceiving that the Saxons, in retreating down the hill, had put themselves in some disorder, pressed them still more vigorously, and at last entirely routed them[33]. They gained, on this occasion, a most complete victory. Baldulphus and Colgrin were both slain, and Cerdic, with the remains of his army, retired to an inaccessible post.

An unexpected event gave the Saxons time to breathe, and prevented Arthur from improving his victory. The Picts, who were in alliance with the Saxons, knowing Arthur to be at a distance, and his nephew Hoel sick at Areclute, resolved to besiege that town, in expectation of taking it before it could be relieved. But Arthur was too quick for them, instead of pursuing his advantage upon Cerdic, he flew to the assistance of the king of Armorica, and compelled the Picts to raise the siege.

The British monarch was so enraged with the Picts for this diversion, which came so opportunely for the Saxons, that he ravaged their country from one end to the other, and would have entirely destroyed it, had not the bishops by their intercession diverted him from his purpose.

During this expedition, died Gueniver wife of Arthur, who was buried in the county of Angus, in Scotland. Hoel, after this expedition, returned to his own country, the victory of Badon having secured Arthur, for some time, from any attempts of the Saxons. Arthur, in his return from the country of the Picts, made some stay at York, which the Saxons had just abandoned since the battle of Badon.

Escus king of Kent died in 512, memorable only for leaving his name to all his successors kings of Kent, who from him were called Escingians. He was succeeded by his son Octa, succeeded him in the kingdom of Sussex but the monarchy of the Saxons was conferred on Cerdic. Cerdic, ever since the battle of Badon, had lain quiet in his own country, expecting a supply from Germany, which arrived in 514, under the conduct of Stuff and Withgar his nephews[34]. Upon this he took the field again, and committed great devastations in the country of the Britons. Arthur, though weakened by his own victories, not having the same recruits as the Saxons, made powerful struggles to oppose the progress of this formidable enemy.

At length, in 519, Cerdic defeated the Britons in such a manner, as made them despair of ever driving out the Saxons[35]. Arthur now saw himself under a necessity of taking other measures. As he found his army irreparably destroyed, he thought it more prudent to conclude a peace with Cerdic, and grant him a part, than to hazard the whole of his dominions, by endeavouring to deprive him of all. This consideration moved him to surrender by treaty a certain tract of land, containing the present counties of Hampshire and Somersetshire.

The Saxon prince was pleased with these terms, being desirous, after so long a war, of enjoying some repose in his declining age. As soon as he was in possession of his new territories, he founded the kingdom of Wessex, or of the West-Saxons, so called because it lay west of Kent and Sussex. He was crowned at Winchester, twenty-three years after his arrival in Britain. Thus, by his valour and perseverance, he procured himself a settlement in the island; as well as his countrymen Hengist and Ella. Arthur took this opportunity to rebuild some of the churches destroyed by the preceding wars, and to repair, as far as lay in his power, the damages which religion had sustained.

From the time Hengist had peopled Essex and Middlesex with Saxons and Jutes, they had been governed by a deputy under the king of Kent. But in 527 Erchenwin, descended from Woden, assumed the title of king of Essex, or of the East-Saxons. This kingdom, lying eastward of the other three, contained the two counties of Essex and Middlesex, of which London was the capital. Who Erchenwin was, how long he had been in Britain, and what right he had to this new kingdom, historians inform us not. It is probable he was governor under Octa king of Kent, and taking advantage of his weakness, engaged the people to acknowledge him for king.

About this time multitudes of Angles, under the conduct of twelve chiefs, all of equal authority, but whose names, except Uffa, are unknown, landed at some port on the eastern coast of Britain, where, without much difficulty, they possessed themselves of a post, those parts being ill guarded by the Britons. In time, as they were continually enlarging their conquests towards the west, they compelled the Britons to abandon the country along the eastern shore. The Angles, thus situated, had an opportunity of sending from time to time for fresh colonies from Germany, with which they founded a fifth kingdom, by the name of the kingdom of East-Anglia, or of the East-Angles. But as their first chiefs assumed not the title of king, the beginning of this kingdom is generally brought down to the year five-hundred and seventy-one.

During the eight years' peace between Arthur and Cerdic, the king of Armorica, being disturbed by the rebellion of Frollon, one of his subjects, sent to his uncle Arthur for aid. As Britain was then in a state of tranquillity, Arthur would go in person, and assist the king his nephew. To that end he passed into Armorica, where he avenged Hoel, by slaying Frollon with his own hand in the first battle they fought.

AD 527] Arthur was still with Hoel when the Angles arrived in Britain. Cerdic, taking advantage of Arthur's absence, and of the Angles, broke the peace, and made some farther conquests. He was constantly attended by his son Cenric, who bravely seconded him in all his undertaking's, and by his valour and conduct caused him to gain a signal victory in Buckinghamshire, at a place called Cerdic's Leta, now Cherdasley.

AD 528] Arthur, at his return, found his affairs in extreme disorder, by reason of Cerdic's new conquests, and the arrival of the Angles. However, perceiving himself unable to renew the war with his enemies, whose number was continually increasing, he chose to make a new treaty with Cerdic. Immediately after this treaty, Arthur is said to have assumed the title of emperor, of which his seal found at Westminster is pretended to be a proof.

Hoel, king of Armorica, was enjoying the repose procured him by Arthur, when he heard that the Visigoths, then in possession of part of Gaul, were preparing to invade his dominions: wherefore he desired Arthur to come once more in person to assist him against such formidable enemies, as were already masters of part of Gaul. How necessary soever Arthur's presence might be in his own kingdom, he readily gave Hoel this full proof of his affection and gratitude. As he was likely to be detained abroad some time by the affairs of Armorica, he left Modred his nephew, whom he designed for his successor, regent in his absence, at the same time entrusting him with the care of the queen his wife.

AD 530] Arthur was no sooner gone, than Cerdic, taking advantage of his absence, attacked and subdued the isle of Wight, destroying almost all the inhabitants in a cruel manner. But this loss was nothing to Arthur, in comparison of what shortly after followed by the treachery of Modred, to whose care he had committed what he held most dear. This traitor, finding the wife and kingdom of Arthur in his power, fell in love with both; and, not satisfied with seducing the queen in private, publicly married her.

In order to avoid a second crime, by the punishment of the first, he resolved moreover to seize the crown of his uncle, his king and benefactor. The more easily to accomplish his design, he judged it necessary to make Cerdic his friend, and by this means to gain all the rest of the Saxon princes to his interest. But the Saxon prince not being disposed to elect his own, for the sake of another's affairs, Modred could not possibly attain this protection, without paying dearly for it. However, as he had no other way to support himself, he resigned to Cerdic one part of the dominions usurped from his uncle, and entered into a league offensive and defensive with him.

What the Saxon prince got by this treaty, lay extremely convenient for him, and vastly exceeded what had before been given him by Arthur. It contained, besides part of Danmonium, or Cornwall, the present counties of Berkshire, Wiltshire, Devonshire, and Dorsetshire. This, with Hampshire and Somersetshire, which he was before possessed of, rendered his kingdom much larger and more considerable than the three other Saxon kingdoms already established. The treaty being executed, Modred was crowned at London; those who privately abhorred his treacherous doings, not daring to oppose it, for fear of being oppressed before the return of their lawful prince.

In the meantime, Cerdic, having much enlarged his dominions, was encumbered with his greatness. As most of his subjects were Britons, on whose loyalty he could not wholly rely, he believed it necessary, in order to preserve his new dominions, to people them with Saxon colonies. To that end he sent word into Germany, that all who were willing to come and settle in his kingdom should meet with encouragement. This invitation induced many of the Saxons and Jutes to embrace the opportunity. Soon after, above eight hundred vessels arrived, freighted with families in quest of settlements in Cerdic's new kingdom.

These colonies were joyfully received and planted in habitations; whence Cerdic took care to drive such Britons as he most suspected, especially upon the frontiers. Thus, there were abundance of Jutes likewise in Kent, Essex, and Sussex. Withgaraburg, which is at the present

time contracted into Britain was filled by degrees, with new inhabitants, and began to lose the superiority in number, which she had hitherto had above the foreigners.

Cerdic, having settled these newcomers, was crowned a second time at Winchester, the metropolis of his dominions, by the same title of king of Wessex, or of the West-Saxons, that he had before assumed. This ceremony was thought necessary, by reason of the great number of his new subjects, Saxons and Jutes, that were lately added to the old. This kingdom was very advantageously situated, being bounded on the north by the Thames; on the west, by the Severn; on the south, by the Sea; and on the east, by the kingdom of Sussex. The Britons, that were still in possession of the greatest part of Danmonium, could not be very formidable to Cerdic, being divided from the rest of their nation by this new kingdom and the Severn.

Cerdic was too well acquainted with the valour and activity of Arthur, to imagine he would sit still at his return; and therefore, used all his endeavours to put himself in a posture of defence. He repaired all his strong holds, added new works, and took all other precautions, his prudence suggested to him, not to be surprised when he came to defend his dominions.

Every thing being put in order, he rewarded his nephews, Stuff and Withgar, who had faithfully served him ever since their arrival, with the isle of Wight. As in all likelihood they were Jutes, Cerdic, in the distribution of his new colonies, had taken care to people that little island with their own countrymen[36].

A. D. 534] Thus Cerdic was prepared against the attacks of Arthur, when death took him out of the world in the year 534, sixteen years after his first coronation, and thirty-nine after his arrival in Britain. Cenric, his son, the faithful companion of all his labours, succeeded him. both in the kingdom of Wessex, and also in the monarchy or generalship of the Saxons and Angles; Cerdic's successors were surnamed Gewishians, from Gewish, One of their ancestors, famous in his generation.

The same year died Octa king of Kent, after a reign of 22 years, wherein nothing remarkable occurs but the dismembering of the kingdom of Essex. He was succeeded by his son Hermenrick.

AD 535] **Arthur, after a four years' absence,** quitted Armorica. Modred was in possession of his throne; and also in strict alliance with the Saxons; who, being now masters of good part of the island, were led by their own interest to support the usurper. Arthur, though broken with age, and almost destitute of friends, resolved to undertake the recovery of his kingdom, and to punish the treacherous Modred.

This resolution roused the courage of those who dared not at first to declare for him. A great number of officers and soldiers also deserted the usurper, and enlisted themselves under the banner of their lawful prince. Thus Arthur saw himself at the head of an army capable of making Modred uneasy, if not by the number, at least by the bravery, of the troops, and the valour and experience of the leader. Modred, on his part, omitted nothing for his defence.

In addition to the Saxons, he easily engaged the Picts to his interest, since they passionately desired to be revenged of Arthur, who had formerly carried fire and sword into their country. Thus Arthur, with a handful of friends, was forced to stand against the Saxons and Picts in conjunction with the Britons that sided with Modred. Though his troops were much inferior to those of his enemy, he found means to engage him in a very disadvantageous post, and obtain a signal victory. In this action he lost Galvan and Angusel, two princes of his blood, who had faithfully served him both in prosperity and adversity.

Though Modred was defeated, the supplies he received from the Picts and Saxons soon enabled him to give his uncle a second battle[37], but with no better success; and, though constantly

worsted, he found means to prolong the war seven years, without Arthur's being able to destroy him, much less to wrest out of the hands of the Saxons, what had been surrendered to them.

At last the fatal blow was given in the year 542. Arthur, pursuing his enemies from place to place, drove him to the extremity of Danmonium, where he could not avoid fighting. This last battle was fought by the river Cambalon[38] near Camelford. It proved fatal to the two leaders, as well as to all the Britons, who, having lost their best troops, were never after able to stand against the Saxons.

During this bloody battle, the uncle and nephew happening to meet, rushed upon each other so furiously, that nothing but death could part them. Modred was slain upon the spot, and Arthur, mortally wounded, was carried to Glastonbury, where he died, aged 90 years, 76 of which he had spent in the continual exercise of arms. He had reigned but 34 years; yet before he mounted the throne, he had commanded the British armies under Ambrosius.

Some have put an interval of several years between Ambrosius and Arthur, because they were at a loss where to place their Uther Pendragon, whom they will have, at any rate, to be a king different from Arthur. But the best authors are of opinion, that the name Uther, signifying in British a club, was given to the great Arthur, for the same reason that Charlemagne's grandfather was called Martel, or Hammer. As to the sir-name of Pendragon, it owes its origin, as it is pretended, to Arthur's wearing a dragon on the crest of his helmet.

AD 547] As soon as it was rumoured in Germany that Arthur was dead, and the dismayed Britons had neither power nor courage to defend themselves, great numbers of people resolved to go over and settle in Britain. Ida, by birth an Angle, and descended from Woden, having embarked on board forty vessels abundance of families of his own countrymen, landed at Flamborough in Yorkshire, then in possession of the Northumberland Saxons, who received them as friends.

The Northumbrians, so called from inhabiting north of the Humber, had maintained themselves in that country ever since the time of Hengist, and had always been in some dependence on the kings of Kent. They had often favoured the enterprises of their countrymen in the southern parts by frequent diversions, which had several times drawn into the north the arms of Ambrosius and Arthur: but, though frequently defeated, they had kept possession of these northern countries, without its appearing how they were governed, from the death of Octa and Ebusa to the year 547. Ida, when he first arrived in their country, found them ready and willing to obey him; and he was acknowledged for sovereign of the Northumbrians, as well as of the Angles his followers, under the title of king of Northumberland.

Ida was a prince of great fame; and yet, as he established, himself without any obstacle, there is but one particular recorded of him in history, and that is, his building the city of Bebbanburgh, so called from his queen Bebba. Of this city, there still remains the castle of Bamborough.

In the year 552, notwithstanding their weak state, the Britons made an effort to recover part of their lands from Cenric king of the West-Saxons, but were repulsed with great loss near Salisbury. Three years after, two sons of Modred, by the assistance of the Saxons, attempted to dethrone Constantine, the grandson of Ambrosias, to whom Arthur had bequeathed the kingdom of Danmonium. But Constantine, being better prepared than they expected, not only put them to rout, but pursuing them to Glastonbury, stabbed them himself in the arms of the abbot[39].

Ida king of Northumberland died in 559, having reigned twelve years. After his death, Northumberland, for some unknown reason, was divided into two kingdoms. Adda, son of Ida, was king of Bernicia, or the northern part, and Alla, descended from Woden, of Deira or the southern part. Ida left twelve sons, half by wives and half by concubines.

AD 560] The next year **Cenric king of Wessex**, and monarch of the Anglo-Saxons, died after a reign of twenty-six years. The reputation he had gained during his father's life, made it believed he would push his conquests farther. But when he was on the throne, he showed no signs of ambition, and employed himself wholly in promoting peace and good order in his dominions. He took up arms but once to repel the Britons, who came and attacked him. Of the four sons he left, Ceaulin, the eldest, succeeded him both in the kingdom of Wessex, and the dignity of monarch of the Saxons.

Ceaulin was no sooner on the throne, but he formed vast projects to enlarge his dominions. He was an ambitious prince, who, not content with prerogatives he was vested with as monarch, considered the other Saxon kings as his vassals, pretending to keep them in a rigorous dependence. Historians, indeed, give such a character of these petty sovereigns, that the nation in general could have but small hopes of assistance from any one or all of them together.

Constantine king, of Cornwall was a cruel and bloody prince, polluted also with abominable lust. Aurelius Conanus, whose kingdom lay eastward of the Severn, was guilty of parricide, and reigned with unheard of tyranny. Vortipore king of Demetia [or South Wales] was overgrown with pride; he gloried also in having no religion, and persecuting the clergy. Cuneglas, whose dominions were north of Cambria, (so the country was called between the Severn and the western sea,) was grown old in vice, and famous for his wicked deeds. Maglocun, or Malgo[40], king of Mona or Anglesey, thought of nothing but pillaging his neighbours and subjects, and heaping up riches by rapine and violence. In short, Britain was in terrible confusion. After Arthur's decease, every one lived as he pleased, and the authority of the tyrants was in proportion to the license their subjects were suffered to take.

Ceaulin's preparations, however, roused them a little out of their lethargy. They consequently chose Malgo to command them, merely for his giant like stature. The Saxon monarch, however, was possessed with the project of subduing his own countrymen first, so turned against the Saxons the arms that should have been employed against the common enemy.

At length, Hermeric, king of Kent, dying in 564, Ethelbert, his son and successor, could not bear the proud and haughty proceedings of the West-Saxon, which were the more grievous to Ethelbert, as, being a descendant of Hengist, he thought he had a better right to the dignity of monarch than any other prince.[41] Prepossessed with this notion, he resolved to revive the pretensions of the kings of Kent, neglected by his predecessors, and to declare war against Ceaulin, not considering the disproportion between his forces and those of his enemy.

Ceaulin, disdainful to be attacked by a young prince of no reputation, marched towards Kent with a design to prevent him; and, meeting him at Wibbandune[42], entirely routed him. Ethelbert being defeated a second time, was totally disabled, and forced to sue for peace. His disappointment, however, taught him that courage alone is not sufficient for war, but must be accompanied with prudence and strength. He improved so much, that he afterwards became one of the wisest and most illustrious princes of his nation.

Uffa, the only survivor of the twelve chiefs of the Angles before-mentioned, assumed in 571 the title of king of the East-Angles, and his kingdom was called East-Anglia. As this was forty years after his arrival in Britain, he must have been of a great age when crowned. This was the sixth kingdom founded by the Anglo-Saxons.

Ceaulin was so elated with his success against Ethelbert that he turned his arms against the Britons with designs to make new conquests. Cutha, brother of Ceaulin, frequently defeated the Britons, and would, in all probability, have very much enlarged his brother's dominions, had not death snatched him away in the midst of his victories.

Before this war was ended, Uffa, first king of the East-Angles, died in 578, leaving his crown to his son Titilus.

Such was the deplorable condition of the Britons, that the time of their utter destruction seemed to approach. There was, however, one refuge left. As the necessity of their affairs had formerly obliged them to send for the Saxons to defend them against the Scots, a no less pressing occasion compelled them at this time to implore the assistance of the Scots against the Saxons.

Ambassadors were accordingly sent to Aidan king of Scotland, to engage him in their quarrel. "They represented to him, that their ruin would infallibly draw on his; for the Saxons had in view no less than the conquest of the whole island, great part whereof was now in their possession: that if these foreigners should at length overrun what remained in the hands of the Britons, the Scots were to expect no better quarter than the Picts, who were already dispossessed of part of their country." To this they added, "that the Saxon monarch was an active and ambitious prince, capable of forming designs, the consequences whereof were to be equally dreaded by all his neighbours, if care were not taken in time to put a stop to his progress."

Aidan, prevailed upon by these considerations, put himself at the head of a powerful army, and joined the Britons, in order to attack the common enemy. Ceaulin, having notice of his march, made all possible speed to meet him with what troops he could assemble. But as the neighbouring kings, his countrymen, were not very forward to lend him assistance, his forces were far from being equal to those of the Britons and Scots. How great soever the superiority of his enemies might be, he courageously attacked them; but, after long disputing the victory, his army, overpowered by numbers, was cut in pieces, his son Cuthwin slain, and himself narrowly escaped.

The Britons were so elated with their success, that they began now to form projects to drive the Saxons entirely out of the island: but they were far from being able to put them in practice. The Saxon princes, though pleased to see Ceaulin humbled, thought it not for their interest to let the Britons and Scots enjoy the advantage they had gained by their victory; and, therefore, soon put their monarch at the head of a much more numerous army than the former.

Impatient to be revenged, he went in quest of his enemies, and met them without delay. In a second battle he repaired, by a signal victory, his former disgrace, and convinced the Britons of the vanity of their projects. Aidan retired into Scotland after his defeat. The Britons, who saw all their measures broken, thought only of preserving what they had left, content with dividing their country with the Saxons, since they were unable to expel them. But Divine justice, that had long pursued them, was not yet satisfied.

AD 584] Scarcely were the unfortunate Britons recovered from their late consternation, when a great fleet, appearing on their coasts, quite sunk their courage. This fleet, the most considerable of any that had come from Germany, brought great numbers of Angles, conducted by Crida, a leader of the same nation, of the race of Woden. As Crida, advanced in their country, disorder and consternation increased among the miserable Britons. Some vainly projected to defend themselves, whilst others sought only to save their goods, their wives and children, abandoning their lands to the Angles.

Crida taking advantage of their terror, spread himself far and wide; and, becoming master of the field, drove his frightened enemies before him. In vain did they fly to their walled towns; the want of provisions for such multitudes soon compelled them to surrender at discretion.

The Britons being unable to defend themselves against these new invaders, supported by their countrymen already settled in the island, took the only course left them, and retired into Cambria beyond the Severn. Their flight put Crida in possession of all the country lying between the Humber, the Severn, and the Thames, by which he was bounded on the north, west, and south. To the east of him lay the kingdoms of Essex and East-Anglia. Out of all these conquests, Crida formed a kingdom larger and more considerable than any of the other six, by the name of the kingdom of the Middle-Angles. This kingdom was afterwards more generally called Mercia. Crida the first king was crowned in 584.

Cambria not being sufficient to contain so many families, multitudes of miserable Britons fled into Armorica, where great numbers of their countrymen were already settled. Others submitted to the Saxons or Angles, content to become hewers of wood and drawers of water for a wretched subsistence. Those that remained in Cambria, a country defended by nature, kept their ground against all the power of the conquerors, who could not till long after extend their conquests beyond the mountains. This little corner of the island, where the Britons were cooped up, was afterwards divided into several petty kingdoms, which were at times separated, at times united, according to the ambition or power of their kings.

The Saxons gave the Britons the name of Gwallish, or Walfish, that is, Gauls; taking them to be, as in all appearance they were, of Gaulish extraction. For this reason Cambria was by them termed Wallish-land; whence came the name of Wales, changed by the French into Galles, upon account of their being derived from the Gauls. The Walloons also, and Wallachians, have still kept these names, and in some places in Germany the Italian tongue is called Welsh, because of Gallia Cisalpina inhabited by the Gauls.

About the same time, the Anglo-Saxons unanimously agreed to call the seven kingdoms in general by the name of England, that is, the country of the Angles. But the Picts, Scots, and Irish, were not fond of this change of names. They continued to call the new possessors of Britain, Saxenag or Saxons, and their country, Saxeneage.

After the death of Ida, and the division of Northumberland before-mentioned, Alla reigned in Deira, and Adda, eldest son of Ida, in Bernicia, who dying in 563. four kings, all sons or brothers of Ida, successively filled the throne of Bernicia till the year 586, when Athelric, Ida's youngest brother, was placed thereon. But as he was very old, Adelfrid his son held the reins of the government by his father's authority.

In the year 587, Ercenwin, first king of Essex, died, after a reign of sixty years, and was succeeded by his son Sledda.

Thus we have run through, in this second book, the most remarkable events that happened in Great Britain, from the arrival of the Saxons to their establishment in the island, during a war of 130 years. We have seen. the efforts of the Britons, who, after a resolute defence, were forced at last to give up their country to the very people they had called to their assistance. In the following book, we shall see what passed in the Heptarchy, the name given to the seven kingdoms of the Anglo-Saxons, when considered as making but one body under the same government.

The Saxons, Jutes, and Angles, that conquered the best part of Britain, looking upon. themselves as one and the same people, as they had been in Germany, established a form of government, as like as possible to what they had lived under in their own country. They formed their Wittena-Gemet, or assembly of wise men, to settle the common affairs of the seven kingdoms, and conferred the command of their armies upon one chosen out of the seven kings, to whom, for that reason, no doubt, some have given the title of Monarch, on pretence of his having the precedence and some superiority over the rest. But that dignity seems rather to have been like that of Stadtholder of the United Provinces of the Low Countries. There was, however, some difference between the Saxon government in Britain, and that in Germany. For instance, in Germany the governor of each province entirely depended on the general assembly, where the supreme power was lodged; whereas, in Britain, each king was sovereign in his own dominions. Notwithstanding this, all the kingdoms together were, in some respects, considered as the same state, and every one submitted to the resolutions of the general assembly of the seven kingdoms, to which he gave his consent by himself or representative. A free election, and sometimes force, gave the Heptarchy a chief or monarch, whose authority was more or less, according to their strength. For though the person invested with this office had no right to an unlimited authority, there was scarcely one of these monarchs but what aspired to an absolute power.



THE STATE OF THE BRITISH CHURCH, FROM THE ARRIVAL OF THE SAXONS, TO THE RETREAT OF THE BRITONS INTO WALES



AFTER having seen what calamities Britain was exposed to by the Saxon wars of 130 years, a regular account of the British church is not to be expected during that space. Before the arrival of the Saxons, Germanus bishop of Auxerre came twice into Britain, to extirpate the Pelagian heresy, that had taken deep root. This prelate perceived that the clergy were no less ignorant than corrupted, and that their corruption was chiefly owing to their ignorance.

To apply some remedy to this evil, he believed the most beneficial thing he could do for Britain would be to erect schools for the instruction of youth, and particularly for those that were designed for the service of the church. Pursuant to this resolution, he founded several, among which those of Dubricius and Iltutus were the most famous. Dubricius, bishop of Llandaff, was made archbishop of Caerleon, and metropolitan of all Cambria. He had two schools, where he taught himself, one at Hensland, and another at Mockrost. Iltutus taught at Llantwit, that is, the church of Iltutus.

There was also at Bangor in Cambria a famous monastery where youth were educated. Amongst the advantages the Britons received from the presence of Germanus, some reckon also the change he made in the public service of the church, by introducing the Gaulish rites and ceremonies. This is almost all we know concerning the British church, during the time the Saxons were employed in their conquests. We can only add a few particulars relating to some Ecclesiastics famous for their sanctity, who flourished then in the island.

Patrick was one of the most remarkable for the conversion of the Irish, which is generally ascribed to him, though Anatolius and Palladius preached in Ireland before him. In all probability Patrick made the greatest progress, and therefore the Irish did, and still do, reverence him as their apostle and protector. There were, however, three noted men of this name: Patrick the elder, who died in 449, and is mentioned in the Chronicle of Glastonbury church: Patrick the Great, the converter of the Irish, who died in 493, having governed the church of Ireland 60 years: Patrick the younger, his nephew, who survived his uncle some years.

Dubricius, bishop, or rather archbishop of Caerleon, was illustrious for his piety, learning, and the above-mentioned schools; and for his Synod at Brêvi in Cardiganshire, against the Pelagians. David, son of a British prince, and successor of Dubricius, removed the archiepiscopal seat from Caerleon to Menevia, from him called St. David's.[43] He was noted for his austere life, and his Synod at Vittoria, where the Canons of Brêvi were confirmed. Several miracles are attributed to him, particularly his giving to the Bath waters the virtues they still retain. He is said to have lived 146 years.

Sampson the elder, and Sampson the younger. The first being bishop of Dol in Armorica, was sent for into Britain by Ambrosius, and made archbishop of York. The second, of the royal race, was made an archbishop without any particular see assigned him, with power to perform the

Archiepiscopal functions wherever he came The Saxon wars forced him to return home, where he was made archbishop of Dol.

Cadoc, abbot of Lancarvan, spent his whole income, in maintaining 300 priests. He lived to the year 570. Patern, of a noble family in Armorica, having studied 20 years in Ireland, settled in Cambria, where he usefully employed his time in promoting peace among the several princes. He generally resided at Cardigan, where is still to be seen Llan-Badarn-vawr, that is, the church of great St. Patern, which for some time was a bishop's seat. Patern died in his native country, where he was so distinguished for holiness of life, that no less than three festival days were dedicated to his memory.

Petroc, a native of Cornwall, was famous for his piety, and gave name to Petroc-stow, or Padstow, in the same county.

Kentigern, son to a princess of the Picts, was abbot of Glasgow, whence he went into Cambria, and, founding a religious society, returned to his monastery. His austerities are much extolled.

Asaph, the disciple of Kentigern, wrote his master's life, by whom he was made abbot of the monastery founded in Cambria; he lived to the year 590, and left his name to the city of St. Asaph.

Columba, nobly descended in Ireland, founded there a monastery, called Dearthach,[44] that is, the field of Oaks, because situated in a forest. Some time after he came into Britain, to preach the Gospel to the Highland Picts; and their king Brydius gave him the little island of Iona or Hy, (one of the Hebrides,) called since Colchil, where he founded another monastery that afterwards became very famous. These two monasteries for a long time supplied the Scotch churches, both in Ireland and Great-Britain, with bishops and priests. It is observable, that, according to the institution of Columba, the abbot of Iona retained a jurisdiction not only over several monasteries which branched forth from that, but also over the monks that went from thence to be priests or bishops.

Gildas of Badon, or Bath, was scholar to Iltutus, and a monk of Bangor Monastery. He was born in the year of the battle of Badon. He wrote a treatise intituled, *De Excidio Britanniae*, Of the Destruction of Britain, wherein he boldly censures the British princes of his time, who, after the death of Arthur, divided the country into several petty states. From him chiefly it is that we know what passed among the Britons about the time he wrote, in 564.

Columbanus, an Irishman, disciple of Congal abbot of Bangor in Ireland, passed great part of his life in Britain. From thence going into Burgundy, he founded the abbey of Luxeul, of which he was the first abbot, Twenty years after Thierra, king of Austrasia, and also of Burgundy, banished him his dominions, for too freely censuring his conduct, and forced him to fly to Agilolph king of the Lombards. He founded near Naples the monastery of Bobio, where he died.

These were the most noted Ecclesiastics in the British church, from the arrival of the Saxons to the retreat of the Britons into Cambria.

Notes to Book 2

1. Hengist signifies a stone horse, and horsa a horse. It was usual with the Saxons to give their children the names of animals, Hence among us at this day; the names, lamb, bear, fox, buck, &c. The Romans had the same custom, witness Catulus, Aper, &c. Hengist and Harsa were the reputed great grandsons of Woden, a chief god of the Saxons.

2. Most historians say Rowena was Hengist's daughter.

3. In this historical incident, it is generally understood, the custom of drinking healths in this country originated.
4. He is said by several to be son of Constantine, beheaded by Honorius
5. A. D. 452.
6. A. D. 454.
7. Now Aylesford.
8. He was buried at Horsted, so called from him,
9. He was buried near Aylesford, where four great stones stand an-end, with others a-cross them, like Stonehenge. Camden.
10. Now Creyford, from the riven Crecan, now Crecee.
11. A. D. 458
12. A. D: 458.
13. Supposed to be the town now called Kydwelly.
14. The Romans, for the more convenient going from colony to colony, had their public highways, called *Viæ consulares Prætoræ, Regiæ, &c.* but by Bede and the moderns, *Stratæ* or streets. (Hence the many Strettons, i.e. towns, on these streets.) There were four in England: Watling-street, Ikenild-street, Ermin-street, and Foss-Way. Two of these ways were extended across the breadth of the Kingdom, the other two through the length of it. The tracts of these four ways, are, and have been, for many ages, very obscure.
15. Wippedi fluentum. In all probability Ipswich, in Suffolk.
16. Cornwall and Devon.
17. Or Alclud. This kingdom contained part of Cumberland and Lenox. Dunbritton was afterwards the name of the capital.
18. A. D. 470.
19. He was buried at Lincoln.
20. The signal was, *Nimed eure Seaxes*, (i. e.) Pull out your daggers. Stillingfleet doubts the truth of this fact, because Witichind. relates one like it that happened in Germany. But it might be repeated in Britain. This massacre is understood to have been committed on the 1st of May.
21. A. D. 477.
22. A. D. 485.
23. Some British or Welsh writers tell us, Hengist was taken prisoner and beheaded by the Britons; but the Saxons unanimously assure us he died a natural death.
24. Supposed to be Pemsev or Hastings, in Sussex.
25. In Lancashire, near Wigan; or by the river Dug or Due in Lincolnshire.

27. More probably at Portsmouth.
28. By the river Bassas, which is supposed to run by Boston.
29. Near Gainsford.
30. Ambrosius was honoured, by the Britons, with the name of NATANLEOD; or, the preserver of the people.
31. Chardford in Hampshire. There were 5000 Britons slain with him.
32. Arthur signifies a horrible bear, or an iron hammer, from the British word Arth, a bear.
33. Malmsbury says, Arthur slew four-hundred with his own hand. Usher places the battle of Badon or Bath, in five-hundred and twenty, but Langhorne's opinion, who places it in five hundred and eleven, seems to be best supported.
34. Probably Caishot, or near it, in Hampshire.
35. At Chardford in Hampshire
36. There were abundance of Jutes likewise in Kent, Essex, and Sussex. Withgaraburg, which is at the present time contracted into Carisbrook, was so named from Withgar, who was buried at that place.
37. A. D. 537.
38. Cam signifies winding in Saxon. It is called also Camel.
39. Matthew of Westminster says that one of them fled to Winchester, where, having taken shelter in the church of St. Amphibalus, he was slain before the altar; and that the other, having fled for refuge to a monastery in London, was found near the altar, and there killed.
40. Arthur's sister's son, who sided with Modred against his uncle.
41. A. D. 567
42. Wimbledon in Surrey.
43. A. D. 59.
44. A. D. 522.

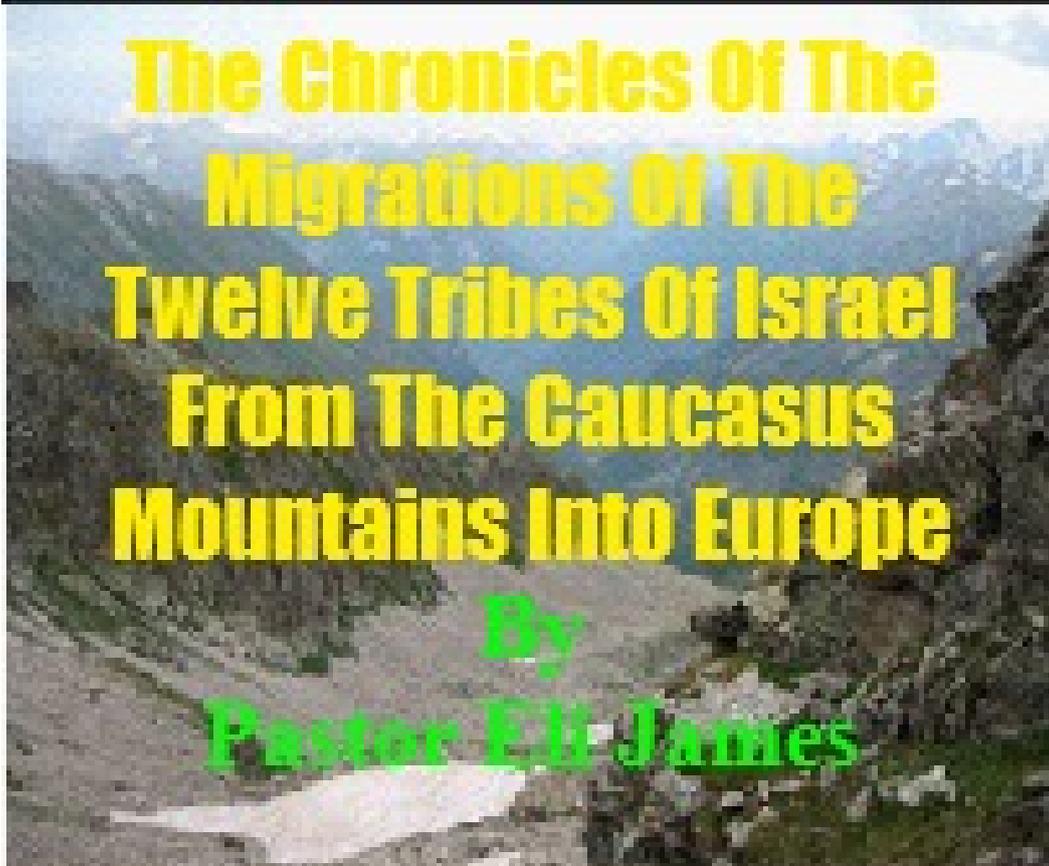




The Battle of Mount Badon

The End of Book II





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