

**HUGHES'S
HISTORICAL READERS.
STANDARD III**

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Hughes's Historical Readers. Standard III by Sir G. W. Cox

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SIR G. W. COX

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BY THE

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ETC. ETC.

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PREFACE.



EXPERIENCE has abundantly justified the opinion of Dr. Arnold, that for young children history should be thrown as far as may be possible into a biographical form. Nor can there be a doubt that a large amount of sound historical knowledge can be imparted by means of stories, dealing chiefly with personal character, and with the actions of individual men.

The present volume may, I hope, serve this purpose. The stories contained in it may all be read separately; but, taken in order, they will be found to give, for practical purposes, a connected account of the leading events of earlier English history, from which the reader will at the least, I trust, have nothing to unlearn.

Of the stories here given, the greater number are certainly historical, some few are doubtful, and a few, again, are in greater or less degree fictions. In each case the reasons are given for assigning them to their several classes; and the youngest child whose attention is drawn to these remarks can scarcely fail

to learn from them the main principles of historical criticism long before he is able to express them exactly.

More particularly, these tales may serve, I hope, to impress upon the reader's mind the broad distinctions between English history before the Norman Conquest and English history subsequent to the Conquest. They are distinctions without which it is impossible to explain the defeat of Harold at Hastings or Senlac, or the difficulties of which the Conqueror's relations with the Pope were the direct and immediate cause. But if they are clearly understood, they will throw a flood of light on the social and political growth of this country, and on a vast number of incidents in English history, of which many still have strangely confused and distorted notions.

Of the old English names I have given the common form, adding in brackets the old English form, as 'Elgiva (*Ælfgifu*).' It is well that even the youngest readers should know that the modern is not the true form of the name.





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STORIES FROM ENGLISH HISTORY.

LESSON I.

HENGIST AND VORTIGERN.

History does not begin with landing of Julius Cæsar—Stories of Caractacus, Boadicea, and King Arthur—Perhaps not true—Welshmen descendants of Boadicea—English came from Germany—Fetch Rowena—Vortigern marries her—Hengist asks for land—Britons killed—Story probably not true.

THE history of England does not begin with the landing of Julius Cæsar and his Roman soldiers on the Kentish coast. We cannot, therefore, take the stories told to us of his coming, or of all the events which followed his coming for the next four hundred years or more, as having anything to do with the fortunes of the English people.

We read of the great bravery of Caradoc, whom the Romans called Caractacus; and of the vengeance which the queen Boadicea (or