

**THE PRIMARY HISTORY OF
ENGLAND IN
READING LESSONS.
FOR STANDARD IV**

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The Primary History of England in Reading Lessons. For Standard IV by Anonymous

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ANONYMOUS

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ADAPTED TO THE LATEST REQUIREMENTS
OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.



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P R E F A C E.

THE PRIMARY HISTORY OF ENGLAND is intended, as its name implies, to give the young scholar his first complete view of the history of his own country. It contains only the most important events; and it is written in simple language, and in a picturesque style.

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THE PRIMARY
HISTORY OF ENGLAND
IN READING LESSONS.

Introduction.

CELTIC AND ROMAN TIMES.

1. THE EARLY BRITONS.

1. Two thousand years ago, the country in which we live was almost covered with dense¹ forests, in which roamed wolves, bears, wild boars, and white-maned bulls. The Britons who lived in it then were Celts—people of the same race as the natives of Wales and the Gaels of Scotland and of Ireland. They were the forefathers of the Welsh of the present day. But they were a wild and almost savage race. The country was very little known to other nations.²

2. In those days there were no large towns, nor pretty villages, nor well-built houses; no churches, nor school-houses. Here and there, where the forest had been cleared,³ there were a few poor huts, made of rods tied into the shape of a bee-hive or a sugar-loaf, and covered with mud and turf. Perhaps a trench or ditch was cut around the huts, to keep off the wild beasts.

3. The Early Britons did not till⁴ the soil. They sowed no corn or other seeds. They lived on roots and fruits, and on the flesh of animals killed in hunting. In winter, they wore skins to keep themselves warm; but in summer they went almost naked; and they painted strange figures on their bodies, to make them look terrible⁵ to their enemies.

4. Those who lived near the south coast were not so savage.⁶ They traded in tin and in pearls with people who came across the English Channel. From their visitors they learned to till the soil, to



DRUID CUTTING THE MISTLETOE.

grow corn, and to rear cattle. They had also learned to wear gay clothing, and chains of silver and of gold.

5. The Britons were fond of war. They fought with bows and arrows, with spears and clubs. They fought on foot and on horseback, and in chariots⁷ armed with scythes,⁸ which they drove wildly among their foes.

6. In religion they were pagans.⁹ They worshipped¹⁰ the sun and the moon and the serpent; and they looked on the oak, with the mistletoe¹¹ growing on