

**ELEMENTARY CLASSICS.
CAESAR'S INVASION OF
BRITAIN, ADAPTED FOR
THE USE OF BEGINNERS**

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Elementary Classics. Caesar's Invasion of Britain, Adapted for the Use of Beginners by W. Welch & C. G. Duffield

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W. WELCH & C. G. DUFFIELD

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INVASION OF BRITAIN

Adapted for the Use of Beginners

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WITH NOTES, EXERCISES, AND VOCABULARIES.

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PREFACE.

CAESAR'S 'Invasion of Britain' is intended as a first Translation Book. The text, which has been taken from Books IV. and V. of the Gallic War, has been simplified as much as possible; the various constructions being introduced gradually to the learner's notice. On each construction will be found one or more exercises and an explanation or rule.

An English vocabulary has been added at the request of the Publishers, and the objection raised to such a vocabulary in the Introduction to the Eutropius has been overcome by giving a reference to the chapter or vocabulary where the word occurs instead of giving the Latin word itself.

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INTRODUCTION.

JULIUS CAESAR IN BRITAIN.

THE transactions recorded in this book should be of the highest importance to Englishmen, for, however transient in their effects, they mark the dawn of the history of our island. Before the year 55 B.C., Britain was a *terra incognita* to the ancient world at Rome. The first mention of the island by any Roman writer is found only in the second book of Caesar's Gallic War, and even then he knew next to nothing about it. In 55 B.C. all Gaul lay prostrate at the feet of the conqueror; one by one the tribes had succumbed, and although they were only waiting an opportunity to strike again for freedom, the advancing legions had carried their victorious arms to the northern sea-coast of Gaul. Suddenly a new danger arose; the barbarous hordes of Germany poured across the Rhine upon their helpless neighbours; Caesar was summoned hastily from Rome, and hurrying across the wintry passes of the Alps he met the invader near the junction of the Mosa and the Rhenus,

and after a most determined battle nearly annihilated two entire tribes. It was at this time that the invasion of Britain was determined upon. If Gaul were to be preserved as a Roman dependency, it must be delivered from foreign foe and foreign ally alike. A severe example had just been made of one of the former, which would intimidate the rest for some time to come. But this was not enough. Caesar reflected that, in the conflict with the Veneti the year before, when all the maritime tribes had sent help against him, a fleet had sailed in from the direction of the white cliffs that lay far out on the horizon, and had joined the Venetian League. This was enough for Caesar. If the security of his Gallic conquests was to be preserved, this mysterious ally from across the sea must be taught the power of the Roman arms. An unconquered people, so close at hand, would offer an example of independence highly dangerous to the peace of Gaul. At all hazards, therefore, the Britons must be silenced. Caesar took up his quarters on the coast of the Morini, who provided him with information and assistance. Volusenus, a Roman officer, was sent to reconnoitre the opposite coast. Commius, chief of the Atrebates, was commissioned to precede the Romans and impress upon the Britons the advisability of an alliance or submission to the Roman power. The autumn was advancing; little way could be made this year, an expedition would not