

**AN EASY HISTORY OF ENGLAND:  
SECOND COURSE DEALING  
MORE ESPECIALLY WITH  
POLITICAL HISTORY FOR  
STANDARDS VI & VII**

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An Easy History of England: Second Course Dealing More Especially with Political History for Standards VI & VII by S. R. Gardiner

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**S. R. GARDINER**

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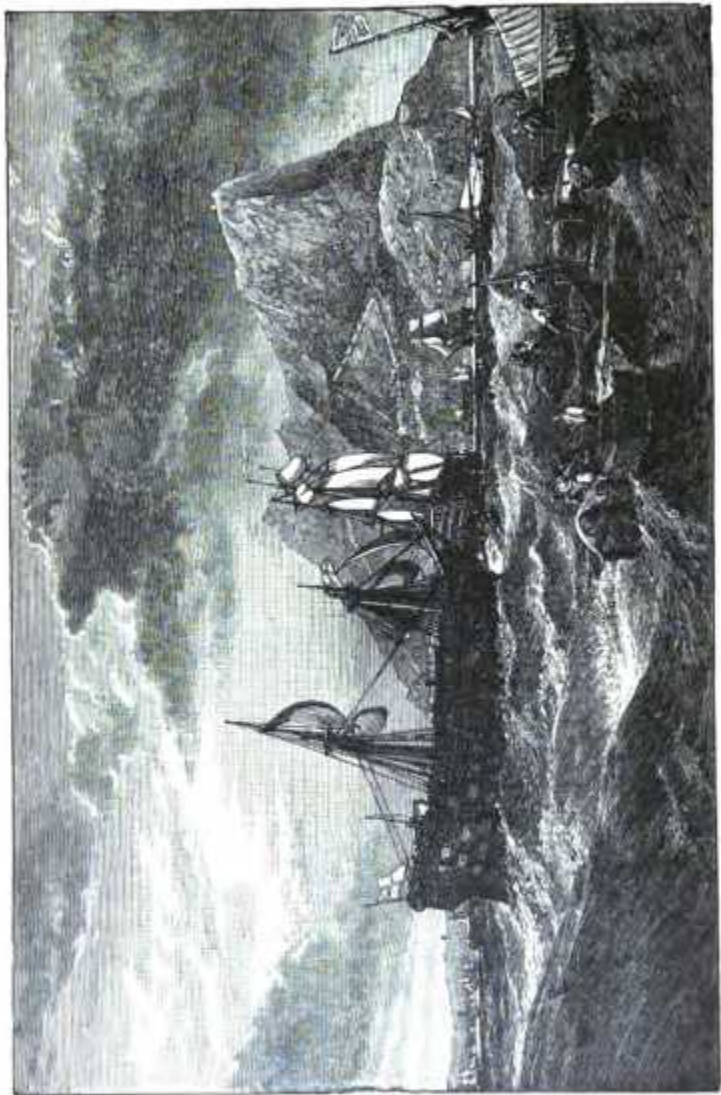
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**Appendix:**—A Summary of the Events of English History for Home Lesson Work. Genealogical Tables and Lists of Sovereigns. Dates of the Most Important Events.



# HISTORY OF ENGLAND

TREATED POLITICALLY.

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## CHAPTER I.

### EARLY ENGLAND.

1. **The Romans in Britain.**—At one time the southern part of the island in which we live was inhabited by people from whom the Welsh of our own time are descended. In course of time it was conquered by the Romans, and became part of the Roman empire—which spread over a great part of Europe and over parts of Asia and Africa as well. The Romans taught the inhabitants of the country to build towns, and forced them to live at peace with one another. Many remains of buildings raised by the Romans are still to be seen. At Richborough in Kent, and at Pevensey in Sussex, are Roman fortresses. At Lincoln the road still passes under a Roman gateway, and at Bath are the foundations of the bathing establishment from which that city has its name. Wherever the word ‘street,’ or something like it, is part of the name of a place—as in Chester-le-Street, Stratton, or Stratford—it is known that there was once a Roman road. Wherever the name ends with

chester or caster, as in Winchester or Doncaster, it is known that there was once a Roman garrison.

**2. The English Conquest.**—About three hundred and fifty years after the Roman conquest was completed, the Romans abandoned Britain. The British, left to themselves, were plundered and slaughtered by tribes from Ireland and from that part of the country which is now known as Scotland. Their worst enemies were other tribes named Angles, Saxons, and Jutes, who were of German origin and came from the neighbourhood of the mouth of the Elbe. These fierce warriors, who began to arrive about 449, were not content with plunder. They settled on the land, slaying or driving out the people, or, in some parts, reducing them to slavery. Gradually the whole of the East and South Coast fell into their hands and, at a later time, the central districts were also conquered. The name Welsh was given by them to the Britons, a name by which they meant the speakers of a foreign language which they were unable to understand. For some time the Welsh remained unconquered in Cornwall, Wales, and Cumberland. The name given by the conquerors to the country in which they settled was England, which means the land of the Angles, who were the most numerous of the new comers, and from them, too, the whole people, in course of time, came to be known as English.

**3. The Kings and the People.**—The English were divided into many peoples which often made war upon one another, as well as upon the Welsh. The kings who ruled over them could not do as they pleased. They had no soldiers trained to fight whenever they were ordered

