FRAGMENTS AND SCRAPS OF HISTORY, VOL. II

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Fragments and Scraps of History, Vol. II by George Harrison

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GEORGE HARRISON

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OF

HISTORY

VOL. II.

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1834.

HISTORIA EST TESTIS TEMPORUM, LUX VERITATIS, VITÆ MEMORIA, MAGISTER VITÆ, NUNCIA VETUSTATIS. Cic. de Oratore, lid. ii. c. 9. A CONCISE ACCOUNT

THE GAULS,

FROM THE

EARLIEST PERIODS OF THEIR RECORDED HISTORY

TO THE

CAPTURE OF ROME.

THE GAULS,

FROM THE

EARLIEST PERIODS OF THEIR HISTORY

UNTIL THEIR

CAPTURE OF ROME, A.U.C. 364.

THE boundaries of the more ancient or Proper GAUL seem to have been decisively marked out by the great hand of Nature. The NORTHERN ATLANTIC Ocean, the sea now called the BRITISH Channel, the GERMAN Ocean and the RHINE, formed its WESTERN and its NORTHERN boundaries; the RHINE and the ALPS enclosed it on the EAST; and the MEDITERRANEAN sea and PYRENEAN mountains on the SOUTH *.

But its restless inhabitants either disdained, or their increasing population rendered it inconvenient for them,

* Note A.

A 2

HISTORY OF

to be confined within the limits which Nature seemed originally to have prescribed to them.

Ambigatus, king of the CELTIO nations in GAUL (who is said to have been contemporary with *Tarquinius Priscus*, the sixth fabulous king of ROME), being desirous, as we are told, of relieving his country from the inconveniences occasioned by a redundant population *, commanded or permitted his two nephews, *Bellovesus* and *Sigovesus*, to emigrate each with a numerous band of followers. The course of their respective migrations was to be decided by the auguries of heaven ‡. The HERGYNIAN forest in GER-MANT became the lot of *Sigovesus* ‡.

A more delightful destination was assigned by the gods to the favoured *Bellovesus* §. After surmounting the almost insuperable difficulties which the steep and craggy sides of the lofty || and till then untrodden ¶ ALPS must have opposed to their progress, the rich and extensive plains of the Po and the pleasant coasts of the ADRIATIC received and rewarded the toils of these GALLIC wanderers and their successors. After a successful battle with the

* Exonerare prægravante turba regnum cupiens. Livy, lib. v. c. 34.

4

[†] In quas Dii dedissent auguriis Sedes. Id. ib. 1 Note B.

[§] Bellovens haud paullo latiorem in Italiam vism Dii dabant. Livy, lib. v. c. 34. Note C.

^{||} Juncta colo Juga. Id. ib. ¶ Nulla dum vià superatas. Id. ib.

THE GAULS.

INSUBRIAN TUSCANS on the banks of the TICINUS*, Bellovesus and his followers hailed as a happy omen the circumstance of the common name of this country (INSUBRIA) with that of a district of the ÆDUAN GAUL †. It decided them in the choice of the newly-found INSUBRIA ‡ as the country of their adoption; and in the construction of one of those little villages § which it was their custom to inhabit, they planted the germ of a great and splendid city—the MEDIOLANUM of the ROMANS—the MILAN of modern times.

Livy enumerates four distinct and successive emigrations of different tribes from GAUL who followed the example, and some of them the steps, of *Bellovesus*. The CENOMANI were the first who, by the invitation and with the assistance of *Bellovesus*, and under the conduct of *Elitovius*, pursued the same track over the ALPS, and possessed themselves of the districts of the modern BRESCHIA and VEBONA, which were then the possessions of the LIBUI [].

A colony of SALLUVIAN GAULS from the coasts of the MEDITERRANEAN sea, between the RHINE and the foot of the maritime ALFS, penetrating most probably that part of the great ALFINE chain which formed their own imme-

* The modern TESINO. + Quum in que considerat agrum ISSUBRIAN adpellare audissent cognomine Issubranus pago Æducanus, &c. Livy, lib. v. c. 34. † Note D. § Note E. || Note F.

5

HISTORY OF

diate EASTERN boundary, next established themselves in ITALY, near the ancient LIGURIAN people called the LCRVI, who bordered also on the river TIGINUS. They modestly declined the distinction of giving their own name to their new possessions. Their GALLIC appellation therefore became merged in that of the people, whom they expelled or subjected to their dominion, and is lost in the future history of the GALLIC nations of JTALY*.

The BOIAN and LINGONIAN GAULS, from the more northern parts of CELTIC GAUL, next explored a way across the PENINE ALFS; and, finding the whole tract of country between the mountains and the Po pre-occupied by GALLIC emigrants, they passed over that river on rafts †, and possessed themselves of those fertile plains which extend from its SOUTHERN banks to the foot of the APPENINE mountains, and which formed a part of the ancient ITALIAN kingdoms of UMBRIA and ETRURIA.

And, lastly, the SENONES, whose native seats in Proper GAUL were in the vicinity of the capital of modern FRANCE after traversing the whole extent of the countries which had been occupied by those who had preceded them, found at length, in TRANSAPPENINE UMBRIA, a restingplace and a home upon the coasts of the ADRIATIC, which

> * See Cellar. Gerg. lib. ii. c. 9, sect. 1, parg. 108. Note G. † Papo ratibus trajecto. Livy, lib. v. c. 35.

6