

**THE GRANVILLE HISTORY
READERS. NO. II. HISTORY OF
ENGLAND FROM THE ROMAN
PERIOD TO THE WARS OF THE
ROSES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649574445

The Granville History Readers. No. II. History of England from the Roman Period to the Wars of the Roses by Thos. J. Livesey

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

THOS. J. LIVESEY

**THE GRANVILLE HISTORY
READERS. NO. II. HISTORY OF
ENGLAND FROM THE ROMAN
PERIOD TO THE
WARS OF THE ROSES**

The Granville History Readers.

No. II.

HISTORY OF ENGLAND

FROM THE ROMAN PERIOD

TO THE

WARS OF THE ROSES.

EDITED BY

THOS. J. LIVESKY,

AUTHOR OF THE "PRINCIPLES OF ENGLISH HISTORY," THE "HOW TO TEACH" SERIES,
ETC. ETC.



LONDON: BURNS AND OATES.

1882.

228.f.71

CONTENTS.

[The Poetical pieces are distinguished by a star *.]

SECTION	PAGE
1. THE EARLY BRITONS	1
2. THE ROMANS IN BRITAIN	5
3. *CARACTACUS	8
4. BRITAIN'S FIRST MARTYR	10
5. THE LAST DAYS OF BRITAIN	11
6. THE COMING OF THE SAXONS	15
7. HOW PAGAN ENGLAND BECAME CHRISTIAN	19
8. CONVERSION OF THE NORTH	22
9. *KING EDWIN AND ST. PAULINUS	24
10. THE STORY OF KING INA	25
11. THE SEA-KINGS	27
12. *THE NORSEMAN'S SHEEP	32
13. SAXON LAWS AND CUSTOMS	33
14. KING ALFRED'S EARLY STRUGGLES	36
15. WHAT ALFRED DID FOR HIS COUNTRY	39
16. THE BATTLE OF BURNANBURG	42
17. ST. DUNSTAN	46
18. KINGÆ THE PEACABLE	48
19. THE DANISH CONQUEST	51
20. KING CANUTE THE GREAT	53
21. KING CANUTE'S PILGRIMAGE	56
22. THE LAST DANISH KINGS	58
23. THE ENGLISH RESTORATION	60
24. LAWS OF THE "GOOD KING EDWARD"	63
25. THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS	66
26. GANG ROLL'S CHILDREN.—THE NORMANS	69
27. THE FEUDAL SYSTEM	72
28. LAST DAYS OF THE CONQUEROR	75

SECTION	PAGE
29. *THE BURIAL OF WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR	78
30. THE RED KING.—THE CRUSADES	80
31. HENRY I.—INVESTITURE DISPUTE	84
32. THE WHITE SHIP	87
33. STEPHEN AND THE EMPRESS MAUDE	91
34. THE PLANTAGENET KINGS	95
35. ST. THOMAS A'BROCKET	99
36. THE MURDER OF A'BROCKET	102
37. CONQUEST OF IRELAND	106
38. RICHARD I.—THE CRUSADERS	109
39. RICHARD IN CAPTIVITY	113
40. DEATH OF KING RICHARD	116
41. *THE DEATH OF RICHARD I.	120
42. KING JOHN.—MURDER OF ARTHUR	121
43. MAGNA CHARTA	124
44. *HUBERT AND ARTHUR	128
45. HENRY III.—THE BARONS' WAR	130
46. KING EDWARD AND QUEEN ELIZABETH	134
47. CONQUEST OF WALES AND SCOTLAND	137
48. THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM	139
49. EDWARD II. AND HIS FAVOURITES	142
50. EDWARD III.—DEATH OF MORTIMER	145
51. THE BATTLE OF CRECY	149
52. THE DAYS OF CHIVALRY	154
53. *CHIVALRY	158
54. THE BATTLE OF POITERS	159
55. EDWARD III. AND QUEEN PHILIPPA	161
56. RICHARD II.—WAT TYLER	165
57. THE LOSS OF THE CROWN	166
58. THE LANCASTRIAN KINGS	169
59. MADCAP HARRY	171
60. HENRY V.—AGINCOURT	174
61. *BATTLE OF AGINCOURT	176
62. LAST DAYS OF KING HENRY V.	178
63. HENRY VI.—THE MAID OF ORLEANS	180
64. THE DEATH OF THE MAID	183
TABLE OF ENGLISH KINGS	185
NOTABLE EVENTS IN ENGLISH HISTORY	187



Druidical Remains.

No. II.

GRANVILLE HISTORY READERS.

I—THE EARLY BRITONS.

Two thousand years ago, England was called Britain. The island which we now call Great Britain—that is to say, England, Scotland, and Wales—is washed on every side by the sea. It has many large navigable rivers, the chief of which are the Thames, the Severn, and the Humber; and many fine harbours, which, together with its rivers and its insular form, show at once its fitness for becoming a great trading and maritime country.

Inland, Britain has always been famous for its fertility. It has very few mountains, and except in the east, very little marsh or bog land. In general, it is composed of gently sloping hills and fine corn or pasture land, watered by innumerable brooks and streams, and richly wooded with forests of oak, elm, and beech trees. The oak and the elm are the most valuable of the British trees, and the oak especially grows to a gigantic size.

Underneath the earth lie rich mines of iron, lead, tin, copper, and coal. The British tin was so famous, that our islands were known among the ancients by the name of the Tin Islands. This was well known to the Phœnicians, an ancient people of Asia, who traded with the Brets, or Britons, for tin; and although they tried to keep it secret, the Carthaginians also found out where these famous Cassiterides, or Tin Islands, lay, and came to Britain for the same metal.

The first inhabitants of Britain were a race of Scythian or Celtic Goths, who must have travelled westwards from Asia, the great cradle of the human race, and settled in Britain. They brought with them their Eastern paganism, which contained both the worship of fire and the sacrifice of human victims; and their priests, who were called *Druids*, seem to have had a mixture of the learning of the ancient Chaldean Magi and the more modern Paganism of the Roman Empire.

The Britons must have built enormous temples to their chief idol, whom they called *Dis*, or *Pluto*; for the remains of these temples still astonish every one who sees them. The chief of them is called *Stonehenge*, which is near *Salisbury*. There is another, which must have been very magnificent, at *Avebury*, on the *Wiltshire downs*: and there are many besides these. No one can quite understand how they dug up such huge masses of stone, how they carried them from the quarries, or how they set them up in a circular or round form. But these temples are quite enough to prove that the *Druids* must have had a good deal of knowledge and education.

They taught three things, which it is very curious they should have known; and they called them the three principles of wisdom:—1st, Obedience to the laws of God. 2d, Care for the good of others. 3d, Fortitude under the trials of life.

They thought that their gods principally lived in the thick forests of oak with which Britain was then covered; and they loved and revered the oak so

much, that they would never allow any of the trees to be cut down. They met together every year to cut off the mistletoe that grows on the branches; and when they had found it, the oldest, or Arch-druid, got up into the oak, and cut it off with a gold sickle. After the ceremony they made a great feast and rejoicing.

When there was any event—such as a battle, or a new chief, or any disease among the people or cattle—the Druids sacrificed human victims. They took the captives whom they had captured in battle, or some of the British children, and either killed them with a dagger, or put them into a wicker-work frame, representing a huge man, and burnt the frame and the victims together. They thought that the death-shrieks of these poor creatures were very pleasing to their gods.

In the north of Britain the people were very savage indeed. They did not wear any clothes, but painted themselves blue with a plant called *woad*; and they lived upon acorns and beech-mast, and in holes and caves in the woods and rocks. But in the southern parts of the country they were more civilised, and not so wild and rude. They knew how to build houses of logs of wood, and rushes platted together and covered with mud, to keep out the wind and rain; and they made stone foundations to their wooden houses. The roof was roundish, or what is called *conical*, that is, like a sugar-loaf, with a hole in the middle for the smoke to go out; for the fire was always made on flat stones in the middle of the floor.

These southern Britons wore a tight waistcoat and trousers made of cloth, and braided with coloured braid; and over them a large square cloak or mantle that hung down on all sides. They wore rings on their fingers, and chains round their necks, made of iron or brass. They made all these things themselves; for they had no ships, and they never went out of Britain. They were very skilful farmers, and grew a great deal of fine corn, which they kept in dry holes in the rocks, instead of in barns; and they spent their spare time in carving

bowls and cups and spoons, and making little fishing-boats called coracles, out of beechwood, and wicker-work, and leather.

The Druids really governed the country; for although the Britons had chiefs, they consulted the Druids upon all important matters. They made war and peace, settled the disputes between one chief and another; and when any of the chiefs disobeyed or insulted them, the Druids would not allow him to come to the sacrifices.

Some of the Druids made songs, and sang them to their harps. Those who did so were called bards. The bards always went out to battle with the chiefs; and in time of peace they sang at the feasts and sacrifices. These songs were never written; they were handed down by tradition from one bard to another, and the people loved them better than any book that could be written. These songs were about the bravest of the British chiefs, and their deeds in battle; and when any chief had many songs sung about him, he was honoured and esteemed by all the others.



Cromlechs or British Graves.