

**CAESAR IN KENT: THE LANDING OF  
JULIUS CAESAR AND HIS BATTLES  
WITH THE ANCIENT BRITONS, WITH  
SOME ACCOUNT OF EARLY  
BRITISH TRADE AND ENTERPRISE**

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Caesar in Kent: The Landing of Julius Caesar and His Battles with the Ancient Britons, with  
Some Account of Early British Trade and Enterprise by Francis T. Vine

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**FRANCIS T. VINE**

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CÆSAR IN KENT.

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THE LANDING OF  
JULIUS CÆSAR  
AND HIS BATTLES WITH THE  
ANCIENT BRITONS  
*WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF EARLY BRITISH TRADE  
AND ENTERPRISE*

BY THE  
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1886

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TO THE MOST NOBLE  
THE MARQUIS CONYNNGHAM,  
THIS BOOK IS, BY PERMISSION, RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED  
BY HIS LORDSHIP'S CHAPLAIN,  
FRANCIS THOMAS VINE

*Aug-13 December, 1847*





## PREFACE.

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**T**HE early history of every country is more or less mixed with fable. While, however, the mythical stories of classic antiquity are chiefly because of the grandeur of the literature which has preserved them, thought worthy of notice and examination; while the Argonautic expedition, the Trojan war, and the story of Romulus and Remus are familiar to every schoolboy, very little effort has been made, at any rate in our own day, to elucidate the truth concerning the somewhat legendary history of what may be called "the heroic age" of our own country. That this history contains the record of brave and noble deeds which, by careful and critical investigation, may be rescued from the region of fable, I have endeavoured in one or two instances to establish

in these pages. My principal object, however, has been to write more fully than has been written before, what has always been regarded as the first page of our country's history, as distinguished from the less reliable traditions of the prehistoric period.

The traces of Julius Cæsar's encampments in the neighbourhood where I lately resided, as Vicar of the parishes of Patricbourne and Bridge, were first brought to my notice by one who had long made them his study. His love of retirement has prevented him from associating his name with this work; but I desire gratefully to acknowledge the deep interest he has taken in its production, and the important help which he has rendered me throughout its preparation, by giving me the benefit of his archæological researches of many years.

I have sought no novel sites for Cæsar's landing and struggles with our British forefathers. In all cases the only traditions extant corroborate the choice of the localities in which I have placed the scenes of his battles. I believe that where tradition unhesitatingly localises events, it may

generally be relied upon. A striking instance of the accuracy with which the memory of events has thus been preserved for many centuries has been made public while these pages have been passing through the press. It occurred in connection with the remarkable discovery by Mr Petrie of the Palace of King Pharaoh at Tahpanhes, in Egypt. When he approached, wearied and footsore, the group of mounds called Tell Defennah, which have long been supposed to be the Tahpanhes of the Bible, "he beheld," as the *Times* article graphically relates, "one of these mounds, consisting of the burnt and blackened ruins of a huge pile of brick buildings, standing high against a lurid sky and reddened by a fiery sunset. His Arabs hastened to tell him its local name; and he may be envied the delightful surprise with which he learnt that it is known far and near as 'El Kasr el Bint el Yahudi'—the Castle of the Jew's Daughter." This information enabled Mr Petrie to identify this ruined pile with the House in Tahpanhes which, as we gather from the 43rd chapter of the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah, Pharaoh set apart as a resi-