



HISTORY
OF
THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

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Junior Class-Book.

L O N D O N :
THOMAS NELSON AND SONS, PATERNOSTER ROW;
EDINBURGH; AND NEW YORK.

1889

CONTENTS

The Contents are arranged in the form a Chronological Table, and may be used for Revisal Lessons.

PREFACE.....	3
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I. — THE ROMAN PERIOD

B.C.	
55. THE ROMAN LEGIONS IN BRITAIN.....	5

II. — TIME OF THE HEPTARCHY

A.D.	
449. HOW THREE KEELS BECAME EIGHT KINGDOMS; OR, THE STORY OF THE TEUTON SETTLEMENTS.....	13

III. — EARLY SAXON KINGS

871. THE DEEDS OF KING ALFRED THE GREAT.....	21
955. FIVE PICTURE FROM THE LIFE DUNSTAN.....	24

IV. — THE DANISH KINGS

1017. HOW A DANE OBTAINED THE ENGLISH THRONE.....	28
--	----

V. — SAXON LINE RESTORED

1041. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR.....	32
1066. HAROLD II.....	32
1066. THE STORY OF THE NORMAN CONQUEST.....	32

VI. — EARLY NORMAN KINGS

1066. WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR.....	37
1071. HERWARD AND WALTHEOF.....	37
1087. WILLIAM RUFUS.....	41
1100. A FATAL ARROW.....	42
1100. HENRY I.....	43
1120. THE WHITE SHIP.....	44
1135. STEPHEN.....	46
1138. THE BATTLE OF THE STANDARD.....	46

VII. — THE EIGHT PLANTAGENETS PROPER

A.D.	
1154. HENRY II.....	49
1162-70. LEAVES FROM THE STORY OF BECKET.....	49
1170. STRONGBOW'S INVASION OF IRELAND.....	56
1189. RICHARD I.....	58
1190. THE ADVENTURES OF CŒUR DE LION.....	58
1195. ROBIN HOOD AND WILLIAM LONGBEARD.....	65
1199. JOHN.....	70
1258. THE SIGNING OF MAGNA CHARTA.....	71
1216. HENRY III.....	73
1258. SIR SIMON THE RIGHTEOUS.....	74
1260-78. THE EXPERIMENTS OF ROGER BACON.....	76
1272. EDWARD I.....	79
LONGSHANKS.....	79
1307. EDWARD II.....	83
1314-27. BANNOCKBURN AND BERKELEY.....	84
1327. EDWARD III.....	87
1346-76. THE STORY OF THE BLACK PRINCE.....	87
1377. RICHARD II.....	90
1381. THE RIOT AND DEATH OF WAT TYLER.....	90
1384. WHAT JOHN WYCLIFFE DID AT LUTTERWORTH.....	93
1388. CHEVY CHASE.....	94

VIII. — HOUSE OF LANCASTER

1399. HENRY IV.....	97
1403. HOTSPUR.....	97
1413. HENRY V.....	98
1405-24. THE ROYAL PRISONER OF WINDSOR.....	99
1422. HENRY VI.....	102
1429. JOAN OF ARC.....	103
1455. WHAT THE PLUCKING OF TWO ROSES MEANT.....	106

IX. — HOUSE OF YORK

1461. EDWARD IV.	111
1483. EDWARD V.	111
1483. REIGN OF RICHARD III.	112
1483. THE LITTLE PRINCES IN THE TOWER	112
1485. THE BATTLE OF BOSWORTH FIELD	114

**X. — FIVE TUDOR
SOVEREIGNS**

1485. HENRY VII.	116
1492-99. THE STORY OF PERKIN WARBECK.	117
1497. THE VOYAGE OF CABOT.	120
1509. HENRY VIII.	122
1513-20. A FIELD OF BLOOD AND A FIELD OF GOLD.	123
1515-30. THE RISE AND FALL OF CARDINAL WOLSEY.	127
1547. EDWARD VI.	131
1553. MARY I.	131
1555. THE FIRES OF SMITHFIELD AND OXFORD.	132
1558. ELIZABETH.	134
1587. THE SAD END OF MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS.	135
1588. THE SPANISH ARMADA.	138
1603. THE DEATH-BED OF QUEEN BESS.	141

**XI. — THE SEVEN STUART
SOVEREIGNS**

1603. JAMES I.	143
1605. THE GUNPOWDER TREASON.	143
1584-1615. THE ADVENTURES OF SIR WALTER RALEIGH.	146
1620. THE VOYAGE OF THE MAYFLOWER.	149
1625. CHARLES I.	151
1649. HOW A KING OF ENGLAND LOST HIS HEAD.	152
1649. THE COMMONWEALTH.	156
1651. THE ESCAPE OF CHARLES II. FROM WORCESTER.	156
1653. OLIVER CROMWELL AND THE LONG PARLIAMENT.	159

1660. CHARLES II.	161
1665, 1666. THE GREAT PLAGUE AND THE GREAT FIRE.	162
1685. JAMES II.	164
1685. THE LAST BATTLE ON ENGLISH SOIL.	164
1649. HOW A KING OF ENGLAND LOST HIS CROWN.	167
1689. WILLIAM III. AND MARY II.	168
1692-98. GLENCOE AND DARIEN.	169
1702. ANNE.	172
1704-9. MARLBOROUGH.	172

**XII. — HOUSE OF
BRUNSWICK**

1704. GEORGE I.	175
1720. THE SOUTH SEA BUBBLE.	175
1727. GEORGE II.	178
1745. THE ADVENTURES OF PRINCE CHARLIE.	179
1757. HOW CLIVE FOUNDED OUR INDIAN EMPIRE.	186
1759. THE VICTORY AND DEATH OF WOLFE.	189
1760. GEORGE III.	192
1773-75. THE TEA-CHESTS OF BOSTON AND THE RIFLES OF LEXINGTON.	193
GEORGE III. (Continued).	195
1805. THE DEATH OF LORD NELSON.	196
1815. WATERLOO.	198
1820. GEORGE IV.	200
1830. WILLIAM IV.	201
1830. THE GROWTH OF THE LOCOMOTIVE.	201
1837. VICTORIA.	203
1845. THE FATAL VOYAGE OF FRANKLIN.	204
1855. THE SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL.	207
1857. THE DEFENCE AND RELIEF OF LUCKNOW.	211
1866. THE LAYING OF THE ATLANTIC CABLES.	216
1868. STORY OF THE ABYSSINIAN WAR.	218
SUMMARY OF RECENT EVENTS.	222
NOTE TO TEACHERS.	227
QUESTIONS.	230

PREFACE.

I INTEND this little book to serve as an introduction to my Senior Class Book of British History, lately published.

Written with the distinct object of being attractive to young readers, it is characterized (as I believe every work written to attract the young ought to be) by an idiomatic simplicity of language, and a free pictorial style.

The plan of the Work aims at presenting, in the first instance, a short Summary of each Period or Reign; and then supplying in the form of a Story fuller details of the more prominent and picturesque events. The Chronological Lists correspond with those of my more advanced Histories of the British Empire, so that a pupil becomes familiar from the beginning with a framework of Dynasties and Reigns, on the knowledge of which all accurate acquaintance with the subject depends. The introductory Summaries, printed in smaller type, supply a consecutive outline of British History, which may be studied either with, or apart from, the Stories.

I may state that the Stories will be found useful in supplementing those descriptions, which the limited size and diversified contents of a School History often render necessarily meagre; for, especially in dealing with the more romantic portions of English History, I have resorted freely to the narration of anecdotes and the accumulation of picturesque details.

W. F. C.

January 1870.

HISTORY

OF

THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

For Junior Classes.

THE ROMAN PERIOD.

Chief Events. — The Celts, who inhabited Britain, were disturbed in the year 55 B.C. by the arrival of Roman soldiers under Julius Cæsar. What we call the *Roman Period* of our history then began. It lasted during four hundred and sixty-five years.

It was not until the reign of Claudius, 43 A.D., that the Romans gained any decided success in Britain. Shortly after that time a brave British chief named *Caractacus* was defeated and taken prisoner; and the Druids were expelled from Mona (Anglesey). Agricola was the chief Roman governor of Britain. During nine years he held power: and, having invaded Caledonia or Scotland, he defeated a chief named Galgacus in the Battle of the Grampians, 84 A.D. The principal Roman Walls were the Wall of Hadrian, from the Tyne to the Solway Firth (121 A.D.), and the Wall of Antonine from Forth to Clyde (140 A.D.). The Roman Emperor Severus marched through Caledonia, as far as the Moray Firth. Just previous to 300 A.D. Carausius, a Roman admiral, seized Boulogne, and established himself as ruler in Britain. This was one sign that the Roman power was decaying in the island: another, and a stronger sign, may be found in the Sack of London (367 A.D.) by the Picts