

Among the tribes with whom Cæsar came in contact, the Brigantes do not appear. They were separated by wide lands and rivers from the dwellers on the southern coasts; and perhaps still more estranged by difference of race and political interests. The opponents of Cæsar were chiefly Belgæ who had migrated from old Gaul and established themselves by force; for the northern Highlanders\*, hunters, and shepherds, withdrawn from the sound of war behind their shady mountains, were uninjured by the Roman invasion, unmoved by the distresses of Cassivelaun and the capture of his city.

This want of unanimity among the British tribes †, by which each of the petty sovereignties or republics which existed in the country was left to contend alone against a mightier enemy, proved fatal to all in succession. Nearly a century, however, passed before the attempt of Cæsar was repeated. Then Aulus Plautius (A.D. 43) was encountered by the sons of Cunobelin of Camalodunum, who had been the ally of Rome, and whose coins, bearing the effigy of the Horse, indicate the free communication of Roman art. These sons, Cataractacus and Togodumnus, were defeated, and Camalodunum was taken by the Emperor Claudius; but the north of Britain still remained unscathed by Roman war and unnoticed in Roman story.

The Brigantes acquire both name and fame in the pages of Tacitus. This writer, speaking of the exploits of Ostorius Scapula, about A.D. 50, represents that commander marching from the overthrown Iceni (Cambridgeshire) to the Cangi (Denbighshire? and Flintshire), and then returning from this unfinished expedition to suppress internal discord among the Brigantes (Tac. Ann. xii.).

It may be thought these disturbances were of the nature of insurrections against the sovereign, who had perhaps already

\* The Brigantes are by their etymology Highlanders,—on similar grounds the Coritani appear to have been dalesmen.

† “Neque aliud adversus validissimas gentes pro nobis utilius quam quod in commune non consulunt.”—*Tacitus, Vit. Agric.*