

earned the dangerous protection of Rome, by acts of perfidy which preceded the betrayal of Caractacus. That generous prince, so long the glory of his nation and the terror of the legionaries, had fought his last fight ; his wife and daughter and brothers were captives to Ostorius. He had watched with firmness till the last chance for courage was gone, but even then he yielded not to despair. Retiring from the rugged camps on the Malvern or the Breiddyn hills*, to ford or perhaps to swim the Severn, in darkness, we follow in imagination the gallant chief through the Cannock Forest and across the old Via Devana, to the foot of the Penine Hills, the southern frontier of the Brigantes. Here, amidst the rough miners as yet untaxed by Rome, or surrounded by warriors in the mysterious circle of Arbelow, he may have found strong hands and resolute hearts to strike again for liberty.

The Druid haunts of Brimham may have given him favourable oracles ; he may have passed in exultation the four great stones which marked the approach to Isu Brigantum, and have supplicated the sovereign of the most powerful British nation for aid against his country's foe (A.D. 51). This sovereign—Cartismandua—was his own relation ; yet she delivered him bound to swell the triumph of his victorious enemy, and gratify the respectful admiration of Italy and Rome. The further history of this false queen and infamous woman is twice and strongly pictured in the pages of Tacitus. She was driven away by the insurgent Britons, headed by the husband whom she had deserted. She escaped by the aid of the soldiers of Didius ; but Venutius, skilled in war—the worthy representative of Caractacus—successfully defended the state against the disordered power of the empire (A.D. 51–57).

From the statement of Tacitus we may gather that the Romans had stationed a few cohorts in the territory of the Brigantes, as

* In his work entitled 'Salopia Antiqua,' Mr. Hartshorne has investigated in detail the retiring lines of defence adopted by the Silurian chief, and supposes the final battle to have been on the Breiddyn.