

of Lucius, when the Barons and Nobles of the land could not accord with themselves upon succession of the crowne: kept in the Romanes, & got the crowne into their owne hands, wherupon followed great misery and ruine to the realme: for sometimes the Idolatrous Romanes, sometimes the Britaynes reigned and ruled, as violence and victorie would serue, one king murdering an other, till at length the Saxones came and depeined them bothe, as in proccesse hereafter followeth to be scene.

In the meane leason touching the story of king Lucius, here is to be reprinted the table of some wyrters falsely saying of him, that he should after hys Baptisme receaue, put of all his kingly honor, and forsake the land & be made a preacher: who after long traualle in preaching and teaching, in Fraunce, in Germany, in Augusta, & in Suciua, at length was made Doctor and Rector of the Church of Luereak: where (as this fable sayeth) he suffered Martyrdom. But this phasie of whomsoever it first did spring, disagreeeth from all our English stories: who with a full consent do for the most part accord in this, that the said Lucius, after he had founded many Churches, and given great riches and liberties to the same: deceased with great tranquillitie in his owne lande, and was buried at Bloccester, the 14. yeare after his Baptisme, as the booke of Flores Historiarum, doeth counte, which was the yeare of our Lorde (as he sayeth) 201. and reckeneth his conversion to be. A. 87. In some I finde hys deceale to be the fourth, & in some the tenth yeare after his Baptisme, and holde that he reigned all the space of lxxvij. yeares, and thus much concerning king Lucius.

Now to proceede in order of the storie, briefly to touch the state of the foresaid land of Britayne, betwene the tyme of king Lucius, and the entering of the Saxones, who were the kings thereof: and in what order they succeeded, or rather invaded one after an other, this Catalogue heere under written will specifie.

Kinges of Brittain from the tyme of Lucius till the coming of the Saxons.

- Lucius, a Britayne.
- Seuerus, a Romaine.
- Rafianus, a Romaine by the father.
- Cerauius, a Britayne.
- Alectus, a Romaine.
- Asclepiodorus, a Britayne.
- Coilus, a Britayne.
- Constantius, a Romaine.
- Constantinus, a Britayne by the Mother, named Helena, who being daughter of Coel, & married to Constantius, father of Constantinus, is said to make the walles first of London, also of Colchester, much about the yeere of the Lorde, 305. and bozne in Britayne.
- Octavius, a Brittain.
- Maximianus, a Romaine bozne, but hys mother a Britaine.
- Gratianus, a Romaine.
- Constantinus, a Britayne by the mother.
- Constans, a Romaine by the father.
- Votigerus, a Brittain or Bri.
- Vortimerus, a Brit.
- Vortigernus, againe.

By this table may appere a lamentable face of a common wealth so miserably rent and diuided into two sortes of people, differing not so much in civility, as in religion. For when the Romanes reigned: so were they gouerned by the Infidels. when the Britaynes ruled, so they were gouerned by Christians. Thus what quietnesse was or could be in the Church, in so vnquiet and doubtful dayes, it may easly be considered.

Albeit, notwithstanding all these foresayd heachen rulers of the Romanes, which here gouerned, yet (God be praised) we read of no persecution, during all these persecutions about mentioned, that touched the christian Britaynes, before the last persecution onely of Dioclesian, and Maximianus Herculius, whych here then exercised much crueltye. Thys persecution, as it was the last among the Romaine Christians, so it was the first of many & diuers that followed after in thys Church and Realme of England: wherof we will here after increase (Christ willing) as order of the matter shall leade vs. In the meane tyme this rage of Dioclesian as it was vniuersally through all the churches in the world fierce & vehement: so in this realme of Britayne also it was so sore, that as all our English Chronicles do testifie, and reccorde, all Christianitie almost in the whole land was destroyed: Churches were subuerted, all bookes of the Scripture burned, many of the sayth-

full both men and women were slaine. Among whom the first and chief was Albanus, then Iulius, Aaron, and Amphibalus. Of whome sufficiently hath bene sayde before. What were the other, or howe many they were that suffered besides, stories make no rehearsall. And thus much thereof.

Nowe as concerning the gouernment of these about named kinges of Britayne, although I haue little or nothing to note, which greatly appertaineth to the matter of this Ecclesiasticall historie: yet this is not to be pass ouer: first how in the order of these kinges cometh Constantinus the great & worthy Emperour, not onely a Britayne bozne by hys mother Helena being hys Coilus daughter, but also by the helpe of the Britaynes army (vnder the power of God) whych the sayde Constantine toke wyth hym out of Brittain to Rome: obtained with great victorie, peace and tranquillitie to the whole vniuersall Church of Christ: hauing iii. legions w him out of this realme, of choicse & able soldiors. wherby the strenght of the lãd was not a litle impaired & indangered, as afterward in this story followeth.

After him likewise Maximian following his steppes, toke wyth him also (as stories reccorde) all the power and strenght whych was left: and whosoever he could make, of able and fighting men, to subdue Fraunce: besides the garrisons whych he had out wyth him before, sending for mo to the number of C. M. soldiors at once, to be sent to hym out of Britayne into Fraunce. At whych tyme also Conanus his partener being then in Fraunce, sent ouer for virgins from Brittain to the number of xl. M. who with Viriula, the Prince Dioneys daughter being shipped ouer, many perished in the sea: some were taken of the infidels, marching vpon the borders, wyth whom because they wold not be polluted, all were destroyed, being miserably disperced (some one way, some an other) so y none escaped.

Thus poore Britayne being left naked and destitute on euery side, as a maimed body without myght or strenght: was left open to hys enemies, not able to succour it selfe, without helpe of forreine friends. To whom they were then constrained to flie, especially to the Romanes: to whõ the Britaynes sent this wyrd or message. Etio ter Confuli gemitus Britannorum. Repellent nos Barbari ad mare. Repellent nos mare ad Barbaros. Hinc oriuntur duo funerum genera, quia aut iugulamur, aut submergimur. But the Romanes then began to forsake them, wherby they were in nearer danger to be oppressed by Gwanus and Melga, had not Gwetalinus the Archbysshop of London made ouer to lesse Britayne, and obtayning theyr helpe, had brought Constantinus the Kings brother, to rescue his countrey against the infidels. Thys Constantinus was brother to Aldroenus king of litle Britayne, and father to Constans, Aurelius Ambrosius, & Vter, who after reigned kinges in Britayne.

Thus by the meanes of the good Archbysshop and Constantinus, the state of the Religion and Realme of Britayne was in some meane quiet & safe tyme, during the tyme of the sayd Constantine and of the good Archbysshop. But as the Realme of Britayne almost from the beginning was neuer without ciuill warre, at length came wicked Vortigerne, who cruelly causing Constans his Prince to be murdered, ambitiously invaded the crowne: who then fearing the other two brethren of Constans, whych were Aurelius & Vter, being then in litle Britayne: did send ouer for the aide of the Saxones being then infidels, and not onely that: but also married with an infidell, the daughter of Hengist called Rowen. wherupon the sayde Vortigerne not long after, by the sayd Hengist and the Saxones was with like trajectie dispossessed of his kingdom, & the people of Britayne driven out of their countrey, after that the Saxones had slaine of their chief Nobles & Barons at one meeting, ioyning together subtiltie with crueltye, to the number of C. lxxi. some stories say C. lxx. Thys wicked acte of the Saxones, was done at Alinibury, or at a place called Stonebenge, by the monument of which stones there hanging, it seemeth that the noble Britaynes there were buried.

This fabulous storie of the wellchmen, of hynging these stones from Irecland by Merlyn I passe ouer. Some stories reccorde that they were slaine being bid to a banquet, other do say that it was done at a talke or assembly, where the Saxones came with pynie knives contrary to promise made, with the which knives they geuing a pynie watchword, in their Saxones speache, neme your fexes) slew the Britaynes vnarmed: and thus sarre concerning the historie of the Britaynes. As this great plague could not come to the Britaynes without Gods permissiõ, so Gildas the weith in hys Chronicle, the cause thereof, wyrtyn thus: Quod Britones propter auaritiam & rapinã Principum, propter iniquitatem & iniustitiam Iudicum, propter desidiam predicationis Episcoporum, propter luxuriam & malos mores populi, patriam perdidisse. &c.

Constant. the great, borne and bred in Brittain.

The cause how this Realme of Brittain was first weakened.

Brittain spoiled of soldiors.

Vrsula, with a xl. thousand virgins.

Gwetalinus Archb. of London. Ex Chronico Monumercensi. Constantinus.

Constant. Aurelius, Ambrosius, Vter Pendragon.

The Saxons sent for to Brittain. King Constans slayne by Vortigerne. Hengist and Horsus Captaynes of the Saxons.

A wicked murder of the Saxons.

The decease of King Lucius. Ex Florislego.

Ex Beda Polycro. monumercensi.

An. D. 390 Secund fab. Bed. An. 433. fab. An. 443. An. 448. An. 464.

The Brittaines neuer touched with any persecution before the tyme of Dioclesian.