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978-1-108-04846-0 - A Collection of the Chronicles and Ancient Histories of Great Britain, Now Called England:

Volume 1: From Albina to A.D. 688

Jehan De Wavrin Edited and Translated by William Hardy

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Rolls Series

Rerum Britannicarum Medii Aevi Scriptores, or The Chronicles and Memorials of Great Britain and Ireland during the Middle Ages, usually referred to as the 'Rolls Series', was an ambitious project first proposed to the British Treasury in 1857 by Sir John Romilly, the Master of the Rolls, and quickly approved for public funding. Its purpose was to publish historical source material covering the period from the arrival of the Romans to the reign of Henry VIII, 'without mutilation or abridgement', starting with the 'most scarce and valuable' texts. A 'correct text' of each work would be established by collating 'the best manuscripts', and information was to be included in every case about the manuscripts used, the life and times of the author, and the work's 'historical credibility', but there would be no additional annotation. The first books were published in 1858, and by the time it was completed in 1896 the series contained 99 titles and 255 volumes. Although many of the works have since been re-edited by modern scholars, the enterprise as a whole stands as a testament to the Victorian revival of interest in the middle ages.

A Collection of the Chronicles and Ancient Histories of Great Britain, Now Called England

In the mid-1440s, French knight Jean de Wavrin (c.1400–c.1473) took on the monumental task of compiling the first full-length history of England, spanning almost two millennia. Wavrin, who belonged to a noble family of Artois, was a chronicler under Philip the Good and Charles the Bold, dukes of Burgundy. During his military career, he often fought on the side of the English, and was keen to keep the kingdom as an ally. He gathered a unique collection of records and used his own first-hand observations to write a work that provides fascinating insight into the interests and methods of a medieval historian. Part of the Rolls Series of publications of historical documents, this volume, published in 1864, was translated and edited by the archivist and antiquarian Sir William Hardy (1807–87). It ranges from Albion's mythical origins to the abdication and conversion of King Cædwalla of Wessex.

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JEHAN DE WAVRIN
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RERUM BRITANNICARUM MEDII ÆVI
SCRIPTORES,

OR

CHRONICLES AND MEMORIALS OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND

DURING

THE MIDDLE AGES.

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THE CHRONICLES AND MEMORIALS
OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND
DURING THE MIDDLE AGES.

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY, UNDER
THE DIRECTION OF THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS.

ON the 26th of January 1857, the Master of the Rolls submitted to the Treasury a proposal for the publication of materials for the History of this Country from the Invasion of the Romans to the Reign of Henry VIII.

The Master of the Rolls suggested that these materials should be selected for publication under competent editors without reference to periodical or chronological arrangement, without mutilation or abridgment, preference being given, in the first instance, to such materials as were most scarce and valuable.

He proposed that each chronicle or historical document to be edited should be treated in the same way as if the editor were engaged on an *Editio Princeps*; and for this purpose the most correct text should be formed from an accurate collation of the best MSS.

To render the work more generally useful, the Master of the Rolls suggested that the editor should give an account of the MSS. employed by him, of their age and their peculiarities; that he should add to the work a brief account of the life and times of the author, and any remarks necessary to explain the chronology; but no other note or comment was to be allowed, except what might be necessary to establish the correctness of the text.

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The works to be published in octavo, separately, as they were finished ; the whole responsibility of the task resting upon the editors, who were to be chosen by the Master of the Rolls with the sanction of the Treasury.

The Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, after a careful consideration of the subject, expressed their opinion in a Treasury Minute, dated February 9, 1857, that the plan recommended by the Master of the Rolls "was well calculated for the accomplishment of this important national object, in an effectual and satisfactory manner, within a reasonable time, and provided proper attention be paid to economy, in making the detailed arrangements, without unnecessary expense."

They expressed their approbation of the proposal that each chronicle and historical document should be edited in such a manner as to represent with all possible correctness the text of each writer, derived from a collation of the best MSS., and that no notes should be added, except such as were illustrative of the various readings. They suggested, however, that the preface to each work should contain, in addition to the particulars proposed by the Master of the Rolls, a biographical account of the author, so far as authentic materials existed for that purpose, and an estimate of his historical credibility and value.

*Rolls House,
December 1857.*

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CHRONICLES AND ANCIENT HISTORIES OF
GREAT BRITAIN, NOW CALLED ENGLAND,

BY
JOHN DE WAVRIN,
LORD OF FORESTEL.

TRANSLATED
BY
WILLIAM HARDY, F.S.A.,
CLERK OF THE RECORDS OF H.M. DUCHY OF LANCASTER.

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF HER MAJESTY'S
TREASURY, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS.

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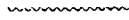
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P R E F A C E.



IN bringing before the public this first instalment of “ A Collection of the Chronicles and Ancient Histories “ of Great Britain, now called England,” by John de Wavrin, the translator’s task in the way of preface will be comparatively light. The name of Wavrin has been hitherto not very generally known as a chronicler; a few words of introduction will therefore be demanded. All that the editor was able to learn respecting the author, his family, his career, the age in which he flourished, and the character and importance of his chronicle, has been written at some length in the introduction to the first volume of the French text. To that introduction the reader of these pages is referred, if he desire to know more on the subject of the original work and its author than it will be necessary to repeat in this short preface to the translation of it.

John, Bastard of Wavrin, the author of the chronicles of England, was, as his name implies, an illegitimate member of a noble family of Artois; his father, the head of the house of Wavrin,¹ Robert, lord of Wavrin and of Lillers, was killed at the battle of Azincourt. Wavrin himself was there also with his father on the side of the French, and his brother in like manner lost his life in that disastrous battle. He continued to follow the

¹ Wavrin is a small village in Artois, about three leagues from Lille.

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profession of arms until the treaty of Arras in 1435, but during all the intervening period being retained in the service of the duke of Burgundy, so long the ally of England, he fought on the side of the English. Having then quitted the army, he retired probably to his native country, and settled permanently at Lille, where he married the widow of a burgess of that town. The pursuits of a military life could have left little time for the cultivation of literature, but subsequently in his retirement our author doubtless found ample means and leisure for the study of the ancient chronicles and memorials of the country whose history, as he himself tells us, he had undertaken to write at the suggestion of his nephew, Waleran, lord of Wavrin, Lillers, Malannoy, and Saint Venant.

During the nine years which elapsed between 1445 and 1455, he seems to have been engaged in collecting and digesting the memorials for his chronicle, which comprises the earliest period of the annals of Britain, and even begins with a period anterior to the time of acknowledged English history; continuing it to the death of King Henry the Fourth.

This portion of his chronicle, comprised in four volumes, he completed about the year 1455; and soon after the accession of King Edward the Fourth he added a fifth volume, carried down to the time when Monstrelet's chronicle terminates. Thenceforward he continued writing and collecting new materials until 1471, when his own chronicle ends: in this, or the following year, he appears to have issued his sixth volume. From that time to his death he was engaged in the revision of the last volume, the most important of his labours, and in collecting new and more authentic information upon English affairs during the period which he had already there treated of.

His occupation was not without advantage; and, doubtless with a view to a revised and enlarged

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edition, he had prepared very valuable materials for the work as we now have it, left by him at the time of his death; this event we may refer to about the year 1474, at the advanced age of 80; supposing, as we have done, that his birth would be correctly placed in the year 1394.

Of the real importance of Wavrin's chronicle to the student of history we must suspend our judgment until his entire work is before the public. The editor, in his introduction to the French text, has endeavoured, by selections from the work itself, inadequate as any selection still must be, to show that it possesses strong claims to our attention from the apparent truthfulness of the narrative and the ample and authentic details the writer has given of some of the most interesting periods of our history; facts related by other chroniclers are frequently placed in a new light, and by additional incidents, partly of personal knowledge, and partly learned from the relation of trustworthy witnesses, erroneous inferences are often corrected by him. We must not therefore take the portion of the work now submitted to the public as a fair specimen of the value of our chronicler as a historian. This volume must be judged by other tests. The period embraced in the present work may be called the pre-historic portion of our annals. By many modern writers this portion is generally put aside as being without foundation, and worthless for the purposes of genuine history; but although we may refuse our credence to the marvellous tales with which the chronicle abounds, from it we derive some notion of the gradual progress that has been made in the character of the memorials of history, beginning with a people in its first infancy and advancing to the time when that same people had acquired a prominent place among other nations. We believe, moreover, that this will not be found its only recommendation.

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It is a truism to say that every nation must have had a beginning, but it is no less a truth that almost every nation has sought in fables and tales of wonder to establish the remote antiquity of its origin. We may in our zeal for truth reject tradition altogether, but we must still be in danger lest our earliest written evidences may by some severer critic be condemned in turn to share the same fate. If we are to condemn romantic history because fables and miraculous relations accompany the more rational narrative, where are we to say that history begins and fable ends?

It may be thought, perhaps, by some, that there needs no apology for our author on this account. In commencing his chronicle with the fabulous history of Britain, he may have imposed upon his editor the responsibility of either suppressing what he had himself thought proper to reproduce, or of silently meeting the condemnation which the advocate for historical purity may pronounce; but we may be permitted to hope that against this condemnation a plea for Wavrin will yet be found in the taste of the age in which he flourished. Wavrin conceived that his chronicle would not have been complete without the history of the people who were undoubtedly the possessors of the soil before the Saxons migrated thither from Germany. It is believed no editor would have been justified in recommending the rejection of this portion of the work.

When our author adopted this chronicle of the fabulous period in the existence of the nation whose exploits he desired to celebrate, as the only memorials open to him for writing an account of the princes of the land anterior to the Saxon rule, he judged according to the spirit of the age in which he lived. We perhaps are wiser now, or less to be imposed upon by fiction and tales of wonder in the semblance of historic facts. The spirit of the present age is to despise as mere fables the so-called traditions of an age and of a people who

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but for these memorials, and others of perhaps no better foundation, might be blotted from the page of history. There are not probably many persons at this day who will be disposed very warmly to contend for the merely historical worth of this portion of the chronicle, but the reader may yet find something even in this part not wholly undeserving of attention, or unfit to be retained, if only as a record of what our ancestors deemed within the pale of belief.

The popular story of Albine and her sisters, daughters of King Diodicias, is related with many interesting details. It is not easy to trace the source of this singular tale, one evidently of great antiquity; but the reader will not fail to be reminded of the fifty daughters of King Danaus; and in the youngest sister he may recognize the heroine of the beautiful ode of Horace—

“ Una de multis face nuptiali
“ Digna.”

The history of the Trojan origin of our race, the landing of Brutus in Albion, and the subsequent division of the kingdom between the three sons of Brutus, lays the foundation for the narrative of the succession of the princes of Britain down to the invasion of Cæsar; thence the history proceeds through a diversity of interesting adventures, which bring us to the invitation of the Saxons by King Vortigern, resulting in the final expulsion of the Britons from the soil; and the volume concludes with Cadwalader's visit to Rome and his death there in 688.

The version now for the first time presented to the English reader differs in many interesting particulars from anything of the same class that has yet been published. The Anglo-Norman prose text has been hitherto inedited. The translation, it is hoped, will be an addition to this class of romance-history. Many of the stories are entirely new, and the narrative

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throughout is different from any version hitherto known generally to the public.

The aim of the translator has been to render as closely and as literally as possible, not only the sense but the language of his author. The effect of this sometimes is to leave an appearance of weakness and poverty of expression, but any attempt to give greater force might perhaps have produced a text less true to the original; and the object has been to preserve the quaintness and to transfer the expressions of the author simply from one language into another, rather than to clothe the narrative in a modern dress.

Duchy of Lancaster Office,
29th September 1864.

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TABLE OF THE RUBRICS.

VOLUME I. BOOK THE FIRST.

HERE BEGINS THE TABLE OF THE RUBRICS OF THE FIRST VOLUME OF THE ANCIENT CHRONICLES OF ENGLAND, CONTAINING SIX SEPARATE BOOKS, WHEREOF THE FIRST COMPRISES IN ITSELF FIVE CHAPTERS.

Here follows the general prologue of the author of this present work of the collection of the chronicles and ancient histories of Great Britain, now called England. . p. 1

[The author addresses his nephew Waleran, lord of Wavrin, Lillers, Malannoy, and Saint-Venant, by whose inducement he undertakes a history of the lives and deeds of the ancient kings of Britain, inasmuch as no clerks of that kingdom had come forward to write such a work. Laments his inability from approaching age to follow any longer the profession of arms (having been present at the battle of Azincourt, when his father Robert de Wavrin was slain). Determines about the year 1455 to write this history in four volumes, which he proposes to continue down to the coronation of King Henry the Fifth.]

And first there follows a little prologue to give a clearer understanding of the following work. CHAPTER I. p. 4

[The author here intimates that the first book, containing five chapters, is a preamble and prologue for the explanation of the whole work, *i.e.*, of the four volumes of Chronicles of England, called Albion, after Lady Albine; and sub-

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sequently called after Brutus or Brut, who conquered it from the giants descended from Albine and her sisters, Britain the Great beyond sea, to distinguish it from Basse-Bretagne or Lesser Britain. Then Englist, a Saxon, having made alliance with Vortigern, obtained the kingdom of Kent, and called the country after his own name England, which name continues to the present day.]

Here follows a suitable preamble by way of introduction.

CHAPTER II. p. 5

[Diodicias, king of Syria [A.M. 3970], holds the sovereignty of the greater part of Persia, Media, and Mesopotamia,—contemporary with Hercules and Theseus in Greece, and with Jahir, judge of Israel [B.C. 1210–1188]. Many kingdoms in higher and lower Armenia are subjugated by him. He is urged to marry. Sends ambassadors to Albana, king of Cyrenia, to ask his daughter in marriage; espouses her according to the pagan law; has by her fourteen daughters, of whom Albine is the eldest. Takes three other wives; has by them nineteen daughters and three sons; invites the kings and princes under his authority to celebrate a feast to his gods in his city of Tarsus—at this festival his four queens and their thirty-three daughters are present. Albine's great beauty commended. The daughters being all married to the kings and princes who had come to the feast, they betake themselves severally to their own countries. Albine grieves much at leaving her father's court. Refuses to show obedience to her husband, and attempts by letters and secret messages to them to incite her sisters to similar acts of disobedience to their husbands. The sisters commence a course of ill conduct, to put down which, after trying every kindness, their husbands are compelled to adopt rigorous measures. Albine's husband writes secretly to King Diodicias, informing him of his wife's conduct. The king orders his daughters to come with their husbands before him, to the city of Tyre. He there addresses his daughters in private, and rebukes them severely.]

Here it speaks of the cruel and outrageous counsel which the Lady Albine gave to her sisters. CHAPTER III. p. 11

[The sisters overcome with shame and fear on hearing their father, implore his forgiveness and retire from his chamber. Albine addresses her sisters. She discloses her plan for

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revenge, and induces her sisters to promise compliance. They follow her advice, and all appear before King Diodicias and their husbands in seeming contrition. Their conduct however soon alters, and disagreements again arise between them and their husbands. The king, who is ignorant thereof, returns to Tarsus, after making handsome presents to his daughters and sons-in-law. Albine and her sisters then accompany their husbands on their journey to Damascus, of which city Sardacia, the husband of Albine, was king. At the half journey Albine feigns fatigue, and begs to be allowed to rest and refresh themselves. She then sends a trusty messenger to Damascus to her own apothecary, to mix a beverage composed of herbs and spices for a sleeping potion.]

How Albine and her sisters cut their husbands' throats, except the youngest, who thereupon revealed their plot.

CHAPTER IV

p. 16

[Albine has a private meeting with her sisters, who all swear to keep to their project. They arrive with their husbands at Damascus, and go to the palace there. Having dined, they enjoy amusements until the evening, when the supper is served. The potion prepared by the apothecary is then introduced, which the husbands all take. This produces the desired effect, and the princes betake themselves to their sleeping apartments. Albine cuts the throat of her husband, King Sardacia, while he sleeps, and all her sisters, save the youngest, murder their husbands. The youngest sister, from love for her husband, relates to him the whole plot, and implores his forgiveness. The alarm is raised, and the citizens, roused at the sudden commotion, hasten to the palace and learn the terrible news. They seize Albine and her sisters to protect them from the fury of the attendants of the murdered princes. These are buried amidst great lamentations, and messengers are sent to King Diodicias to inform him of what had occurred. The king manifests great grief, and threatens to have his daughters burned alive. He commands that they should be seized and brought before him. They are conducted to the king, who is at Tyre. A council is called, when sentence is passed on the daughters, who are condemned to perpetual exile. They are placed in an open boat, with provisions for half a year, and sent adrift on the sea. Lament of King Diodicias.]

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Here it relates how Lady Albine and her sisters arrived in an island, which they named Albion after Albine, and which afterwards got the name of Great Britain through Brutus, who conquered it, and at present is named England after Englist. CHAPTER V p. 21.

[Albine and her sisters put to sea, and are soon wafted from the shores of Tyre; being driven towards the straits of Morocco, they are in great danger of perishing by the storms and by sea monsters. They escape these, and after much labour enter the Great Ocean. The sisters lament their fate, but are comforted by Albine. They are tossed about by the winds until they finally make the land and disembark. Discovering this to be a desert island, never inhabited by man, they give thanks to the gods, and Albine causes the land to be named Albion after her name. They select a spot for habitation, and apportion the land. They find out a means of making fire, and of catching wild beasts and birds for sustenance. By the machinations of the devil they all become pregnant, and bear children, who grow up terrible giants, male and female. These occupy the land until the coming of Brutus, who afterwards conquers them. The two giants Gomago and Lancorigam. Their oppression of the Scotch and Irish, their neighbours.]

HERE ENDS THE TABLE OF THE FIRST BOOK AND THE TABLE OF THE SECOND BOOK COMMENCES.

BOOK THE SECOND.

HERE BEGINS THE TABLE OF RUBRICS OF THE SECOND BOOK OF THE CHRONICLES OF ENGLAND, WHICH CONTAINS FIFTY-NINE CHAPTERS.

The first chapter speaks of the qualities of the island of Great Britain. CHAPTER I. p. 26

[The author thinks it meet to describe the great deeds and high prowess of the exiled Trojans, who, under their leader Brutus, after many adventures, finally arrived in the island of Albion; but determines first to treat of the admirable nature and properties of the island of Britain—the most powerful island in the world—its geographical description and extent; its fertility and beauty; its mineral wealth; mountains, plains, and forests. Its fountains, springs, and rivers. The most important of these enumerated. Once beautified with twenty-eight noble cities. Five

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different nations have inhabited the island. The origin of the Britons. Their deeds and battles, from the time of Brutus to Cadwallader, the son of Cadwallon, who reigned in Britain A.D. 631-682.]

Here begins a little preamble by way of introduction to the translation of the book of Brutus of England.

CHAPTER II. p. 29

[Abdon judgeth the Hebrews [B.C. 1164-1156]. Troy twice destroyed by the Greeks, first in the time of King Laomedon, when Jason and his companions were not allowed to sojourn in the city on their way to Colchis to obtain the "Golden Fleece," by command of King Pelias, and the second time in the reign of Priam. King Priam, incensed at the dishonour offered to his sister Hesione, sends Antenor to the kings of Greece, to desire that his sister be sent back to him: displeased with their answer, he sends his son Paris with an army against the Greeks. Paris, accompanied by Deiphobus, Æneas, and others, arrives in the kingdom of Menelaus, and carries off Helen. They return to Troy. Menelaus asks aid of the kings of Greece, who promise their assistance. They besiege Troy during ten years, six months, and ten days. The city is betrayed and burned. King Priam's lament. 876,000 Trojans lost in the war, among whom were Queen Penthesilea and other princes who had come to assist Priam. He is killed at the temple of Apollo by Pyrrhus, and his daughter Polixena sacrificed on the tomb of Achilles. The fate of the Greeks after the destruction of Troy.]

How three principal families departed from Troy after its destruction, and peopled many kingdoms, and inhabited many lands and divers regions. CHAPTER III. . p. 33

[The families of King Priam, of Æneas, and of Antenor depart from Troy. Helenus, son of King Priam, arrives with his company in Macedonia at a city called Servothion. Increase of the people. They choose another habitation on the river Dunoe, and build a city which they call Sycambre—from whom the Franks are descended. The common people set out without a chief, and come to the port of Venice. They make a mound of earth here by way of an island, and inhabit it. Antenor arrives shortly after to take possession of the land. They fight a battle, during which Antenor is recognized by the Trojans, and they receive him joyfully. The city then called after him

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Anthenorides—now Venice. Antenor founds Jennes (Genoa) and other cities in Lombardy—principally Padua, where he was buried. From these came the Lombards. Æneas with a fleet of twenty-two ships sets sail from Troy: in his company are Anchises, and Ascanius, his son by Creusa, with 4000 men.]

How Æneas arrived at the port of Carthage, and how Queen Dido received him; and how he departed without taking leave of her, wherefore she killed herself out of grief.

CHAPTER IV. p. 35

[Æneas arrives at Carthage. His reception by Queen Dido. His stay in Carthage, and his departure therefrom for Italy.]

How Æneas and his company arrived in Sicily, and there built a city, where he left a great part of his followers; and how he afterwards departed thence, and sailed to the port of Tiber in Italy, near Laurentum, where lived the King Latinus. CHAPTER V. p. 36

[Æneas arrives in the land of King Acestes, and is honourably received. Death of Anchises. Æneas founds a city, which he calls Troy Restored. Leaves all the old and useless men there with the women and children. Takes his departure from Sicily, and comes to the port of the Tiber. Casts anchor here, and enquires of the peasants concerning the country. King Latinus. The capital, Laurentum. Origin of its name. Æneas sends messengers to King Latinus to ask for a portion of the country to settle in. Latinus receives them courteously. His answer to Æneas. Offers to him his daughter in compliance with the will of the gods. The kings of England and the English descend from the family of Æneas, as did the Romans.]

Concerning the first battle which took place between Æneas and Turnus, and how Æneas went to King Evander to ask for assistance against the said Turnus, who wished to drive him out of Italy. CHAPTER VI. p. 39

[The news being spread that Æneas was to marry the daughter of Latinus, whom Queen Amata, her mother, had betrothed to Turnus, duke of Tuscany, Turnus prepares for war. Æneas asks assistance from King Evander,

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the enemy of Turnus. Pallas, son of Evander, is sent to Æneas with 400 men. A battle is fought before the city of Laurentum. Turnus is joined by a queen named Camilla, and by the Duke Mezentius. They are defeated by Ascanius, son of Æneas. Pallas is slain by Turnus. Queen Camilla and the son of the Duke Mezentius killed. Queen Amata, wife of Latinus, kills herself, thinking that Turnus is among the slain. Æneas, after driving back Turnus, retreats into his fortress, carrying with him the body of Pallas.]

How Turnus asked Æneas for a truce of twelve days ; how they agreed to fight a single combat ; how Æneas slew him, and the reason why. CHAPTER VII. . . . p. 41

[A truce demanded for twelve days. The bodies of Queen Amata and Camilla honourably buried. Æneas has the body of Pallas shrouded and sent to Evander. Turnus is killed in battle by Æneas. With his death the war ends. Latinus gives his daughter Lavinia in marriage to Æneas, and bequeaths to him his whole kingdom. Peace made between the Latins, Rutulians, and Trojans.]

How not long after Æneas had espoused Lavinia, King Latinus died, and afterwards Æneas, he having held the kingdom four years. CHAPTER VIII. . . . p. 42

[Latinus dies, and Æneas takes the kingdom into his hands. He completes the castle he had begun, and calls it Lavinium. Places in it the gods he had brought from Troy. Names of the kings who had reigned in Laurentum before Æneas. Æneas has many wars with Mezentius, who is afterwards slain by Ascanius. Death of Æneas. How attributed by the different authors. Held the kingdom four years. Leaves his wife Lavinia with child. Ascanius succeeds his father, and reigns forty-four years. Lavinia fearing that Ascanius, her stepson, would kill her, flees to the woods, and there gives birth to a son named Silvius Posthumus. Ascanius sends to seek her, and gives her the city of Laurentum to dwell in with her son. He afterwards builds the city of Albanum. Holds there his regal residence for 38 years, and brings thither his household gods. The gods return to the place where they were first placed by Æneas. Ascanius dies, and leaves the crown to Silvius Posthumus, his own son Julius being too young to govern the kingdom.]

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How Brutus was born, how he killed his father and mother, was exiled, and fled into Greece; and how he afterwards came to great honour. CHAPTER IX. . . p. 44

[Julius, son of Ascanius, secretly marries the niece of Lavinia, and has a child by her. Julius seeks the augurs to know the destiny of the child. Prophecy of the augurs. The mother dies in giving birth to her son. He is named Brutus. When fifteen years old he has the misfortune to kill his father whilst hunting in the woods, and is banished from the kingdom. Goes into Greece to the country of King Pandrasus. Meets there with some exiled Trojans, descendants of Helenus son of King Priam. Is chosen as their chief. He endears himself to his countrymen by his kindness and generosity, and incites them to make efforts for their deliverance from servitude. Is assisted by Assaracus, son of a great lord of the country by a Trojan lady. The brother of Assaracus, a Greek by father and mother, had desired to take from him three strong castles, which his father at his death had given him. These castles Assaracus promises to Brutus; he garrisons them; sends a letter to King Pandrasus.]

How King Pandrasus marvelled that the Trojans wished to rebel against him, and so summoned his barons; and how Brutus defeated him. CHAPTER X. . . p. 47

[Surprise of King Pandrasus at the letter of Brutus. Collects a large army of his barons, and marches against Brutus in the castle of Sparatin. Brutus attacks and defeats his army. Antigonus, the king's brother, and his companion, are taken prisoners. Brutus gives the spoil taken to his men, and binds his prisoners in chains.]

How Brutus and his people a second time defeated King Pandrasus; who was taken by Brutus in his tent before the castle of Sparatin, which he had besieged. CHAPTER XI. p. 48

[Pandrasus collects a larger force than before, with which he besieges Brutus in the castle of Sparatin. Brutus devises a stratagem whereby he might raise the siege. Story of Anathus and Antigonus the king's brother. Pandrasus is taken prisoner, and his whole army destroyed.]

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How Brutus divided all the spoil among his companions, and how King Pandrasus agreed with Brutus that he should allow all the Trojans who were in his kingdom to go whither they would ; and withal gave to Brutus 300 ships well equipped, with a great store of gold and silver. CHAPTER XII. p. 50

[Brutus distributes all the spoil and booty among his men, and gives orders for burying the dead. Asks advice of his men as to what he should do with Pandrasus. Divers schemes. Advice of Membritius. His opinion is approved by all. King Pandrasus is summoned before Brutus, who makes the demand advised by Membritius. Pandrasus accedes to the demands of Brutus. Gives his daughter Inogent in marriage to him, and despatches messengers to collect vessels and all necessaries for the departure of the Trojans. Brutus and Inogent set sail with their followers from Greece. They come to the island of Leogetia. Brutus examines the island, and finds it destitute of human beings ; but finds quantities of wild animals, They discover in an old temple an image of the goddess Diana. The author's description of the goddess. Brutus accompanied by a priest and twelve companions makes offerings to her, and prays to know his future fortunes. The goddess appears to him in a dream. Her prophecy. The island of Albion is promised to him. The twelve kings of France. Brutus engages to erect a temple to Diana in the promised land. He sets sail, and in thirty days arrives off the coast of Africa. He encounters pirates, whom he defeats. Comes to an island named Makanie, where he disembarks, and pillages the country. He returns to his ships, and sails to the Pillars of Hercules. They escape the syrens which abound there, and come into the Tyrrhenian sea. Here they find four nations of Trojans who had arrived in an island there. Corineus their leader. Reception of Brutus and his followers. Brutus allies himself with Corineus. They leave the coast of Spain, and sail towards Armorica, now called Lesser Britain. Leaving Poitou on their right, they enter the mouth of the Loire.]

How, after Brutus and Corineus, with their people, had so-journed eight days at the mouth of the Loire, they embarked in their vessels, and sailed up the river till they found a suitable resting place, where they took up their

winter quarters. And how they defeated King Gauffier of Aquitain. CHAPTER XIII. . . . p. 55

[King Gauffier of Poitiers learning the arrival of strange people on his territory, sends Humbert, one of his knights, to ascertain who they are. He comes up with the Trojans, who are out hunting, and asks their business. Corineus answers Humbert, who in great anger attempts to stab him, but he is slain by Corineus. Gauffier, on learning this, collects an army, and marches against Brutus. A battle ensues between the Trojans and the Poitevins, in which the latter are defeated. Turnus, a cousin of Brutus, slays Suars or Thoras, a valiant Poitevin related to the king. The Trojans, after collecting all the booty, re-enter their ships, and sail up the river as far as where Tours afterwards stood. They pitch their tents here, and enclose a little fortress to retire into.]

How King Gauffier went to seek aid in France, and how he was again defeated by the Trojans. CHAPTER XIV. p. 58

[Gauffier returns to Poitiers in great wrath. He summons his barons in council, who advise him to seek aid of the twelve kings of France. The king sets out for Gaul, where he finds the twelve kings, and implores their aid. They promise it to him, and collect large armies, with which Gauffier returns. Brutus prepares to receive him. The battle. Prowess of Brutus' cousin Turnus, and of Corineus. Turnus is killed. They bury his body honourably, and name the city after him, Tours.]

How Brutus left the territory of the king of Aquitaine, and went to Albion, and landed there, he and all his followers; and how they killed all the giants whom they found there, except Geomagon, with whom Corineus the strong wrestled. CHAPTER XV. . . . p. 59

[Brutus and his followers depart to seek the island promised them. They sail down the river Loire, and, steering towards the right, arrive at Mortaigne (Totness) in the island of Albion. They disembark here, and ascertain it to be the land promised them by the gods. They are attacked by the giants who inhabited the country. They overcome all the giants except Geomagon. Stature of this giant. His long and desperate struggle with Corineus. Result of the conflict.]