

HISTORY  
OF  
THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

INTRODUCTION.

The British Isles.  
Etymology of names.  
Earliest inhabitants.

Their condition in Caesar's  
time.  
Druidism.

THE British Isles lie to the north-west of the Continent of Europe; the larger, Great Britain, being situated near the Continent; the smaller, Ireland, lying further west in the Atlantic Ocean. Great Britain, called by the ancients Albion and Britannia, comprises the three countries, England, Wales, and Scotland.

The origin of the names, Britain, Albion, Wales, and Scotland, is wrapped in much obscurity. Some have supposed that the name Britain was derived from Brutus, a son of Ascanius the Trojan. The name Albion—still used in the form Albyn, or Alpin, as the Highland term for Scotland—is supposed to have been given to the island by the Gauls, from the chalk cliffs of the south-eastern coast. It is a Celtic word, meaning 'White Island,' and is most likely connected with *albus* and *Alp*. Wales, or Weallas, is thought to have been so named from a Saxon word, meaning 'wanderers' or 'foreigners,' because it was peopled by British refugees. It was also called Cambria. The Welsh have always called themselves Cymri, a name which probably connects them with the ancient Cimbri. Scotland took its