

The Britons were so much impressed by the bravery of the Romans that, as soon as they had rallied after their flight, they sent messengers to ask for peace. This Cæsar was ready to grant; he demanded, however, as a pledge for their good behaviour in the future, that some of their chiefs should remain in his camp. Some hostages were given at once, but the Britons explained that others were in distant parts of the country, and that it would take a few days to bring them.

In the meantime, misfortunes came upon the Romans. The ships containing the cavalry were driven back by a storm; some of the vessels on the shore were wrecked by the high tides; and the Britons attacked and killed some of the soldiers sent out to collect food. A large force of Britons also gathered near the Roman camp. Cæsar at once attacked them, and pursued them to one of their villages, which he burned. The Britons again sent messengers asking for peace. Cæsar again granted it, but ordered them to give twice as many hostages as before, and to send them to him on the continent. He did not wish to remain longer, for his ships were not in good condition and he feared the autumnal storms. He did not wait to receive them, however, but returned hastily to Gaul. He had done little during his three weeks' stay in Britain, and had not advanced more than a mile from the shore.

4. **Cæsar's second invasion, 54 B.C.**—During the winter Cæsar gathered a large force of soldiers, and in July of the following year went sailing towards the coast of Britain with eight hundred ships, carrying twenty-five thousand foot-soldiers and two thousand horsemen. When the Britons saw this great fleet approaching, they fled to the woods in terror. Cæsar's men landed and pursued them to a fort in which they had taken refuge. This was a small woodland surrounded by a wall of earth and a deep ditch. After a severe struggle, the fort was captured.

The Britons were led by a famous chief, Caswallon, or, as the Romans called him, Cassivelaunus. As Cæsar's forces advanced, the Britons slowly withdrew, keeping up a running fight with their horsemen and charioteers. Finding