
C. J. CÆSAR'S
COMMENTARY

OF HIS
WAR IN GAUL.

THE SECOND BOOK.

His war with the confederate Belgæ: his success in
Picardy and Hainault.

CHAP. I.

IN the winter-time, whilst Cæsar was in Lombardy, he had several reports, which were afterwards confirmed by letters from Labienus, that all the states of the Belgæ, who, as we have already said, possessed a third part of Gaul, had given hostages to each other, and entered into a mutual league against the Romans. The occasion of this confederacy, was their apprehension, that, when Cæsar had subdued their neighbours, he would turn his forces upon them; besides they were solicited to it by such Gauls as began to think the Roman army, which had taken winter-quarters in their country, as troublesome guests as the Germans; and by such as love innovations, from the mere instability of their temper; and lastly, by those who perceived it was an easy matter for him, who had most money and men at command, to make himself master of all the provinces of Gaul, provided the Romans were once expelled.

WAR IN
GAUL.

The Belgæ
enter into a
confederacy
against the
Romans.

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GAUL.



2. Whereupon Cæsar levied two new legions in Lombardy, and sent them under the command of his lieutenant Q. Pedius into the inner part of Gaul, himself following after early in the spring, so soon as there was forage for his horses. Upon his arrival at the army, he wrote to the inhabitants of Sens, and the other Gauls that bordered on the Belgæ, to observe the enemy's motions, and send him daily intelligence what they were doing: from these he had notice that the Belgæ were very busy in raising an army, and drawing their forces to a general rendezvous: wherefore thinking it convenient to lose no further time, he immediately drew his forces out of their winter-quarters, and resolved to begin his march within twelve days; which he did, and arrived within fifteen more, on the confines of the Belgæ.

3. His coming was so sudden and unexpected, that the people of Rheims, whose country lay nearest the Gauls, being surprized at it, dispatched away Iccius and Antebrogus, persons of the greatest quality in their province, as ambassadors, to assure Cæsar they had not concerned themselves in the confederacy with the rest of the Belgæ against the Romans, but were ready to submit to the empire; and, as a proof of their innocence, offered to deliver hostages, to receive them into their towns, and furnish the army with what provisions they had occasion for. They owned that the rest of the Belgæ were all in arms; that the Germans on the other side the Rhine had promised them assistance; and that their countrymen were so hotly bent upon the expedition, that all they could do to restrain them, was not sufficient to prevent those of Soissons from entering into the same alliance, though they were their brethren, and observed so strict a friendship on all other occasions, that they were governed by the same laws, customs, and magistrates, being almost incorporated under one government.

C H A P. II.

Cæsar having received the people of Rheims into protection, they gave him intelligence.

4. CÆSAR inquiring of the ambassadors what people, and how powerful they were that had taken up arms, was informed that the Belgæ were originally descended from the Germans, who had crossed the Rhine, expelled the natives, and, tempted by the fertility of the country, had taken possession of it: that these were the only people, who during the dreadful inundation of the Teutons and Cimb-
bers,

bers, had maintained their ground, whilst the other provinces of Gaul were over-run by those Barbarians; the memory of which success inspired them with extraordinary courage. They likewise told him, that by reason of their alliance and neighbourhood to them, they had opportunities of informing themselves what quota of men each particular province had promised in the general assembly, to provide for carrying on the war: that those Beauvois, who were more numerous, warlike, and potent than the rest of the Belgæ, were able to raise 100,000 men, out of which number they obliged themselves to bring 60,000 into the field, in consideration whereof they expected to have the management of the war committed to their charge: that next to these, in a spacious and fertile country, lay the people of Soissons, lately subject to Divitiacus, once the most potent man in Gaul, who was not only master of a considerable part of that country, but had some footing likewise in Britain; but Galba was their present king, who, by the general consent of the confederates, was, for the sake of his singular conduct and justice, made Generalissimo; these had twelve fortified towns, and promised to furnish 50,000 men: next, those of Hainault, who are the most barbarous people in all that country, were to provide the like number; those of Arras 15,000, Amiens and Caux each 10,000, Vexen and Vermandois together the like number, Toroüenne 25,000, Guelders 9000, Douay 29,000 Condrotz, Liege, Namur, Luxemburg, and the rest of the Germans together, 40,000.

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GAUL.

5. Cæsar, to encourage the people of Rheims to continue faithful to the Romans, promised to reward them liberally, if they observed their alliance, commanding them to deliver him their senate and the best of their noblemen for hostages, which they readily performed by the day prefixed; then sending for Divitiacus, he informed him how necessary it was, for the public safety, to make a diversion, that the enemy might be obliged to separate their forces; and therefore commanded him to return to Autun, and enter the territories of the Belgæ on that side with fire and sword.

C H A P. III.

BEING informed afterwards by his scouts and the people of Rheims, that the confederate armies of the Belgæ, being joined, marched directly towards him, and were already within

within

WAR IN within a few miles of his camp, he immediately passed the GAUL. Aisne, which divides Rheims from the rest of the Belgæ, and encamped on the banks of the river, whereby he prevented any surprize from the enemy, and secured a communication with Rheims and those other cities whence he expected provisions: to secure his retreat cross the river, he posted a strong party on the bridge, leaving Titurius Sabricus, one of his lieutenants, on the other side with six cohorts, who had orders to fortify their camp with a trench eighteen foot broad, and a rampart twelve foot high.

C H A P. IV.

6. THE Belgæ were in hopes to have surprized Brienne, a town about eight miles distance from Cæsar's camp; and stormed it so furiously, that it was scarce able to hold out one day. The Celtæ and Belgæ use the same method in assaults; for having surrounded the walls, they never cease stinging of stones 'till they have swept the battlements; then casting themselves into a testudo, they approach the gate, and undermine the walls; which they might do with great ease at Brienne; for so numerous were the slingers and those that cast darts, that it was impossible for the garrison to stand their shot. So soon as night had ended the assault, Iccius, a man of the greatest quality and interest in Rheims, who had not long before been sent ambassador to Cæsar, dispatched away a courier to our camp, to inform us, unless he was quickly relieved, he must be obliged to surrender the town.

Their manner of assaulting a town.

7. Cæsar soon answered his demands; for making use of the courier for a guide, he detached a party of Candian and Numidian archers, with a number of Belearian slingers, whom he immediately sent to their assistance which infused fresh courage into the besieged, and put the enemy out of hopes; who having laid the country waste, and burnt the villages round about, left the siege, and marching in one body towards us, lodged themselves within two miles of our army, enclosing about eight miles for their camp, as near as could be computed by their fires in the night, and smoke in the day.

The siege of Brienne raised by the Romans.

C H A P. V.

8. CÆSAR at first did not design to give them battle, because they were reported to be as valiant as numerous; but having tried their courage in small skirmishes, he perceived

The two armies.

perceived his soldiers were able to cope with them; so making choice of a convenient place before his camp, he drew up his army in order of battle. The little hill whereon we had entrenched ourselves, rising with an easy ascent from the plain below, was but just of a sufficient breadth to contain the front of our army, where the legions were drawn up, descending somewhat steeper on both sides: here, to prevent the enemy's surrounding our men, or charging them in the flank, Cæsar took care to make a trench from one side of the hill to the other, containing six hundred paces in length, and built little bulwarks at each end, which were well provided with engines to repulse the enemy. So leaving the two legions, lately lifted in Lombardy, in his camp for a reserve, he drew up the other six on the front of the hill before his camp; the Belgæ did the like, and faced our army.

WAR IN
GAUL.



9. Between us and the enemy there lay a marsh, which they believed we would have passed; and we on the other hand expected the like from them, designing to attack them whilst they were endeavouring to get over so troublesome a place: in the mean time the cavalry on both sides engaged; but neither army attempting to cross the marsh, Cæsar, having had the better in the skirmish, returned to his camp.

But a marsh prevents the engagement.

Not long after, the enemy decamped, marching towards the river Aisne, which lay behind us and attempted to cross the water where it was fordable, designing to make themselves masters of the fort which Q. Titurius commanded, and to break down the bridge, or at least to harass the country of Rheims and intercept our convoys.

The Belgæ endeavour to pass the Aisne, but are repulsed with great slaughter.

10. Upon notice of this from Titurius, Cæsar crossed the bridge, and marched to his relief at the head of his cavalry, light-armed Numidians, slingers, and archers; where he had a sharp dispute with the Belgæ. The Romans, charging the enemy as they were crossing the river, slew great numbers of them; and those who were so desperate as to endeavour to make a bridge of the carcasses of their dead countrymen, in spite of their utmost efforts, were repulsed by the soldiers from the shore, whilst they who had safely arrived on the other side were encompassed by our cavalry, and put to the sword.

The Belgæ finding themselves thus disappointed of their hopes, that they could neither gain Brienne, pass the river, nor draw the Romans out of their camp to some disadvantageous post, and considering their provisions were al-

WAR IN most spent, called a council of war, wherein they resolved
 GAUL. to break up, and return each man to his own country; ob-
 liging themselves, in case the Romans invaded any of their
 confines, that all the rest should immediately come to their
 assistance; for they judged it safer to fight at home, where
 they might be secure of provisions, than to dispute the mat-
 ter in a foreign country; nor was it the smallest inducement
 to this resolution, that they were informed Divitiacus, with
 a strong party of Autunois, was already on his march to
 the confines of Beauvois, which obliged them to make a
 speedy retreat, to defend that country.

CHAPTER VI.

The Belgæ
 decamp, and
 return
 home.

The Ro-
 mans attack
 their rear.

11. THIS resolution being agreed to by the whole ar-
 my, about the second watch of the night they began to
 leave their camp with extraordinary noise and confusion,
 each man contending for the foremost rank, that he might
 be soonest at home, marching in as disorderly a manner, as
 if they had been put to the rout. Cæsar, who had notice
 of this from his scouts, being jealous of some design, be-
 cause he could not conceive the reason of their departure,
 did not stir out of his trenches; but the next morning ear-
 ly, upon further intelligence, he first detached Quintus
 Pedius and L. Arunculeius Cotta, two of his lieutenants,
 with the cavalry; and after them T. Labienus at the head
 of three legions, with command to attack the enemy's rear.
 These overtaking the Belgæ, pursued them several miles,
 and put great numbers to the sword; whilst their rear faced
 about to receive our charge, the van-guard, who were out of
 danger, paying no manner of obedience to their officers,
 broke their ranks, ran away, and deserted their compa-
 nions, of whom the Romans made a dreadful slaughter,
 till night, and their general's commands obliged them to
 their camp.

CHAPTER VII.

12. The next day, before the enemy were recovered
 from their consternation, Cæsar marched his army to Sois-
 sons, which joins to the country of Rheims, and after a te-
 dious journey arrived at Noïon, which he hoped to have
 surprized, because he was informed it wanted provisions,
 and a garrison to defend it; but he was disappointed by
 the breadth of the ditch, and extraordinary height of the
 wall

wall that surrounded it; wherefore, having fortified his camp, he began to prepare for a formal siege. WAR IN GAUL.

The night after all the Soissonois who had escaped the slaughter, threw themselves into the town; but surprized at the mounts and batteries he had raised in so short a time, works which the Gauls had never seen before nor heard of, they beat a parley, sent deputies to treat of a surrender, and, by the intercession of their neighbours of Rheims, obtained their suit. Noien be- sieged and taken.

13. After they had delivered up their arms, and the chief persons of their country as hostages, amongst whom were Galba's two sons, they were admitted to mercy.

C H A P. VIII.

FROM thence Cæsar marched against those of Beauvois, who having retired with all their moveables into the capital of the same name, had intelligence that Cæsar was arrived within five miles of the town; whereupon they sent all the reverend old men to meet him, who in a submissive posture said, that they came to surrender themselves to his discretion, and would no longer presume to bear arms against the people of Rome; and when he had encamped his army nearer the town, the boys and women from the walls, with stretched out arms, according to the custom of their country, humbly besought him that he would vouchsafe to grant them peace. Cæsar marches to Beauvois, which submits.

14. For these Divitiacus (who had dismissed his army in Autun, and returned to Cæsar, so soon as he heard the enemy had broken up) interceded, alledging, "That the people of Beauvois had always been faithful friends to those of Autun, and were ready to assist them upon all occasions; nor had they entered into this confederacy against the Romans, forsaking their old allies, unless they had been persuaded to it by their nobility, who made them believe that the Autunois were enslaved by the Romans, and laboured under the vilest oppressions: That the authors of this conspiracy, finding into how miserable a condition they had plunged their country, were fled into England: That the people of Beauvois not only sued for Cæsar's wonted clemency themselves; but those of Autun were become intercessors; whose credit and authority Cæsar would raise, by this indulgence, among the Belgæ, where they had formerly upon every occasion been obliged to ask assistance.

WAR IN 15. Cæsar being moved by the mediation of Divitia-
 GAUL. cus and the Autunois, promised to forgive them; but be-
 cause their dominions were larger, more populous, and
 powerful than the rest of the Belgæ, he demanded 600
 hostages; which being delivered, together with their arms,
 he left their city, and marched directly to Amiens, which
 surrendered at discretion, without any trouble.

Amiens sur-
 rendered.

This is
 the name of the
 Hainault.

Next to Amiens lived the people of Hainault: "who, as Cæsar was informed, held no commerce with other countries, never suffered wine, or any other luxurious merchandize, as might enervate their bodies, or debase their minds, to be imported amongst them; a warlike, savage people, who always condemned the rest of the Belgæ for submitting to the Roman yoke; declaring they would neither send ambassadors, nor accept of peace on any terms."

16. Cæsar, after three days march in their country, received information from some prisoners, that the enemy were posted on the other side the Sambre, a river about ten miles distant from his camp, where they waited for the Romans: that they were already joined by those of Arras and Vermandos, whom they had persuaded to share their fortune, and daily expected a farther supply from Liege: that they had disposed of their women, and such whose age made them unfit for war, in a place by themselves, rendered inaccessible by the marshes that surrounded it.

17. On this information, Cæsar dispatched his scouts and centurions, to provide a convenient place to encamp in.

Deferters
 came out
 from the
 enemy.

Some of the Belgæ, who had surrendered themselves, and were in Cæsar's camp (as we afterwards learned from the prisoners) observing the particular order of the Romans march, deserted in the night to the enemy, and informed them, that between each legion marched a part of the heavy baggage; and that they might easily defeat the first legion, so soon as they were arrived in the camp, whilst they were incumbered by their baggage, and at so great a distance from the rest, that they could not readily be supported; which success would put the other legions into such a consternation, that they would not have the courage to maintain their ground. This advice made the greater impression, because the people of Hainault (who were always more expert at fighting on foot than horseback) used formerly to prevent their neighbours from making inroads into their country, by a fortification of young trees,

rees, whose boughs they bent into the earth, filled up the vacancies so close with thorns, that it served them instead of a wall, which could neither be penetrated nor even seen through. Whilst therefore they contrived to stop the progress of our army by this bulwark, they thought it convenient to put the other expedient in practice.

18. The place which the Romans made choice of to encamp in, was a hill, from whence there was an even descent to the Sambre; and on the farther side of the river, directly opposite to us, about two hundred paces distance, was another hill, plain and open at the foot, but so thick and woody in the upper part, that it concluded our prospect. The enemy had covered themselves in these woods: and in the open ground, by the river side, which was but three foot deep thereabouts, appeared only some few troops of horse.

19. Cæsar, sending his cavalry before, followed close after with the rest of the army, but had altered the disposition of his march, since the intelligence conveyed to the enemy; for, knowing he was near the Hainaultois, according to his usual custom, he had placed six legions in the front, who had nothing to carry but their arms; leaving the charge of the whole baggage to the two new legions, who marched in the rear.

C H A P. IX.

THE Roman cavalry, with the slingers and archers, having passed the river, engaged the enemy's horse, who at first retired to their companions in the wood, then sallied out again; but the Romans did not think fit to pursue them further than the open ground. The six legions in the front, according to the general's orders, had already begun to intrench themselves, when the enemy seeing our foremost carriages arrived, which was the sign appointed for making their sally, rushed from behind the thickets in order of battle with all their forces; and having easily broke their way through our cavalry, run with such incredible swiftness down the banks of the Sambre, that they seemed at the same instant to be in the woods, at the river, and charging our legions on the other side; for mounting the hill with the same fury they had descended from the banks, they fell upon our soldiers in the works, before they had time to perceive their danger.

WAR IN GAUL. 20. Now had Cæsar, at the same instant, all these several things upon his hands; hanging out the flag to give the soldiers warning to repair to their arms, proclaiming the fight by sound of trumpet, drawing off the soldiers from the works, recalling those who were gone to fetch materials for the rampart, ranging the army in order of battle, encouraging the men, and giving out the word by which they were to distinguish their friends from their foes in the heat of the engagement; most of which the unexpected attack of the enemy prevented, by not allowing us time.

C H A P. X.

The experience of the Romans. In the midst of these difficulties, two things fell out to the advantage of the Romans; one was, each private soldier had so much experience, that he knew his duty, and what was proper to be done upon such an emergency, as well as his officer; the other, that the legions who were employed about the works, and had been commanded by Cæsar not to leave off till his further orders, respecting more the necessity of assisting their fellows, than their general's commands, followed the dictates of their own discretion.

21. Cæsar having distributed the necessary orders, made haste to encourage the first body of his soldiers he could meet, which happened to be the tenth legion, to whom he said no more, than that he hoped they would remember their ancient virtue, and, notwithstanding the surprize, manfully sustain the assault; and being at no further distance from the enemy, than was just sufficient for casting their pila, he gave them the sign of battle; then going to another part of the army, he found it already engaged. So short was the time which the fury of the enemy allowed us, that the officers had not leisure to put on their ornaments of distinction, nor the men their head pieces, or to uncover their targets; but each soldier, joining himself to the first standard he met, stood to his arms, that he might not lose that time in seeking for his own company, which was to be spent in fighting.

22. The army being drawn up, rather according to the nature of the place, the declivity of the hill, and particular necessity of the time, than as art-military and order required, the legions engaged the enemy in several places at once; and as a general view of the battle was hindered
by

by the thickets which we spoke of before, it was impos-
 sible to know where succours were wanted, or to conduct
 the fight by one uniform design; an inconvenience that
 rendered the success dubious, and occasioned various
 events.

23. The soldiers of the ninth and tenth legions, who
 were posted in the left, by their pila soon drove those of
 Arras, who were weary and wounded, from the eminence
 where they were posted, into the water; and pursuing
 them sword in hand, killed great numbers of them as they
 endeavoured to pass the river. They followed them quite
 cross it, where, being drawn into a disadvantageous place,
 the enemy faced about again, and renewed the fight, but
 were obliged a second time to fly. So likewise, in another
 part of the battle, the eighth and eleventh legions, having
 broken the Vermandois, whom they were engaged with,
 had forced them from the top of the hill to the banks of the
 river. But in the mean time the front and left side of
 our camp were left almost naked (for in the right wing
 were placed the twelfth, and not far from that the seventh
 legion) which the Hainaultois perceiving, attacked us there
 with their entire force, under the command of Roduogna-
 tus; one party of them endeavouring to flank the legions
 where they lay most open, and the other to lodge them-
 selves in the highest part of the camp.

24. About the same time the cavalry and light-armed
 foot, who, as I said, at the beginning of the battle had been
 broken just as they were retiring into the camp, met the
 front of the enemy, which obliged them to take a different
 rout: whilst the servants of the army, who, from the top
 of the mountain, seeing our men pursue the enemy cross
 the river, had issued out from the Decuman port, with a
 design to follow in hopes of plunder; turning about be-
 held the Hainaultois entering our camp, and immediately
 fled. This confusion was increased by the clamour of
 those that attended the carriages, each man in his flight
 taking a different way. The cavalry of Treves, reputed
 men of great courage amongst the Gauls, who had been
 sent from thence to our assistance, perceiving that the ene-
 my were possessed of our camp, that the legions were over-
 charged and almost surrounded, that our mate, slingers,
 and Numidians were broken and routed, were so terrified,
 that, not staying for the event of the battle, they imme-
 diately returned home, reporting that the Romans were en-
 tirely defeated, and their baggage taken.

WAR IN GAUL. 25. Cæsar, having encouraged the tenth legion, went up to the right wing of the army, and found them overcharged by the enemy; the standards of the twelfth legion all crowded up in a place together; their ranks so close, the soldiers had not room to fight; all the centurions of the fourth cohort killed, a standard-bearer deprived of his life and colours together; all the rest of the centurions either killed or dangerously wounded, amongst which number was P. Sextus Baculus, the primiple, a man of extraordinary courage, who had received so many wounds, he was not able to stand; the front beginning to give ground, whilst some in the rear were running away; the enemy on the other hand pushing on briskly in the front, notwithstanding the disadvantage of the rising ground, and flanking our men with equal fury at the same time on either side. Finding things in this desperate condition, and knowing he had no forces behind to bring up to their aid, snatching a shield from one of the hindmost (for he was come there without one) he put himself at the head of the army; then calling the centurions by name, and encouraging the rest, commanded them to advance the ensigns, and widen the ranks of the maniples, that they might have more liberty to use their swords. His presence infused fresh courage into the soldiers; and each of them striving, even in the greatest extremity, to give proofs of his valour, whilst the general was there to be a witness of it, put a stop to the career of the enemy.

C H A P. XI.

26. PERCEIVING likewise that the seventh legion, which stood next him, was overpowered by the enemy, he commanded the tribunes to close the two legions together by degrees, and joining back to back, face about to the right and left, whereby having made a double front, they were secure from being surrounded; whereupon they began to defend themselves, and attack the enemy with fresh vigour. In the mean time, the two legions which had been left behind to guard the baggage, hearing the armies were engaged, made what haste they could to our assistance, and were discerned by the Hainaultois from the top of the hill. Titus Labienus, who by this time had made himself master of the enemy's camp, perceiving from the rising ground how matters went on our side the river, detached the tenth legion to our relief, who having intelligence from the

the cavalry and servants that fled away, what danger the general, his legions, and the camp were in, hastened with all the speed that was possible.

27. Their arrival made so strange an alteration for the better on our side, that they who before were faint with bleeding, and forced to rest themselves upon their shields, began the fight afresh; nay, the servants, seeing how great a consternation the enemy were in, fell upon them unarmed; and the horse, to wipe away the ignominy of their former flight, advanced, wherever there was an opportunity, before the legionary soldiers. But the enemy, even in their last extremity, shewed so much resolution, that as soon as the foremost ranks were swept off, the next succeeding in their place, fought upon their bodies, and when death had raised a mountain of carcases, the small remainder, ascending to the top of it, cast their darts from thence, and taking up ours, returned them back again: fame therefore did them justice, in reporting them to be men of such prodigious courage, who durst attempt to cross a broad river, and ascend the steep banks on the other side, to engage an enemy at the greatest disadvantage; dangers which their greatness of soul had learnt to despise.

28. The battle being thus decided, and almost the name and people of Hainault extinguished, the old men, women, and children, who, as we have already said, before the fight had been conveyed into bogs and marshes, hearing of the defeat, and seeing no way left to put a stop to the conqueror's success, nor any hopes of safety for the vanquished, unanimously resolved to send embassadors to Cæsar, and surrender themselves. When these were arrived at the camp, they laid before him the deplorable condition of their country; that out of six hundred senators, only three remained alive; and that of 60,000 soldiers, they had now 500 able to bear arms; whom Cæsar, to give proof of his compassion to the afflicted, carefully preserved, allowing them the free possession of their towns and country, and commanding their neighbours round about to do them no injury.

C H A P. XII.

29. THE people of Douay, who, as we said before, were marching to the assistance of the Hainaultois, having intelligence of their defeat, returned home again; and, deserting all the rest of their towns and castles, conveyed themselves

WAR IN
GAUL.

The enemy
entirely de-
eated.

The mighty
slaughter of
the Hainault-
ois.

The people
of Douay re-
turn home,
and fortify
the princi-
pal town.

WAR IN themselves and their riches into a well fortified place,
GAUL. which was surrounded by inaccessible rocks and steep precipices, except in one place about 200 foot broad, where there was an easy ascent to the town, which they had fortified with a double wall of a prodigious height; whercon they laid stones and sharp pieces of timber, ready to cast down upon occasion.

The descent
of the people
of Douay.

These people were descended from the Cimbri and Teutons, who, when they took their journey to Italy, had left six thousand men on the other side the Rhine, with such carriages as they could not conveniently get over: these, after the defeat of their countrymen, having been long in an unsettled state, sometimes invading others, and at another time defending themselves, at last obtained a peace, and firm possession in the country.

Cæsar be-
siegés them.

30. On the first arrival of our army they made several sallies out of the town, and encountered our men in small skirmishes; but after we had drawn our line of circumvallation, twelve foot high, and fifteen miles in length, and fortified it with little turrets, the besieged kept themselves within their walls. At first when they saw us raising a mount, fitting up the vines, and building a large turret at some distance from the town, making a jest of us, by way of ridicule they demanded, with what hands or strength such little men as we (for the Romans are but of small stature in respect of the Gauls) should be able to bring a tower of that prodigious weight to their walls?

They send a
successful
embassage
to Cæsar.

31. But when they saw it move, and advancing near the town, astonished at so strange a sight, they immediately sent deputies to Cæsar to desire a peace; saying, "They believed the Romans made war by the peculiar assistance of the gods, who were able in so small a space of time to convey engines of that prodigious bulk to their walls; wherefore they willingly submitted themselves, and all they had to Cæsar's mercy, only intreating him, that if, out of that goodness and compassion they had often heard of, he should spare their lives, he would not deprive them of their arms; that as they had always been envy'd and hated by their neighbours for their valour, he would not leave them without the means to defend themselves; for they would rather submit to any punishment from the Romans, than be inhumanly murdered by those whom they had formerly commanded."

Cæsar's an-
swer.

32. To this Cæsar answered, "That, provided they surrendered themselves before his battering ram touched their

their walls, he would save the city, more out of his own natural disposition, than from any merit of theirs: nor would he accept of a surrender on any other terms than the delivery of their arms: That he would give the same orders to their neighbours not to injure them, as he had done for those of Hainault." WAR IN GAUL.

The deputies returned with this answer, which the besieged seemed readily to submit to, by casting such plenty of arms over the walls, as almost filled the ditch up to the top of the rampart; but, as we afterwards found, reserved a third part, which they hid; then opening their gates, enjoyed a peace for the rest of that day. Thebesieged
surrender.

33. In the evening Cæsar caused the soldiers to return to their camp, and the gates of the town to be shut, that the citizens might not be plundered. But the besieged, who had already concerted their design, believing that after their surrender the Romans would set no guard over them, or at least an inconsiderable one, armed with such weapons as they had reserved, and targets made of wicker, covered over with hides, about three o'clock in the morning made a furious sally with all their force upon our fortifications, where the ascent was easiest; which the Romans having immediate intelligence of, by the beacons (as Cæsar had before commanded) made haste to relieve the place, where the enemy, emboldened by despair, and placing their safety only in their valour, fought as bravely as men could do against those who had the advantage of towers and ramparts; but 4000 being slain on the spot, the rest retreated into the town. The next day, without the least opposition Cæsar forced the gates, and entering with his army plundered the town, and sold the people for slaves, the number of whom amounted to 53,000. They sally
out of the
town early
in the morn-
ing,
but are re-
pulses.

C H A P. XIII.

34. ABOUT the same time P. Crassus (whom Cæsar had sent with a legion to take in Vennes, Coutances, Landreguet, Cornouaille, Bretagne, Eureux, and Renes, their maritime towns) sent him word that those places had all submitted to the Roman empire.

35. The wars being thus successively ended, and all the provinces of Gaul in peace, so great a terror did Cæsar's victories strike into the barbarians round about, that the nations beyond the Rhine sent ambassadors to offer him hostages, and obedience to whatever he pleased to command them

WAR IN GAUL. them ; but being in haste to return to Lombardy, he commanded them to come again the next spring. Having disposed his army into winter-quarters in Chartrain, Anjou, and Tours, which lay nearest the country he had last subdued, he took his journey to Italy ; and having sent the senate an account of his success, a general thanksgiving was decreed, which lasted fifteen days, an honour which no man, before that time, had ever obtained.

