
C. J. CÆSAR'S
COMMENTARY

OF HIS

WAR IN GAUL.

THE THIRD BOOK.

The war with the people of Valais, Vannes, Eureux, Coutances, Gascoigne, Teroüene, and Guelders.

CHAP. I.

WHEN Cæsar returned to Italy, he sent Sergius Galba, with the twelfth legion, and a party of horse, against the people of Elen, Valais, and Sion, whose territories, beginning at the confines of Savoy, the lake of Geneva, and the river Rhosne, extend themselves to the top of the Alps. His commission was to make the road over the Alps open to the merchants, who used to be exposed in their passage to great dangers, as well as subjected to heavy customs, with orders, if he should think it convenient, to take up his winter-quarters there with one legion.

WAR IN
GAUL.

Galba, after some successful recounters, having made himself master of several forts, received ambassadors from all the country round, who came to offer him hostages; whereupon he concluded a peace, resolving to quarter two cohorts of his legion in the country of Elen, and to lodge himself with the rest in Martenac, the capital of Valais.

This

WAR IN
GAUL.



Galba be-
sieged by
the Valais.

This town is situated in a little valley, divided by the river, and surrounded by steep mountains on every side; of which having given one half to the Gauls, he took possession of the other with his cohorts, which they fortified with a ditch and a rampier.

2. After he had continued here several days, and given orders to the country to bring in what corn he had occasion for, he received very unexpected news, that the Gauls had forsaken their part of the city, and that the hills around were covered with multitudes of the people of Valais and Sion. The inducement to this revolt was the small number of the Roman troops, which did not amount to one legion; for two cohorts had been quartered in Elen; and several of those who staid with Galba, were gone out a foraging. Besides, so advantageous was the situation of the place, they imagined they should descend with such impetuosity from the mountains, that the Romans would not be able to stand the first assault. Add to this, that the natives thought it a great hardship to be robbed of their children under the name of hostages; and suspected that the Romans, not contented with a clear passage over the Alps, would attempt to get possession of them, and unite them to their province.

3. Upon this intelligence Galba, who had neither finished his fortifications, nor stored himself with sufficient provisions (because he little dreamt of an insurrection, after the people had surrendered themselves, and delivered hostages) immediately summoned a council of war, to consult what was proper to be done: All the officers were strangely surpris'd at so unexpected a revolution; and some of them, seeing the mountains round about possessed with soldiers (who had so posted themselves, that there was no hope of receiving provision or relief) could find out no other expedient for their safety, but, leaving the heavy baggage behind, and sallying out, to force their passage through the enemy at the same place where they entered; but the majority were of a different opinion, holding it more convenient to reserve that as their last refuge, and in the meantime, fortifying their camp, to attend the decision of fortune.

CHAPTER II.

The Romans
assaulted in
their camp.

4. BUT, before the Romans had time to execute such orders as were resolv'd on for their defence, the enemy, upon a sign given, furiously assaulted our camp on all sides

with stones and darts ; which our men at first courageously returned, not casting one dart from the ramparts in vain ; and wherever they saw the enemy make the strongest efforts, thither they flocked to oppose them. But the rebels had much the advantage of us in this, that whenever their foremost ranks began to faint, fresh men supplied their places ; which we, having so small a body of troops, were not able to do ; so that, with us, neither the weary nor the wounded were permitted to quit their posts.

WAR IN
GAUL.

5. After the conflict had endured for the space of six hours, our men wanting weapons as well as strength, whilst the enemy pressed us with the greater vigour as we grew faint, when things were reduced to the last extremity (for they had already filled great part of our ditch, and began to demolish our rampart) P. Sextus Baculus, the primiple, who, we observed before, received many wounds in the war with the Hainaultois, and Caius Volusenus, a tribune of the soldiers, a man of great courage and conduct, came to Galba, and informed him, that there was no expedient left, but to sally out, and put their fortune upon one brisk attempt. Galba therefore, having summoned all the centurions, ordered them to give the soldiers respite for a while, and that they should only receive the enemy's darts, without returning any, 'till a sign should be given for sallying out of the camp, when they must rely only on their courage for the preservation of their lives.

6. These orders were so well executed, that issuing out of the camp from all sides at the same instant, they neither allowed the enemy time to rally their forces, nor to know what was the matter : which gave so sudden a turn of fortune, that they, who but the moment before promised themselves the possession of our camp and baggage, were now surrounded on all sides, and out of 30,000, for so many came to attack us, one third lost their lives, whilst the remainder were obliged to procure their safety by flight, being driven off the mountains round about. Thus having entirely defeated the enemy, and taken their arms, we returned again to our quarters.

Galba and his Romans sally out of their camp, put the enemy to flight, and entirely defeat them.

But Galba was not willing, after this battle, to try fortune's good-nature a second time ; for considering he had met with such a troublesome business, as he little expected when first he came thither, and finding provisions began to grow scarce, having set fire to the town, he returned the next day towards the Province, marched his legion without opposition through the country of Elen, and from thence

Galba returns into Savoy.

WAR IN thence arrived safe in Savoy, where he took up his quarters
GAUL. the rest of the winter.



CHAP. III.

Cæsar goes
to Illyricum.
The Gauls
revolt.

7. CÆSAR, having many reasons to believe that all things in Gaul were quiet, that there was no probability of new insurrections since the Belgæ had been defeated, the Germans expelled, and the people of Valais subdued, at the beginning of the winter took a progress to Illyricum, being desirous to see that country : but most unexpectedly new troubles arose in Gaul upon this occasion. Young P. Crassus, who was quartered with the seventh legion near the sea-side in Anjou, finding provisions very scarce in that country, sent out the horse-officers and tribunes to demand corn for his legion in the cities round about. T. Terrasidius he sent to the Eufubii, Trebius Galus to Cornouâlle, Quintus Velanius and Titus Silius to Vannes.

8. This last is one of the most potent districts of those nations upon the sea-coast ; for being well stored with shipping, with which they trade to England, they are better mariners than any of their neighbours, are masters of those few sea-ports which lie on the coast of so tempestuous a sea as theirs, and exact tribute from most merchants that sail on that ocean.

The Gauls
imprison the
Roman
command-
ers.

These set the first example, by detaining Silius and Velanius ; by which means they hoped to recover the hostages they had delivered to Crassus : the next country imitating them, did the like by Trebius and Terrasidius ; and immediately sending ambassadors to each other (for the Gauls are very sudden in their resolutions) they entered into an alliance, not to take any steps without the public and mutual consent, and to share the same fortune whatever turn it should take. Nor did they leave any thing untried, to incite the rest of the provinces round them, to assert that liberty which they had received from their ancestors, and not to stoop to the dominion of a stranger. Having thus drawn all the sea-port towns into the same conspiracy with themselves, they sent deputies to Crassus to let him know, “ If he expected his officers liberty, he must return their hostages.”

C H A P. IV.

9. CÆSAR, having intelligence from Crassus how affairs went, being then at a great distance from the army, commanded several gallies and ships to be built on the river Loire, which runs into the ocean, and lifted great numbers of pilots and mariners in the province; which being accomplished with wondrous expedition. so soon as the season permitted he arrived in Gaul. The people of Vannes in the mean time, and the rest of their confederates, who had intelligence of Cæsar's arrival (considering how great a crime they had been guilty of, in violating the law of nations, by putting the ambassadors in chains) were not idle, but prepared all things necessary to defend them from the impending danger, especially a considerable navy.

Cæsar builds a navy, and marches into Gaul.

C H A P. V.

THEY flattered themselves with success in this enterprise, by reason of their strong situation; for there was no coming at them by land, because the passes were stopped up by several arms of the ocean; nor were they worse fortified on the other side, the entrance by way of the sea being very difficult and dangerous; for they had but few ports, and the Romans were altogether strangers to their coast. Besides they were in hopes the Roman army would not be able to subsist there long without provisions, which were not to be had in the country: and though things should fall out otherwise, still they were superior at sea, to the Romans, who had but a small number of ships, were unacquainted with the flats, shallows, ports, and islands of the place where they were to engage, and found the practice of navigation in those narrow seas far different from that on the wider ocean.

Big with these expectations they began to fortify their towns, to carry all the corn out of the fields into their arsenals, and convey their shipping to Vannes, the place they were informed Cæsar designed first to attack, having before-hand engaged the people of Landreguet, Leisieux, Nantes, Lendoul, Terouenne, and Guelders to become their allies, and sent for assistance from England, which lies opposite to those countries.

The Gaul's preparations and alliances.

All these difficulties concurred to dissuade Cæsar from engaging in the war; but, on the other hand, many rei-

WAR IN
GAUL.

Cæsar sends
several par-
ties to dif-
ferent places
in Gaul, to
cut off all
succours
from the
enemy.

sons made it absolutely necessary; first the injury offered the Roman knights by detaining them; then the rebellion raised after a general submission, and hostages given for good behaviour; and lastly, the revolt of so many cities, which, if neglected, might prove of bad example to the rest. Considering therefore that all the Gauls were prone to novelty, and easily induced to undertake a war, that it was natural to all mankind to love liberty and detest servitude, he thought it the most convenient way, before any more cities came into this alliance, to divide his army, and distribute it into several places.

11. He sent therefore Titus Labienus with the cavalry to Treves, which borders on the Rhine, commanding him to have an eye over the people of Rheims, and to keep the rest of the Belgæ thereabouts in obedience; and if the Germans should attempt by force to transport any troops over the Rhine, as they had been desired, he should prevent it. Publius Crassus, with twelve legionary cohorts and a party of horse, he detached to Gascoigne, to cut off all assistance from those parts: Q. Tiberius Sabinus, with three legions, he ordered to Leisieux, Landreguet, and Coutances, to disappoint the rebels hopes in those countries; and having made D. Brutus admiral of the navy, and of the French vessels he had received from those of Poictou, Xantonge, and the other provinces which continued firm in their obedience, he ordered him to sail with all expedition to Vannes, himself following after by land with the foot.

CHAP. VI.

Cæsar takes
several
towns, but
the besieged
always dis-
cape.

12. THE confederate cities, being most of them situated upon promontories, could not be attacked by land at high-water, which always happened once in six hours; nor yet by sea, for upon the ebb of the tide the ships were left upon the sands as a prey to the enemy; and whenever the Romans endeavoured to exclude the ocean by artificial mounts, which they raised to an equal height with the walls of the town, the enemy, so soon as we were prepared to enter, having plenty of shipping, quickly conveyed themselves and their effects away by sea to the next port, where they enjoyed the same advantages as before. Thus they disappointed us most part of the summer; for the Roman fleet durst not venture out of the Loire into so vast and tempestuous an ocean, where the tides were strong, the roads

roads and havens but few, and at a considerable distance from one another.

WAR IN
GAUL.

13. The enemy had a great advantage over us in their shipping, which was thus built and rigged: “ Their keels were flatter than ours, consequently more convenient for the shallows and low tides; their forecastles were very high, their poops contrived to endure the roughness of the sea; the body of their vessels built of impenetrable oak: the banks for the oars were beams a foot square, fastened at each end with iron pins an inch thick: instead of cables for their anchors, they made use of iron chains, and had hides for their sails, either because they wanted linen, and were ignorant of its use, or, what is more likely, thought linen sails not strong enough to endure their boisterous seas, their impetuous winds, and carry vessels of so considerable burthen. So that whenever our ships encountered them, we only had the advantage in tacking about by the management of our oars; but in all other things they had much the better of us, being built more convenient for the nature of the place, and more able to endure a storm; their shells were so extraordinary hard, our beaks could not enter them, and their deck so high, we could do but little execution with our darts; besides, whenever a storm arose, which obliged them to submit to the pleasure of the winds, being strong built, they were better able to weather it out, and could shelter themselves with safety among the flats, without fear of the rocks, or those other inconveniencies which the Romans were subject to.

Description
of the Gauls
shipping.

C H A P. VII.

14. Cæsar having taken in one town after another, the enemy still conveyed themselves to the next; wherefore perceiving he spent his time to no purpose, for he could neither prevent their escape, nor do them any considerable damage, he resolved to attend the arrival of his navy; which was no sooner come, but the enemy immediately, having rigged out 220 sail of tall vessels, and equipped them with all things necessary, stood out to sea just over against us. The admiral Brutus, the tribunes, and centurions who commanded the Roman fleet, were so surprized at this unexpected sight, that they knew not what methods to take, or in what order to draw up their galleys; for the enemy's shipping was so strong, our beaks could do them

The Roman
navy ar-
rives; the
two fleets
drawn up;
they engage.

WAR IN no prejudice; and had we built turrets on the decks, as GAUL. usual, yet we could not have mounted them to a sufficient height to equal that of their poops; in which particular they had a great advantage over us; for as we could not do them much prejudice by our weapons, because we lay so much lower than they, so on the contrary their darts descended on us with a much greater force. But we happened to have one sort of instrument amongst our stores, which proved exceeding useful; we had provided a great number of sharp crooked scythes, like those used in sieges, which, we fixed to the end of long poles, and laying hold of their tackle, towed the vessels away by the help of our oars: thus cutting their cables, the main-yard fell down, whereby the enemy, who relied on their sails and rigging, were at once deprived of their sails, and the use of their vessels. And now the dispute depending entirely upon courage, the Romans easily got the better, and the rather, because, fighting in the view of Cæsar and the whole army, they were assured of so many witnesses of their valour; for all the hills and rising grounds, which looked upon the sea, were covered with our soldiers.

The Romans take and sink almost all their ships.

15. The enemy's main-yards being thus cut down, the Romans endeavoured to board them, though each vessel of ours was surrounded by two or three of theirs; which the Gauls perceiving, after they had lost several of their ships, finding no other way for safety, began to tack about before the wind, but were of a sudden so becalmed, that their flight was prevented; which fell out very opportunely for the Romans, who grappling with them, boarded so many, that after the battle had continued from between eight and nine in the morning 'till sun-set, few of their number had the fortune to save themselves, and get to land by the assistance of the night.

The end of the war.

16. This battle put an end to the war with Vannes and the rest of the maritime towns; for at this dispute were present not only all the youth of their country, but even those of maturer years, who might assist the labouring fate of their country, either by authority or advice; and hither had they brought all the vessels they were able to rig out; which being lost, they who escaped the slaughter, not knowing whither to fly, nor how to defend their towns against Cæsar, delivered themselves up to his mercy; towards whom Cæsar shewed greater severity, that he might teach such barbarians for the future to observe the law of nation, whereby the persons of ambassadors are protected;

ted; for he put all their senators to the sword, and sold the people for slaves.

WAR IN
GAUL.

C H A P. VIII.

17. IN the mean time L. Titurius Sabinus was marching with his forces to the confines of Contauces, a people subject to Viridovix, then generalissimo for the revolted towns, who had furnished him with a numerous and potent army. The senators of Eureux, Rhoan; and Liesieux, could not be drawn into this confederacy; but the common people, having murdered them, shut up their city-gates, and joined with Viridovix; to whom likewise flocked great numbers from Gaul, men of desperate fortunes, and thieves, whom the hopes of plunder induced to prefer the study of war before that of husbandry and daily labour.

Sabinus's
expedition
to Contauces.

Sabinus, having encamped himself in a convenient place, permitted not his men to stir out of their trenches; whilst Viridovix, who lodged within two miles of him, drew his forces out every day to offer him battle; which the other so often refused, that at last he was not only suspected by the enemy, but even by his own soldiers, of cowardice; and so craftily did he act his part, that the enemy had the assurance to come even to our very trenches. The reason gave for his conduct, was, that he did not think it justifiable for a lieutenant to engage an army so much more numerous than his own, during the absence of the general, but upon advantage of time and place.

18. Thus having confirmed the enemy in their opinion, he made choice of a subtle Gaul amongst the auxiliary troops, whom he persuaded, by considerable presents and greater promises, to go over to the enemy, and there act according to such instructions as he should give him. This instrument being arrived at their camp, and received as a deserter, informed them how much the Romans were afraid of them, what extremities Cæsar was driven to by the people of Vannes, and that Sabinus designed the next night privately to decamp, and make what haste he could to his assistance. No sooner had they heard this news, but they unanimously cried out, that so lucky an opportunity was not to be slipped, and that they would attack the Romans in their intrenchments. Many circumstances concurred, which induced the Gauls to embrace this resolution; Sabinus's declining battle so often, the intelligence from the de-

Sabinus's
stratagem
and success.

WAR IN GAUL. ferter, want of provisions, which they had not taken sufficient care for, their hopes in the confederates of Vannes, and that credulous humour which always inclines men to believe what they wish. Spurred on by these motives, the soldiers would not permit Viridovix and the rest of the general officers to break up the council, before they had resolved upon forcing the Roman camp; which being agreed on, they went as cheerfully to work, as if they had already obtained the victory; and having provided plenty of fascines, to fill up the ditches, made the best of their way to attack us.

The Gauls come to attack the Roman camp,

but are repulsed and routed.

19. The Romans were incamped on the top of a rising ground, which mounted with an easy ascent from the level; and the enemy made so much haste to prevent our having notice of their design, that they ran themselves out of breath before they came at us. Sabinus, who was better prepared to receive them than they imagined, having encouraged his soldiers, gave them the sign of battle; then falling out of two several gates of the camp at once upon the enemy (whilst they were loaden with those materials they had brought to fill up our trenches) the advantage of the ground, their faintness and inexperience, our courage and conduct, soon decided the battle in favour of the Romans; for the enemy, not being able to stand the first onset, chose rather to depend on their heels than their hands, whilst our troops being fresh and vigorous, pursued and slew great numbers of them. Nor were their horse able to preserve themselves from the same fate, for our cavalry followed them so close, that few escaped. Thus at the same time Sabinus heard of the defeat at sea, Cæsar was informed of Sabinus's success at land.

Upon the news of these victories all the provinces which Titurius was sent against, surrendered themselves; for as the Gauls are eager to enter into a war, so upon the smallest turn they relent, being impatient of afflictions.

CHAP. IX.

Crassus's expedition against the Gascones.

20. MUCH about the same time, P. Crassus arrived at Gascoigne, which, as we have already taken notice, as well for the number of its inhabitants as its extent of land, deserves to be esteemed a third part of Gaul; and considering he was to manage a war in the same country where lieutenant-general L. Valerius Præconinus formerly was de-

defeated, and lost his life, where Lucius Manilius was glad to purchase his escape at the expence of his baggage, he thought it behoved him to take more than ordinary care; wherefore having provided his army with corn, having raised some cavalry, levied troops in the auxiliary countries, and sent for several brave volunteers from Thoulouse and Narbonne, cities next adjoining to the Roman province, he marched his army into the confines of Sots. The natives were no sooner acquainted with his arrival, but they immediately levied a considerable army of horse and foot, and with their cavalry (whom they most relied on) engaged the Romans whilst they were upon their march: we easily put them to the rout; but when we were pursuing them, their infantry appeared in a valley where they had watched for us in ambuscade, and setting upon our men whilst they were disordered in the pursuit, began the fight afresh.

WAR IN
GAUL.

The Gauls
in ambu-
cade.

21. The dispute was long and doubtful; for the enemy, grown proud with the memory of their former victories, thought the fate of all Gascoigne depend on their single virtue; whilst the Romans, on the other hand, exerted themselves to shew what they were able to do, without their general, without the assistance of the rest of the legions, and under the command of so young a soldier. At last, the Gauls much wounded began to fly, and Crassus having slain great numbers of them, marched directly to their capital, which he invested. The besieged maintained their possession with great bravery, notwithstanding we approached their walls with vines, mounts, and turrets: sometimes sallying, and sometimes undermining our works; an art they are very expert in, by reason of the number of copper mines in their country; but at last perceiving the industry of the Romans frustrated their endeavours, they sent deputies to Crassus, to desire he would be pleased to accept of a surrender; which they obtained, on delivery of their arms.

The Gaul's
routed;
they retire
to their ca-
pital.

Crassus in-
vests it, and
they agree to
surrender.

22. But whilst the whole army expected the performance of this article, Adcantuanus, who commanded the town, endeavoured to make his escape out of one of the postern gates, "with six hundred sworn friends, whom the natives call soldurii, whose custom is, to enjoy all things in common with those to whom they have vowed a friendship; to share always the same fortune, and kill themselves rather than survive the death of their comrades. Nor has it ever been known that any of them ever failed in

Adcantua-
nus, and his
Soldurii or
sworn
friends.

WAR IN his duty, or declined death, when his friend was killed."

GAUL. But the alarm from that part of the works soon summoned our men thither, where after a warm conflict the enemy were driven back again into the town; but, notwithstanding, obtained the favour of being comprehended within the same treaty.

23. Crassus, having received hostages from them, left their country, to march against the people of De Buch, and Turfan.

CHAPTER X.

The Gauls rally again, send for foreign succours and captains from Spain.

THE Gauls being much disturbed, that a place so well fortified both by art and nature should fall in so small a time into the Romans hands, began to enter into mutual alliances with one another in all parts, sending embassadors, and exchanging hostages for that purpose; and having first levied what forces they could in their own country, sent deputies to Spain, and the other countries that bordered on Gascoigne, whence they received supplies with several experienced officers; upon whose arrival they began the war very briskly with a numerous army, making choice of such for their commanders, who, having served under Sertorius, were reputed to be men of conduct and experience in the military art. These, according to the custom of the Romans, began to pitch upon convenient places to encamp in, to intrench themselves, and intercept our convoys; which Crassus perceiving, thought it the safest way to give the enemy battle immediately, because his army was so small, he could not detach parties, like the Gauls, to possess themselves of particular passes, and yet leave a sufficient number to secure his camp; which would of necessity, in time, make provisions grow scarce with the Romans, whilst the enemy's power encreased: wherefore having summoned a council of war, finding all the officers of his opinion, he appointed the day following to give them battle.

The Romans offer them battle.

24. Accordingly the next morning, by dawn of day, he drew out all his forces, and having ranged them in a double line, disposed the auxiliaries in the midst, expecting what motions the enemy would make: but the Gauls, though they fancied they might safely venture an engagement, as well on the score of their number, as of their ancient prowess, yet thought it the better way to block up all the passes, intercept the Roman convoys, and obtain a victory without the expence of blood; resolving, when the Romans should be reduced to quit their camp for want of provisions,

to attack their rear, whilst they were faint with hunger, weary with travel, and incumbered with their baggage. This advice seemed most agreeable to the whole council of the Gauls; and therefore when the Romans profered them battle, they kept within their camp and declined it.

WAR IN
GAUL.
but the
Gauls re-
fute it.

C H A P. XI.

CRASSUS perceiving their design, and finding his men more eager for the engagement, because they thought the enemy were afraid of them, whilst they all exclaimed against delay, desiring they might immediately attack the Gauls in their camp, he encouraged their desire, and, to their infinite satisfaction, led them to the place where the enemy was lodged.

25. Whilst some were busy in filling the ditch, and others endeavouring to force the Gauls from their trenches with their darts, the auxillaries, on whom Crassus had no great dependance, were employed in bringing stones and darts to the soldiers, and turf to the mount, that they might appear to be engaged as well as the rest. The Gauls in the mean time maintained their ground obstinately, doing great execution with their darts from the higher ground; which the horsemen perceiving, took a compass about to view their camp, and brought Crassus word, that the rampart of the Decuman port was not so strongly fortified as other places, and they believed it might easily be forced.

The Ro-
mans attack
their camp.

26. Whereupon Crassus, having desired the horse-officers to encourage their men by considerable rewards and promises, gave them instructions what he thought fit to have done. According to their orders, marching with four fresh cohorts that had been left in the camp, and no ways concerned in the fatigue of the day, they took a circuit to prevent being observed; and, whilst the Gauls were intent on the engagement, arrived at the place appointed, which they easily forced, and entered the enemy's camp before the Gauls could perceive who they were, or what they were doing; then giving us notice by a loud acclamation, our soldiers in the front, as they always do, when there is hope of victory, renewed the battle with fresh vigour. The enemy being thus surrounded, jumped over the rampier in despair, endeavouring to save themselves by flight; but being an open country, our cavalry pursued and killed such numbers of them, that out of 50,000 which came from Spain and Gascoigne, there hardly escaped a fourth part.

The Roman
cavalry enter
the Decuman
port of the
Gauls camp.

The Gauls
entirely
routed.

27. Upon

WAR IN
GAUL.

All Gas-
coigne sub-
mits.

27. Upon the news of this victory, the greatest part of Gascoigne voluntarily submitted to Cæsar, and sent him hostages; viz. the people of Pais de Labard, Bigorre, Precins, De Buch, Turfan, Euse, Pais de Gavre, Auch, Garonne, Sibutz, and Bazadois; only some few districts that lay at a greater distance, depending on the approach of winter, held out.

C H A P. XII.

Cæsar's ex-
pedition to
Terouenne
and Guel-
ders.

28. MUCH about the same time, Cæsar, though the summer was almost spent, made an expedition against Terouenne and Guelders, because they were the only provinces that had not laid down their arms, nor sent ambassadors to treat of peace, whilst all the other countries of Gaul had submitted to the Roman empire. Thinking he might dispatch this expedition in a very short time, he marched his army into their country; but, contrary to his expectation, found they had a method of making war much different from the rest of the Gauls; for, understanding that the most potent provinces in their continent that had engaged with the Romans, were defeated, they thought it the wisest way to convey themselves and their effects into the wood and bogs, whereof they had plenty in their country.

Cæsar, so soon as he was come near the woods, began to entrench himself; but on a sudden the enemy, whom he could not discover to be there, sallied out of the thickets, whilst his men were dispersed, and employed about different charges; but they were easily repulsed to the woods, where the Romans following them unadvisedly, lost some of their men.

29. Cæsar resolved to spend the remainder of the summer in clearing the ground; and that his army might be no more surprized whilst they were at work, he caused all the timber they cut down to be laid on each side for a fortification, and in a few days made so extraordinary a progress, that all the enemy's cattle were taken, though they themselves had the good fortune to escape into the thicker woods.

The rains
put a stop to
Cæsar's pro-
gress.

The continual rains which fell soon after, put a stop to the undertaking; for the soldiers were no longer able to lie in their tents; wherefore Cæsar, having laid their country waste, burnt their towns and houses, returned back again, and quartered his army at Eureux, Leisieux, and those other places which he had last subdued.