
C. J. CÆSAR'S
COMMENTARY

OF HIS
WAR IN GAUL.

THE THIRD BOOK.

The inhabitants of Zutphen and Hesse drive those of Guelders out of their country ; but are defeated by Cæsar. His expeditions into Germany and England.


CHAP. I.

THE next winter, during the consulate of Cn. Pompeius and M. Crassus, the inhabitants of Hesse and Zutphen, two German nations, crossed the Rhine in great numbers towards that end where it discharges itself into the sea. The reason why they left their country was, because they had been so long oppressed by the Suabians, the most potent and warlike nation amongst the Germans. "The Suabians are divided into an hundred cantons ; each of these yearly bring a thousand men into the field, still retaining the same number at home, to provide for themselves and the army ; who the year following go abroad, and relieve their countrymen ; by which means they all obtain experience in husbandry and military affairs at once. They have no inclosure, no man has an acre of land which he can properly term his own ; nor are they suffered to continue above one year in the same part

WAR IN
GAUL.

The Ger-
mans cross
the Rhine-

The cus-
toms of the
Suabians.

WAR IN part of the country : their chief diet is milk and flesh-meat, GAUL. and their diversion hunting. The quality of their food,  their perpetual exercise, and way of living (being educated to no calling, obliged to no discipline, nor restrained from any thing their inclinations prompt them to) make them very robust, and of an extraordinary stature : custom has rendered them so hardy, that they wash themselves in their rivers, and wear no cloths even in the coldest weather, except small skins, which hardly cover one half of their bodies, whilst the rest is exposed to the weather.

2. Merchants frequent their coasts, not so much to import foreign goods, as to purchase the booties they obtain in war : Beasts of labour; which the Gauls take much delight in, and think they can never pay too dear for, the Germans never import from other countries ; but make use of their own distorted cattle, which by daily exercise they inure to the hardest services. Their horsemen frequently forsake their horses in battle, to fight on foot, having managed them so well, that they stand still for their riders in the same place where they left them ; nor do they esteem any thing more useless and ignominious than furniture for horses, for which reason a small party of them often venture to engage almost any number that make use of it. They allow no wine to be imported into their country, lest it should make them lazy and effeminate.

3. The greatest honour to their nation, in their opinion, is to have their territories round about lie desolate ; from whence they would have you infer, that the united force of several kingdoms is not sufficient to oppose their single valour ; for which reason the country on the side of Suabia lies waste for the space of 600 miles together. The other part is bounded by the Ubii, who enjoy a large and flourishing country, a people much politer than their German neighbours, because, lying nearer the Rhine, they have more commerce with merchants, and conversation with the Gauls." With these the Suabians had many disputes ; and though they were so experienced soldiers, so potent and numerous a people, that they could not expel them the country, yet they made them their tributaries, and reduced them to a very low condition.

C H A P. II.

4. THE inhabitants of Hesse and Zutphen, whom we mentioned before, were engaged in the same quarrel, and having long maintained their ground against the Suabians, were at last obliged to quit their country. Being thus compelled to seek their fortune, after three years wandring through the continent of Germany, they arrived at the territories of the people of Guelders *, who inhabit the banks on both sides the river Rhine. The natives frightened at the unexpected arrival of so many foreigners, deserting their houses on the other side the Rhine, crossed the river, and planted themselves so as to prevent the Germans further progress ; who having tried all ways, finding they had not shipping enough to force their passage, and that they could not get over by stealth, because the natives kept so strict a watch, at last feigned a retreat into their own country ; but, after three days journey, returned again to the same place with their cavalry in one night's march, and surpris'd the natives, who being assured by their scouts of the enemy's retreat, had forgot their fears, and transported themselves to their former habitations. These being thus put to the sword, the Germans seizing their vessels, before the people on the other side knew any thing of the matter, crossed the Rhine, possessed themselves of the towns and houses there, and took up their quarters for the rest of the winter.

WAR IN GAUL.


The Germans invade Guelders.

* Though Scaliger seems rather to think the Menapii are those that now inhabit the sea-coasts of Brabant.

5. Cæsar having intelligence of this matter, was jealous of the levity of the Gauls, “ who are so fickle in their counsels, and such passionate lovers of novelty, that they stop passengers upon the road; and oblige them to declare all the news they have heard, before they let them proceed on their journey : the mob likewise flock about foreign merchants, to enquire what country they came from, and what intelligence they bring from thence : by which reports they often govern themselves in the management of their most important affairs ; consequently being swayed by uncertainties, calculated for the most part by the traveller for satisfaction of enquirer, they must often repent of the resolutions they take.”

The temper of the Gauls.

C H A P. III.

WAR IN 6. CÆSAR therefore being so well acquainted with GAUL. their temper, made more haste than usual to put himself  at the head of his army, where he was no sooner arrived, but he found his suspicions true, that some provinces of Gaul had already sent ambassadors to invite the Germans from the banks of the Rhine farther into the continent, promising them that every thing should be got ready which they desired; whereupon the Germans had begun to make inroads, and lay the country waste, as far as the confines of Liege, and Condrotz, which is under the protection of Treves: for which reason Cæsar, having summoned all the princes of Gaul, took no notice of the revolt he had been informed of, but confirming them in their allegiance by a seeming approbation of their loyalty, commanded them to furnish him with a certain number of cavalry; being determined to make war on the Germans.

Cæsar
marches to
find out the
Germans.

The Ger-
man em-
bassage.

7. So soon as he had provided his army with corn, and raised a body of horse, he marched to the place where he understood the Germans were; who, upon his arrival within a few days journey of them, sent ambassadors to acquaint him, "That as the Germans were not desirous of giving the Romans the first occasion for a war, so neither should they avoid engaging with them, if provoked to it; for it had always been the custom of the Germans to answer an enemy at his own weapons, not by treaty; though they must confess they came thither against their wills, being expelled their own country: and if the Romans would accept of their friendship, if they would either allot them land to live in, or permit them to keep that which they had obtained by the law of arms, they might find them necessary allies: for they only submitted to the Suabians, to whom even the immortal gods were not a sufficient match, but there was not another people under the sun they were not able to conquer."

Cæsar's an-
swer.

8. To this Cæsar answered what he thought most convenient, the substance of whose speech was to this effect; "That he could not enter into an alliance with them whilst they continued in Gaul; nor did he think it just that who were not able to defend their own territories, should invade others; that there was not sufficient waste ground in Gaul to contain so numerous a people; but, if they pleased, they might find a welcome amongst

the Ubii, who would receive them into their country upon his intercession, for they had deputies at that instant in his camp, who came to complain of the injuries they had received from the Suabians, and intreat his assistance against them.”

WAR IN
GAUL.

9. The ambassadors returned with this answer to their countrymen, promising to wait upon Cæsar again in three days time; desiring that in the mean time he would not approach with his army nearer their confines: This Cæsar would not consent to, being informed that a considerable party of their cavalry but two days before had passed the Mose, in order to forage the country of the Ambivariti, and he suspected their design was only to gain time till their party returned.

10. “The Mose rises from the mountains of Vause in the country of Langres; and after a long course, receiving the river Vahal, a small branch of the Rhine, within its banks, it forms the isle of Holland, and, about eighteen miles below that, discharges itself into the sea. But the Rhine has its rise in the territories of the Lepontii, who inhabit the Alps, and after a long journey through Cou-
tances, Switzerland, Franche-comte, the country of Metz, Strasburg, and Treves, coming near the sea, is divided into several branches, which form as many considerable islands, most of them inhabited by a barbarous and savage people, who are reported to feed only on fish, and wild fowls eggs; from whence by divers channels it discharges itself into the ocean.”

Description
of the Mose.

Description
of the
Rhine.

11. When Cæsar was arrived within twelve miles of the enemy, the ambassadors came to him a second time, pressing him very earnestly to march no farther, or at least to send his cavalry orders, who were gone before the rest of the army, not to engage the Germans; and that he would agree to a truce, till they could send deputies to the Ubii, by whom they would gladly be received, on such conditions as Cæsar should approve of, and their noblemen and senators should oblige themselves by oath to perform; nor would they desire above three days time to complete the negotiation.

A second
embassage
from the
Germans.

Cæsar believed this was only an artifice to procrastinate for three days longer, till their cavalry returned; however, he promised not to come nearer than within four miles of their camp, where was a convenient place to water in, and ordered a considerable number of them to attend him there the next day, that he might know their demands; in the
mean

WAR IN mean time he sent orders to the officers of the horse not to
 GAUL. provoke the enemy; and in case they should be attacked
 themselves, only to maintain their ground till he came up
 to their assistance.

C H A P. IV.

The Ger-
 mans after a
 truce attack
 the Roman
 cavalry.

The death
 of Piso and
 his brother.

12. SO soon as the Germans saw our horse, though we had 5000, and they had not above 800 (the party which had crossed the Mose to forage not being yet returned) they fell upon our men, who expected no acts of hostility from them, because the embassadors who agreed on a truce for a day, had not long before left our camp. Their attack was so violent, that they put our troops in disorder; and when they perceived we began to rally, dismounting, according to the custom of the Germans, they wounded our horses in the belly, so that several of the riders were thrown, and the rest put to flight; who were so dreadfully frightened, that they never looked behind till they were come within view of our army. In this skirmish we lost 74 men, amongst which number fell Piso the Gascoigne, “a man of courage equal to his noble birth, whose grandfather had formerly been a king in his own country, and honoured by the senate and people of Rome with the title of friend. Seeing his brother surrounded by the enemy, he rushed into the midst of them, and rescued him; his own horse being killed under him in the attempt, he bravely defended himself on foot, till at length after receiving many wounds, he was slain; which his brother perceiving, who was then out of danger, returned to the fight, spurred his horse in amongst the Germans, and fell a sacrifice to his deliverer, though he could not revenge his death.

13. After this battle, Cæsar judged it not convenient either to give their embassadors audience, or accept of any conditions from a people who had demanded a truce with a design to break it; and thinking it madness to stay while the enemy was reinforced, and their cavalry returned (especially since the Gauls were of so fickle a temper, that the Germans had already gained a considerable reputation amongst them by this small success) he resolved not to allow them time for reflection; having therefore sent for the general officers, he acquainted them that he designed to engage the enemy without farther delay.

C H A P. V.

THE next day there fell out a very lucky accident for WAR IN the Romans; all the German princes and nobility, making GAUL. use of their former dissimulation, came to our camp, under pretence of excusing themselves for what had happened the day before, in relation to the engagement with our cavalry, contrary to the truce granted at their request, and withal to desire the same might be continued: Cæsar, not a little pleased with this opportunity, gave orders they should all be secured, and at the same time marched his army directly; the cavalry, who were daunted with the defeat they received the day before, he ordered to bring up the rear.

14. Having drawn up his troops in three lines, and passed the eight miles which were betwixt us and the Germans, he fell upon them before they dreamed of his coming. They were so surprized at our sudden arrival, so confused for want of their officers; that they knew not whether they had better draw out their forces, defend their camp, or endeavour to save themselves by flight. Their fear and disorder was no sooner perceived by the Roman soldiers, but, remembering the treachery of the preceding day, they forced their camp, where at first they met with some small resistance from such as had time to repair to their arms, who engaged them at their carriages, whilst the women and children from all sides (for the Germans had brought their whole families and effects cross the Rhine with them) endeavoured to make their escape, but Cæsar sent the horse to pursue them.

15. The Germans, hearing a noise behind them, turned about, and saw their wives and children put to the sword; whereupon throwing down their arms, and deserting their colours they ran away from their camp, and arriving at the river-side where the Mosse and Rhine begin to flow in one channel, they who had escaped the fury of the battle, flung themselves in the water, where all of them were drowned either by their own fear, weariness, or the strength of the stream. After this dispute, the Romans returned to their camp without the loss of a man, and with very few wounded, though the number of the Germans, computing their women and children, amounted to 430,000. The battle being over, Cæsar gave those whom he had detained in his camp free leave to depart; but being apprehensive of the natives revenge for the injuries

WAR IN GAUL. injuries they had done them, rather than fall into the hands of the Gauls, they desired to stay in our army, which they did by Cæsar's permission.

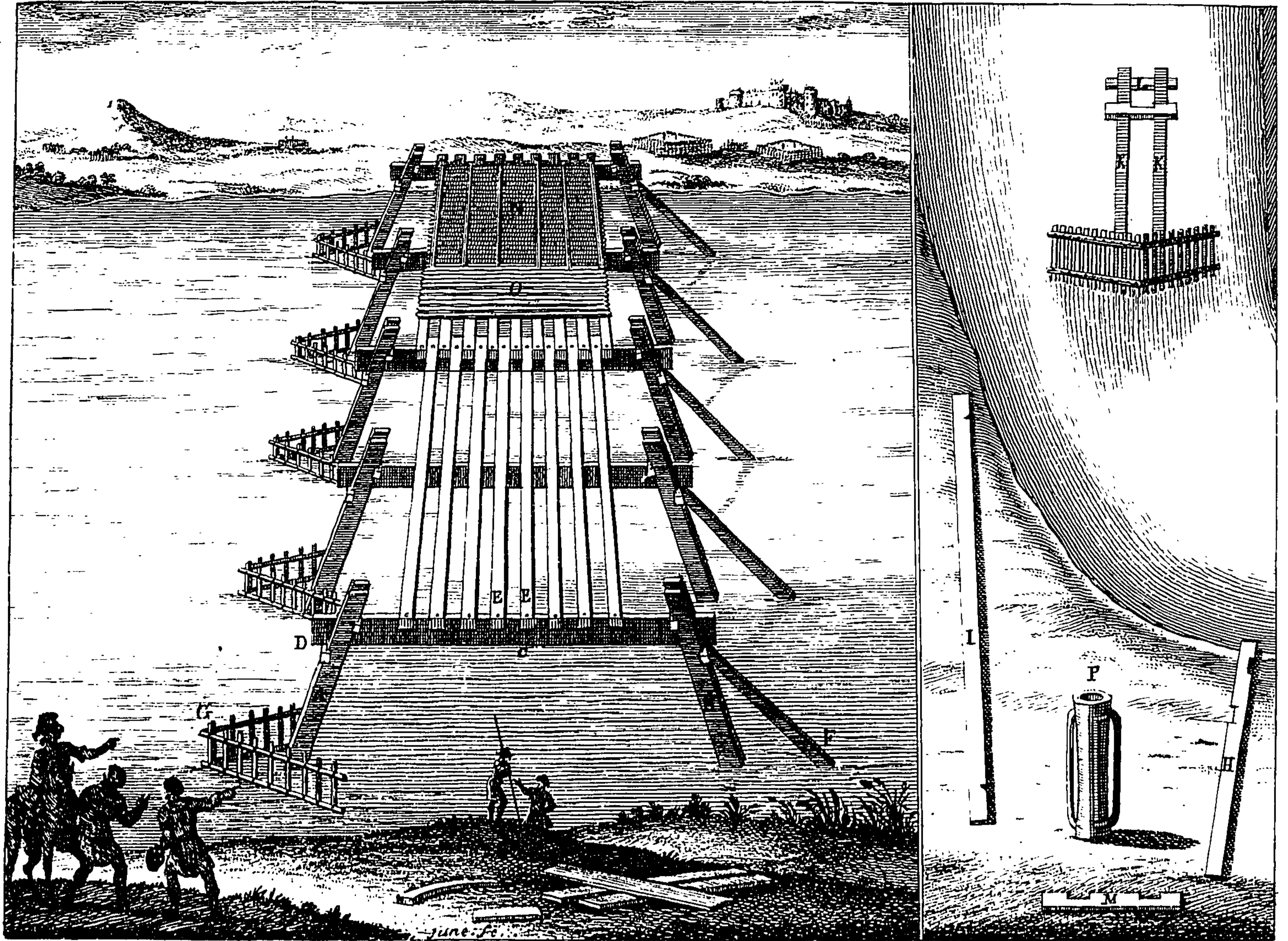
C H A P. VI.

16. THE war with the natives of Zutphen and Hesse being thus concluded, Cæsar resolved for several reasons to cross the Rhine. One of the chief motives that induced him to it was, his observing how ready the Germans were on every occasion to come into Gaul; wherefore he hoped when they perceived the Romans were able to transport an army cross that river as well as themselves, they would be more cautious how they left their own country exposed for the future; another thing was, that the enemy's cavalry, who had crossed the Mosè to forage, were absent when their countrymen were defeated; and, upon intelligence of the victory, had retired into the confines of the sicambri, where they found a reception; when Cæsar to demand them, because they had been in arms against him and the Gauls, the people made answer, "That the Rhine bounded the extent of the Roman empire, and if he thought it unjust for the Germans to pass into Gaul, they knew no reason that he should assume an authority on their side the river." Besides, the Ubi, who were the only people cross the Rhine, that had sent ambassadors to Cæsar, who had entered into alliance with him, and delivered hostages, earnestly desired his assistance against the oppressions of the Suabians; and if the publick affairs would not permit him to go in person, that he would only send his army into Germany, they would desire no greater aid or encouragement; for so considerable among the remotest Germans was the reputation which the Romans had acquired by defeating Ariovistus, and by their late success, that if they appeared in defence of the Ubi, and owned them for their allies, their name alone would be a sufficient security; and they obliged themselves to furnish him with a proper number of transport-vessels.

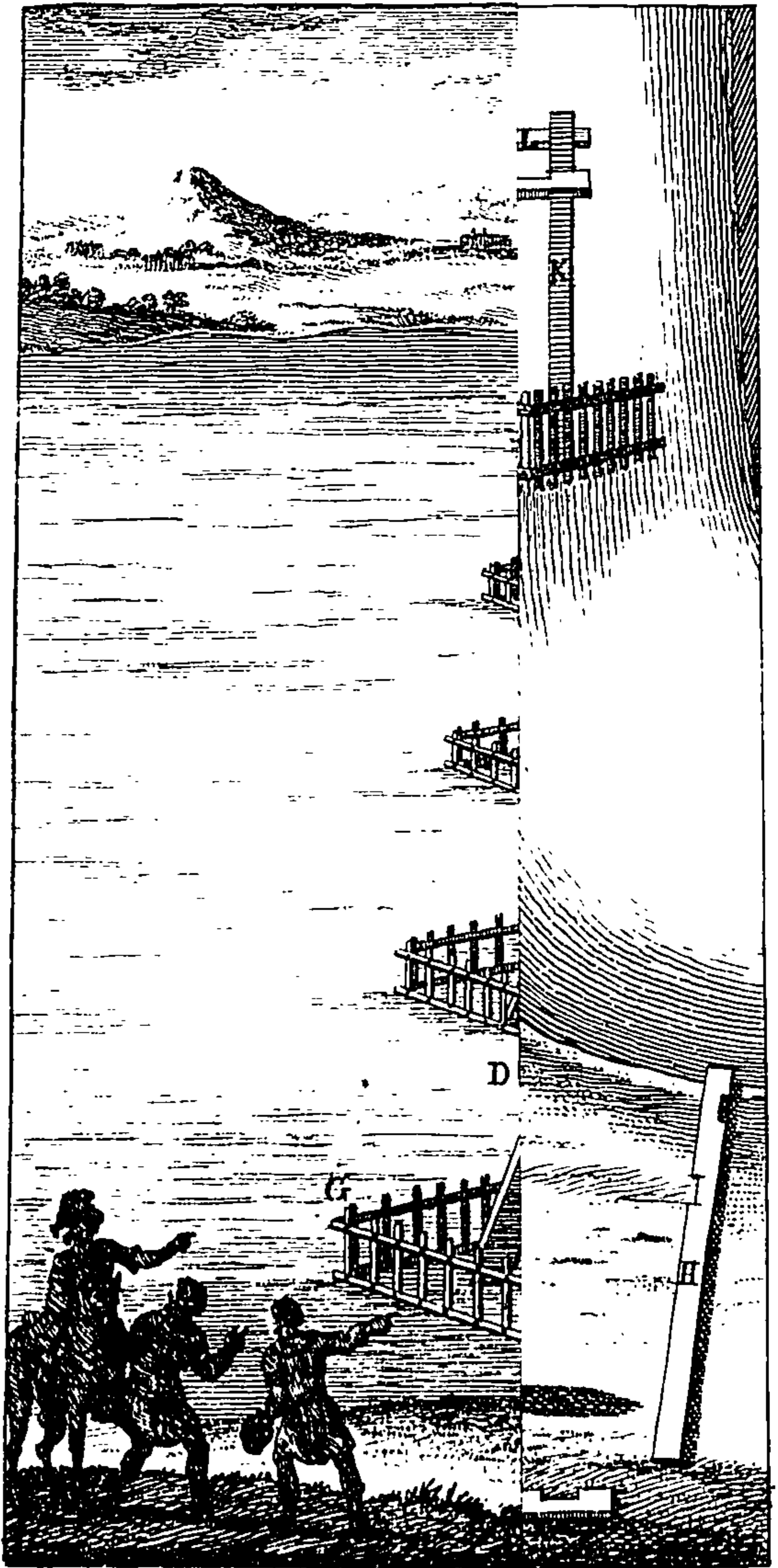
The answer
of the Si-
cambri
Cæsar's de-
mand.

17. For these reasons Cæsar resolved to cross the Rhine; but he thought it neither safe to transport his army in ships, nor agreeable to his character or the dignity of the Roman empire; wherefore though he found it very difficult to lay a bridge cross so broad, so deep, and rapid a river, yet he determined to attempt it, and if he failed, not to pass over at all. The method of his contrivance was this.

“ Having




A. Two pieces of timber a foot & half square join'd to each other at two foot distance B. 2 others appa at them at forty foot distance & diminishing at the Top C. the beams two foot square laid over em D. the pieces of wood that jointed the Pillars E. the joynces for laying of floor or of the Buttrics to support the main post against the strength of the stream G. the Piles for defending the Bridge ag. Ships & Logs H. the form of a single pillar I. the form of one of the Cross beams K. 2 Pillars join'd together L. the little cross pieces of Wood but join'd em two foot long M. of the same kind single N. the bundles or fascines to be flood'd by bridge O. the cross Planks for laying the bundles on P. the form of one of the wood bullets or drivers



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 for laying the bundle on P the form of

“ Having joined two pieces of timber, a foot and a half square, by mortices that kept them at two foot distance from each other, he cut them to a convenient length for that part of the river he designed them for; then making them sharp at the end, caused them to be let down into the water by engines, and driven into the bottom with wooden mallets, not perpendicularly, but sloping, in compliance with the stream: directly opposite to these he placed two other stakes, joined, just after the same manner, and drove them into the ground forty foot distance from the other at the bottom, causing their tops to incline towards the stream, as the others had declined from it. These double stakes, thus fix'd, he joined at top by a cross beam of two foot square, equal to the distance between them, and fastened it at either end with pins, which prevented the stakes from bending nearer one another, and made the work of so secure a nature, that the fierceness of the stream encreased the firmness of the bridge. Having observed the same method quite over the river, he covered the cross beams with planks and hurdles. As a farther security on the lower side of the bridge he drove down buttresses obliquely into the water, which were fixt to the main pillars, to prevent their giving way to the force of the current: he likewise drove in other piles at a moderate distance above the bridge, to stave off trunks of trees, and such vessels as the enemy should send down the river to destroy the work.”

WAR IN
GAUL.


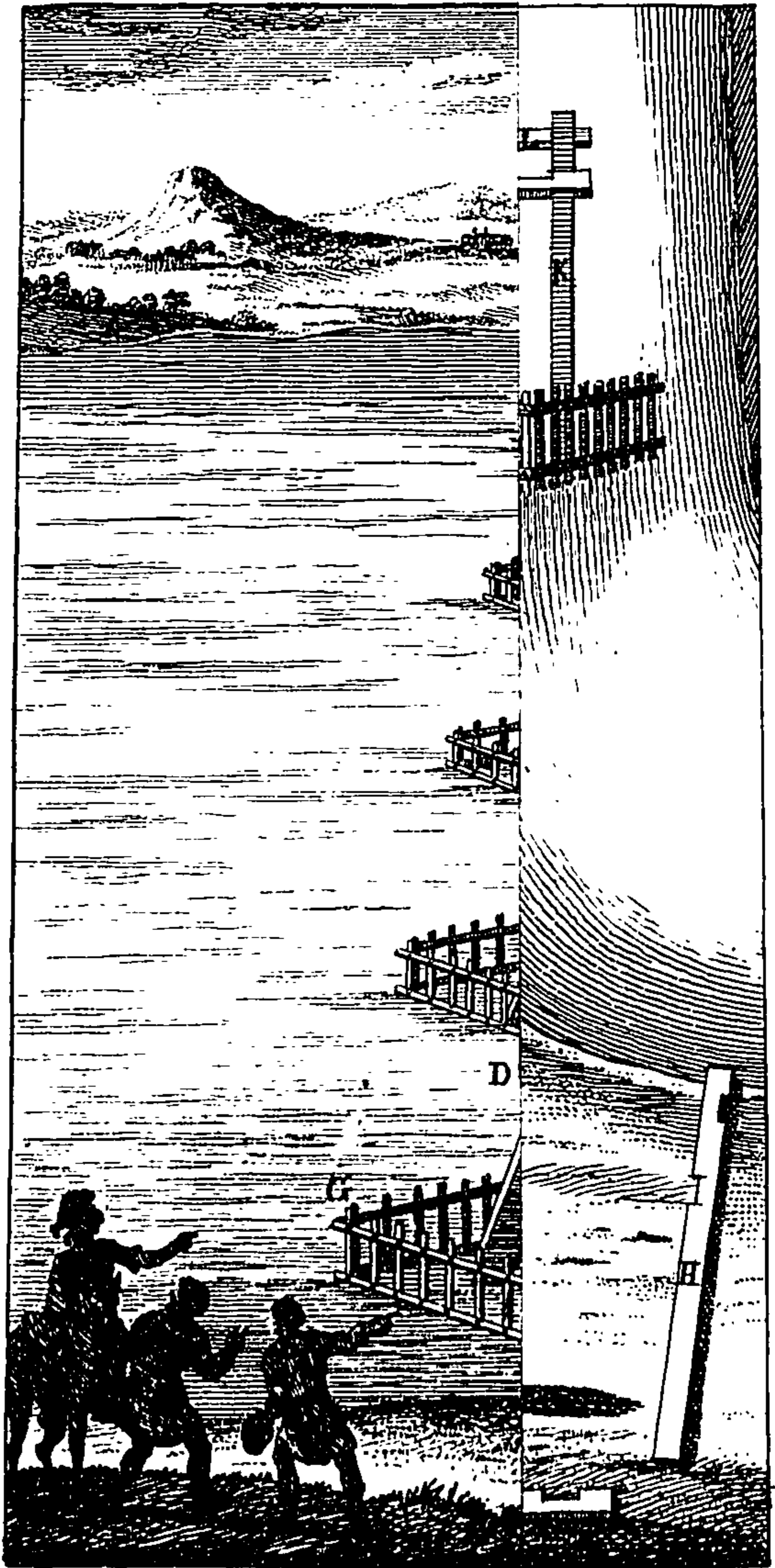
The description of Cæsar's bridge crosses the Rhine.

18. From the time materials began to be brought for the work, 'till the entire bridge was finished, was no more than ten days; when Cæsar having left a strong garrison on both sides of the river, marched into the confines of the Sicambri: during this expedition ambassadors came to him from most places thereabouts, to desire a peace, and court the alliance of the Romans, to whom he returned civil answers, demanding hostages for their fidelity.

Cæsar crosses
the Rhine.

C H A P. VII.

WHEN the Sicambri were informed that the Romans were building a bridge, at the instigation of the people of Zutphen and Hesse, who had taken shelter amongst them, they prepared for flight and quitting their habitations, conveyed themselves with their effects into the neighbouring woods.



A. Two pieces of timber a foot & half square & two foot square
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WAR IN 19. Cæsar, making a short stay in their country, after
 GAUL. he had burnt their towns and buildings, and cut down their
 corn, marched to the territories of the Ubii, whom he had
 promised to assist against the Suabians. So soon as he was
 arrived, they informed him, that when the Suabians heard
 he was building a bridge, having, according to their usual
 custom, called a council, they dispatched orders to all parts
 of their nation, commanding the natives to forsake their
 towns, to convey their wives, children, and effects into the
 woods, and that all who were able to bear arms should
 meet at the general rendezvous in the midst of their coun-
 try, where they resolved to expect the Romans, and give
 them battle; which Cæsar understanding, after he had ac-
 complished those designs which led him into Germany, aw'd
 the natives, taken vengeance on the Sicambri, and set the
 Ubii at liberty, having spent in all eighteen days beyond
 the Rhine, and performed enough as well as for his own
 honour, as the service of the republick, returned again to
 Gaul, and broke down his bridge.

Cæsar re-
 turns to
 Gaul.

C H A P. VIII.

Cæsar's ex-
 pedition into
 England.

20. THOUGH the summer was now almost spent
 (for the whole continent of Gaul lying northward, winter
 begins there very early) yet Cæsar resolved to make a voy-
 age to England, because he had been informed, in all
 the wars of Gaul, the enemy had received considerable
 supplies from thence; and tho' the time of year would not
 permit him to finish the war, yet he thought it would be
 worth his while to make an expedition thither only to view
 the island, to learn the nature of the inhabitants, to be ac-
 quainted with their coasts, their ports, and creeks, which
 the Gauls were almost entire strangers to; for they were
 seldom visited by any but merchants, who were unacquaint-
 ed with all the country except the coasts, and those parts
 which were opposite to Gaul. Accordingly having sum-
 moned a council of merchants from all parts, he could nei-
 ther be informed of the extent of the island, what nations,
 and how powerful the inhabitants were, how well they un-
 derstood the art of war, what customs they were governed
 by, nor how considerable a navy their ports were capable
 of receiving.

C H A P. IX.

21. FOR this reason he thought it convenient to send out C. Volusenus with a galley, to discover what he could, and immediately return with intelligence before he embarked himself: he in the mean time marched to Torouenne, from whence lay the shortest cut to England; and there he ordered several vessels from the neighbouring ports, together with the navy he had built the year before for his expedition against the Vannes, to attend him. Several provinces in England, having intelligence of these preparations from merchants who frequented the coasts, sent ambassadors to Cæsar, to let him know how willing they were to submit to the Roman empire, and deliver hostages for their fidelity: to these he gave a favourable audience; and, having encouraged them to adhere to their agreement by promises of considerable rewards, sent them back again to their own country; ordering Comius to go along with them, whom he had formerly made king of Arras, after the conquest of that place, a man of considerable interest in England, and whose virtue and fidelity he thought he might rely on. To him he gave instructions to visit as many states as he could, and persuade them to accept of an alliance with the Romans, for Cæsar himself would in a short time land in their country.

WAR IN
GAUL.

Some of the
English send
ambassadors
to Cæsar in
Gaul.

Volusenus, in the mean time, having made what discoveries he could of the country, for he durst not venture himself ashore with so barbarous an enemy, after five days cruising, returned, and acquainted Cæsar with what he had seen.

22. Cæsar stay'd in these parts till his navy was fitted out; during which time the Terouennois sent ambassadors to him, desiring he would be pleased to pardon their former transgressions; that a savage and unpolished people, as they were, through ignorance of the customs of the Romans they had presumed to make war upon them; but for the future they would demonstrate how ready they were to obey his commands. Cæsar, being desirous to leave no enemies behind him, to avoid entering into a new war so late in the season, and unwilling to neglect his English expedition for such trifles, having first received a considerable number of hostages from them, took them into his favour. Having prepared eighty transport-vessels, which he thought sufficient to carry over his legions, he distributed


WAR IN his galleys to the questor, lieutenant-generals, and com-
 GAUL. manders of the horse; and eighteen transports which were
 wind-bound at a certain port about eight miles off, he ap-
 pointed for the service of his cavalry; then committed those
 forces which he left behind, to the care of Q. Titurius Sa-
 bienus, and L. Aurunculeius Cotta, whom he ordered to
 visit the confines of Guelders, and reduce those parts of
 Teroüenne which had not yet submitted; to lieutenant-
 general P. Sulp. Rufus he gave the charge of the port
 where he embarked, with a strong garrison to maintain it.

C H A P. X.

*Cæsar em-
 barks for
 England.*

23. THUS having dispatched the necessary orders, the
 wind offering fair, he hoisted sail about one in the morn-
 ing, commanding the cavalry to embark at that port where
 the vessels lay ready to receive them, and follow him;
 which orders were not executed so readily as they ought
 to have been; but he himself arrived on the English coast,
 with his squadron, by ten of the clock the same morning,
 where he saw all the cliffs covered by the enemy in arms.
 Such was the nature of the place, that the English might,
 cast their darts with great advantage from the impending
 hills; wherefore not thinking it convenient to land there,
 he cast anchor, and waited for the coming up of the rest
 of his fleet till three in the afternoon. In the mean time
 having called the lieutenants and tribunes to a council of
 war, he acquainted them with the intelligence he had re-
 ceived from Volufenus, and gave them such orders as he
 thought proper for the occasion, putting them in mind how
 necessary it was in military discipline, that every thing
 should be put in execution to a moment at the general's
 signal, especially in sea affairs, which were subject to the
 greatest instability: then breaking up the council, whilst
 the wind and tide stood fair, he gave the sign for weighing
 anchor, and having sail'd about eight miles farther, arrived
 at a plain and open shore.

24. The English being apprized of Cæsar's design, sent
 their cavalry and chariots before, which in war they gene-
 rally make use of, and followed after with the rest of their
 army, in order to oppose our landing: which we found
 very difficult to effect for many reasons, because our ships
 being tall, required a considerable depth of water; and our
 soldiers, whilst their hands were employed and loaden with
 heavy armour, were at the same time to encounter the waves
 and

and the enemy, in a place they were not acquainted with : WAR IN
 whereas the English, either standing upon dry land, or GAUL.
 falling a little way into the water in those places they 
 knew to be shallow, having the free use of all their limbs,
 could boldly cast their darts, and spur their horses forward,
 who were inur'd to that kind of combat ; which disadvan-
 tage so discouraged the Romans, who were strangers to
 this way of fighting, that they did not appear so chearful,
 and eager to engage the enemy, as in their former conflicts
 on dry land.

25. Which Cæsar perceiving, gave orders that the
 gallies (a nimble sort of shipping the enemy had never seen)
 should advance a little before the rest of the navy, and row
 along with their broad-sides towards the shore, that they
 might more conveniently force the English to retire from
 the water-side, by their slings, engines, and arrows ; which
 did the Romans considerable service ; for the English being
 surpris'd at the make of our gallies, the motion of our oars
 and engines, began to give round. But the standard- The stand-
ard bearer
of the tenth
legion leaps
into the wa-
ter, the rest
follow his
example.
 bearer of the tenth legion, perceiving our men were un-
 willing to venture into the sea, having first invoked the
 gods for success, cry'd out aloud, “ My fellow-soldiers,
 unless you will forsake your eagle, and suffer it to fall into
 the hands of the enemy, advance ; for my part, I am resolv-
 ed to perform my duty to the common wealth and my ge-
 neral :” Having said this, he immediately leaped over-board,
 and advanced the eagle towards the English ; whereupon
 the soldiers encouraging each other, to prevent so signal a
 disgrace, followed his example ; which those in the next
 ships perceiving, did the like, and pressed forward to en-
 gage the enemy.

26. The conflict was sharpiy maintained on both sides, The Romans
at first began
to fall from
the shore.
 though the Romans not being able either to keep their
 ranks, obtain firm footing, or follow their particular
 standards, leaping out of several ships, and joining the
 first ensign they met with, were in great confusion : but
 the English, who where well acquainted with the shallows,
 when they saw us descend in small numbers from our ships,
 spurring their horses into the water, set upon our men in-
 cumbered and unprepared to receive them ; and some sur-
 rounded us with their numbers in one place, whilst others
 flank'd us where we lay most open in another. Which
 Cæsar observing, he caus'd the long boats and smaller
 vessels to be mann'd, and, where occasion required, sent
 them to assist their followers. Thus our foremost ranks,
 F 4 having

WAR IN
GAUL.

The Ro-
mans go in
the shore,
and rout the
English. The
English send
embassadors
to desire a
peace.

which they
obtained on
delivery of
hostages.

A violent
storm dis-
perses the
ships that
brought the
cavalry, and
the other
Roman ves-
sels on the
coasts of
Britain.

having gained dry footing, were followed by the rest of the army, and charging the enemy briskly, put them to flight, but were not able to pursue, or take the island at that time, because we had no cavalry, which was the only thing wanting to complete Cæsar's wonted success.

27. The enemy being defeated, so soon as they had escaped beyond the reach of danger, sent ambassadors to Cæsar to desire a peace, promising to deliver hostages for their entire submission: and with these ambassadors came Comius of Arras, whom, as we observed before, Cæsar had sent into Britain, where he was imprisoned so soon as he landed with the general's commands, but set at liberty again after the battle. They endeavoured to excuse what they had done, by laying the blame upon the mob; and entreating him to forgive a fault of ignorance, but not of malice. Cæsar at first reprimanded them for their breach of faith, that after they had voluntarily sent ambassadors to him into Gaul, to desire a peace, and delivered hostages of their own accord, they should without any reason make war upon him; he imputed it, he said, to their ignorance, and forgave them; then demanded hostages for their future carriage, part whereof they delivered immediately, and with the rest, who lived at some distance, they promised to return in a few days after. In the mean time, having disbanded their men, and dispersed them into their several countries, the princes from all parts came to deliver up themselves, and their estates to Cæsar's disposal.

C H A P. XI.

28. A peace being thus concluded within four days after Cæsar's arrival in England, the eighteen transports appointed for the cavalry put out to sea with a gentle gale; but when they were arrived near Britain within the view of the Roman camp, so sudden a storm arose, that they were all dispersed; some returning to the port from whence they came, whilst others were thrown upon the lower end of the island towards the west, where they endeavoured to cast anchor, but so much water came into them, that they were obliged a second time to commit themselves to the mercy of the waves, and make the best of their way to Gaul.

29. The same night it being full moon, at which time the tides are highest, an observation our mariners were strangers to, the galleys, which, after the men were landed, had been

been hauled up towards the shore, were filled with the waves, and the vessels of burthen which rode at anchor, were disabled by the tempest, nor was it possible for us to afford them any succour : Thus several of our ships were destroyed, and the rest having lost their cables, anchors, and tackle, were rendered wholly useless, which was a great affliction to the whole army ; for they had no other vessels to carry them back again, and no materials to mend their own with, and they knew very well they must of necessity take up their winter-quarters in Gaul, because there was no corn nor provision to be had in England.

WAR IN
GAUL,

30. The princes of England who were assembled to perform their agreement with Cæsar, understanding the Romans had neither cavalry, ships, nor provision, and computing the number of our men from the smallness of our camp, which was then narrower than usual, because Cæsar had made the legions leave their heavy baggage behind them, resolved to rebel, to intercept our convoys, and delay us 'till winter ; then having either defeated us, or prevented our return, they hoped to deter others, by our example, from invading England for the future.

Upon this
news the
English
break the
peace.

31. Wherefore, having entered into a new conspiracy, they began by degrees to quit our camp, and privately to list their disbanded troops again.

C H A P. XII.

BUT Cæsar, though he knew nothing of their design, yet suspecting an alteration upon the loss of his shipping, by their delay in the delivery of their hostages, prepared for all events ; causing provisions to be brought into his camp every day from the country round about, and giving order, that those ships which had received the least damage by the tempest, should be refitted and mended with the beaks and timber of those that had been shattered to pieces, he sent likewise to Gaul for such materials as he had occasion for, which were so well applied by the industry of his soldiers, that he only lost twelve ships, and made the rest fit for service again.

Cæsar refits
his navy.

32. In the mean time the seventh legion, whose turn it was, went out to forage. As part were employed in the field, and the rest in carrying corn between them and the army, not in the least suspecting any acts of hostility, the outguards gave Cæsar notice, that they observed a greater dust than usual that way which the legions went : where-
upon,

WAR IN GAUL. upon, suspecting the English had revolted, as he afterwards found they had, taking along with him the cohorts that were placed for an advanced guard, he commanded two others to supply their room; all the rest to repair to their arms, and follow him as fast as they could. He had not marched many paces from his camp, before he saw his foragers overcharged by the enemy, driven into a small compass, and exposed to the English darts on every side: for the enemy, knowing there was only one field left which had not been foraged, concluded we must of necessity come thither; wherefore having hid themselves the night before in the woods there, they staid to expect us; and setting upon our men, whilst they were busy in reaping, and had laid aside their arms, killed some of them, put the rest in disorder, and then surrounded them with their horses and chariots.

The English
set upon the
Roman fo-
ragers.

The English
manner of
fighting in
their cha-
riots.

33. The English method of fighting with chariots is this: "In the first place, they drive up and down to all part of the enemy's army, distributing their darts among them to the best advantage; and frequently put the foremost ranks in disorder, even with the noise of their wheels and horses; then forcing their way into the midst of the cavalry, forsake their chariots and fight on foot, performing at the same instant, the part of nimble horsemen, and that of stable foot: the charioteers in the mean while, driving a little way out of the battle, place themselves so conveniently, that if their party are too much oppressed by the enemy, they may easily retreat to them. So expert are they at this exercise by perpetual practice, that they can stay their horses upon a full stretch, even in the midst of a descent, stop short and turn, run upon the pole, rest on the harness, and throw themselves with great dexterity into their chariots."

Cæsar comes
to the assist-
ance of his
foragers.

34. The Romans being disordered by this new kind of fight, Cæsar came very opportunely to their aid; for upon his arrival the English made a stand, and our men began to forget their fears; however, not thinking it convenient to engage the enemy at that time, he maintained his ground for a while, then retreated with the legions to his camp; and the enemy likewise, whilst we were otherwise employed, thought fit to retire. The continual rains and tempests, which followed after, several days successively, kept the Romans in their camp, and the English from fighting.

C H A P XIII.

BUT the enemy were not idle in the mean while, for they dispatched couriers to all parts of the island, to inform the people how small an army the Romans had, how considerable a booty they might obtain, and how glorious an opportunity offered to make themselves free for ever, if they would but force the Roman camp; by which means having immediately raised great numbers of horse and foot, they came to attack our trenches.

WAR IN
GAUL.

Now though Cæsar foresaw that the enemy, in case they were routed, would make their escape by flight; yet having got thirty horse, part of Comius's retinue, he drew his legions up in order of battle before the camp; and having engaged the English, who were not able to sustain the fury of our soldiers, he immediately put them to flight, pursued till his soldiers were out of breath, and having made a considerable slaughter, burnt their towns and buildings for many miles round, and then returned to his camp.

The English come to attack the Roman camp; a second battle, are routed.

36. The same day he received embassadors from the enemy, to desire a peace. Whereupon he commanded them to send him into Gaul double the number of hostages he formerly required; and because the autumnal equinox approached, not thinking it safe to take a winter voyage in his crazy vessels, so soon as the wind stood fair, which was about midnight, he weighed anchor, and with all his fleet arrived safe at the port from whence he had embarked, except two transports, which could not keep up with the rest, and were driven into a haven something lower in the country.

They sue again for peace, which is granted.

Cæsar returns to Gaul.

37. In these two vessels were about 300 soldiers, who, so soon as they landed, endeavoured to reach their camp; but the Terouënnois, when Cæsar had left in a peaceable condition before he sailed for England, spurred on by the hopes of plunder, at first surrounded our men in small numbers, and commanded them, on pain of death, to deliver their arms; but the Romans casting themselves into an orb, instead of surrendering, bravely maintained their ground; whereupon about 6000 of the enemy, hearing the noise, came in to the assistance of their countrymen. Cæsar, having intelligence of this, detached all the cavalry in his army to their assistance. In the mean time, the Romans manfully sustained the enemy's charge, fought with unequal numbers four hours together, and having received

WAR IN ceived but few wounds themselves, had made a consider-
GAUL. able slaughter amongst the assailants; but the moment our
horse appeared in view, the Teroüennois threw down their
arms, and betook themselves to flight, in which a consider-
able number were killed.

C H A P. XIV.

Labiens
marches a-
gainst the
Teroüen-
nois; lays
their coun-
try waste.

38. THE next day Cæsar dispatched his lieutenant T. Labienus, with the legions he brought back from England, against the rebels, who being deprived by the drought of the benefit of those marshes, where they had the year before absconded, almost all of them fell under his power. But the lieutenants Q. Titurius and L. Cotta, who had been sent into the country of Guelders, returned without doing any other execution but cutting up their corn, laying their fields waste, and burning their towns; for the enemy had secured their persons in the woods. Cæsar took up his quarters this winter in Belgium, where he received hostages only from two of the provinces in England, the rest neglecting their promise. The Roman senate, informed of these actions by Cæsar's letters, decreed a general thanksgiving for twenty days successively.

