

Around 400AD NOTITIA DIGNITATUM (Register of Dignitaries)

I.

REGISTER OF THE DIGNITARIES BOTH CIVIL AND MILITARY, IN THE DISTRICTS OF THE EAST.

V.

THE MASTER OF THE SOLDIERY IN THE PRESENCE.

Under the control of the illustrious master of the soldiery in the, presence:

Eighteen palatine *auxilia*

The senior **Batavians**,

The junior Brachiati,

The Salians,

The Constantians,

The senior Mattiaci,

The senior Gallican archers,

The junior Gallican archers,

The third Valens' archers,

The Defenders,

The Ractobarii,

The **Anglevarii**,

The **Hiberi**,

The Visi,

The fortunate junior Honorians,

The Victors,

The first Theodosians,

The third Theodosians,

The fortunate Isaurian Theodosians.

I

REGISTER OF THE DIGNITARIES, BOTH CIVIL AND MILITARY, IN THE DISTRICTS OF THE WEST.

Six vicars: of the city of Rome; of Italy; of Africa; of the Spains; of the Seven Provinces; of the **Britains**.

Six military counts: of Italy; of Africa; of Tingitania; of the tractus Argenteratensis; **of the Britains; of the Saxon shore of Britain.**

Thirteen dukes: of the frontier of Mauritania Caesariensis; of the Tripolitan frontier; of Pannonia prima and ripuarian Noricum; of Pannonia secunda; of ripuarian Valeria; of Raetia prima and secunda; of Sequanica; of the Armorican and Nervican tract; of Belgica secunda; of Germania prima; of **Britannia**; of Mogontiacensis.

Twenty-two consulars:

In the Britains two: of Maxima Caesariensis, of Valentia.

Thirty-one presidents: in the **Britains** three:

of Britannia prima; of Ezitannia secunda; of Flavia Caesariensis.

III THE PRETORIAN PREFECT OF THE GAULS

Under the control of the illustrious pretorian prefect of the Gauls are the dioceses mentioned below: the **Britains**.

of the Britains five: Maxima Caesariensis; Valentia; Britannia prima; Britannia secunda; Flavia Caesariensis.

V. THE MASTER OF FOOT IN THE PRESENCE

Under the control of the illustrious master of foot in the presence:
The counts of the frontiers mentioned below: Italy; Africa; Tingitania; Tractus Argentoratensis; the **Britains**; the Saxon shore toward the **Britains**.

The ten dukes of the frontiers mentioned below: Mauretania Caesariensis; Tripolitanus; Pannonia secunda; ripuarian Valeria; Pannonia prima and ripuarian Noricum; Raetia prima and secunda; Belgica, secunda; Germania prima; the **Britains**; Mogontiacensis.

In the **Britains** with the worshipful count of the **Britains**:
[One palatine *auxilium* *enumeration omitted. One legion of the line. One unclassified body.] Also squadrons of cavalry:

In Britain with the worshipful count of the **Britains**.

[Three of the line. *enumeration omitted. Two unclassified.]

XI THE COUNT OF THE SACRED BOUNTIES.

Under the control of the illustrious count of the sacred bounties.
The accountant of the general tax of the **Britains**.
In the Britains: The provost of the storehouses at **London**.
The procurator of the weaving-house at **Winchester Britain**.

XXIII. THE VICAR OF THE BRITAINS

Under the control of the worshipful vicar of the **Britains**:
Consulars: of Maxima Caesariensis, of Valentia.
Presidents: of Britannia prima, of Britannia secunda, of Flavia Caesariensis.

The staff of the same worshipful vicar is as follows:
A chief of staff from the school of confidential agents the first class. A chief deputy.
Two receivers of taxes. A chief clerk. A custodian. A chief assistant. A keeper of the records. Assistants. Secretaries. Notaries, and the rest of the staff. Curator of correspondence.

XXVIII. Comes litoris Saxonici per **Britanniam**.

Sub dispositione viri spectabilis comitis litoris Saxonici per **Britanniam**:
Praepositus numeri Fortensium, Othonae. (*Bradwell*)
Praepositus militum Tungrecanorum, Dubris. (*Dover*)
Praepositus numeri Turnacensium, Lemannis. (*Lymne*)
Praepositus equitum Dalmatarum Branodunensium, Branoduno. (*Brancaaster*)
Praepositus equitum stablesianorum Gariannonensium, Gariannonor. (*Burgh Castle*)
Tribunus cohortis primae Baetasiorum, Regulbio. (*Reculver*)
Praefectus legionis secundae Augustae, Rutupis. (*Richborough*)
Praepositus numeri Abulcorum, Anderidos. (*Pevensy*)
Praepositus numeri exploratorum, Portum Adurni. (*Portchester*)
Officium autem habet idem uir spectabilis comes hoc modo:
Principem ex officiis magistrorum militum praesentalium parte peditum.
Numerarios duos ut supra ex officio supradicto.
Cornicularium.
Adiutorem.
Subadiuuam.
Regrendarium.
Exceptores.
Singulares et reliquos officiales

XXIX. Comes **Britanniae**.

Sub dispositione viri spectabilis comitis Britanniarum:
Provincia Britannia.
Officium autem habet idem uir spectabilis comes hoc modo:
Principem ex officiis magistrorum militum praesentalium alternis annis.
Commentariensem ut supra.
Numerarios duos, singulos ex utrisque officiis suprascriptis.
Adiutorem.
Subadiuuam.
Regrendarium.
Exceptores.
Singulares et reliquos officiales

XL. Dux Britanniarum.

Sub dispositione viri spectabilis ducis Britanniarum:
Praefectus legionis sextae. (*York*)
Praefectus equitum Dalmatarum, Praesidio.
Praefectus equitum Crispianorum, Dano. (*Doncaster or Jarrow*)
Praefectus equitum catafractariorum, Morbio.
Praefectus numeri barcariorum Tigrisiensium, Arbeia. (*South Shields*)
Praefectus numeri Neruiorum Dictensium, Dicti. (*Wearmouth?*)
Praefectus numeri vigilum, Concangios. (*Chester-le-Street*)
Praefectus numeri exploratorum, Lauatres. (*Bowes*)
Praefectus numeri directorum, Verteris. (*Uerteris*) (*Brough*)
Praefectus numeri defensorum, Barboniaco. (*Kirkby Thore*)
Praefectus numeri Solensium, Maglone. (*Old Carlisle?*)
Praefectus numeri Pacensium, Magis. (*Burrow Walls?*)
Praefectus numeri Longovicianorum, Longovicio. (*Lanchester*)
Praefectus numeri supervenientium Petueriensium, Deruentione. (*Malton*)
Item per lineam Valli:
Tribunus cohortis quartae Lingonum, Segeduno. (*Wallsend*)
Tribunus cohortis primae Cornoviorum, Ponte Aeli. (*Newcastle*)
Praefectus alae primae Asturum, Conderco. (*Benwell*)
Tribunus cohortis primae Frixagorum, Vindobala. (*Rudchester*)
Praefectus alae Sabinianae, Hunno. (Onnum) (*Halton Chesters*)
Praefectus alae secundae Asturum, Cilurno. (*Chesters*)
Tribunus cohortis primae Batavorum, Procolitia. (*Carrowburgh*)
Tribunus cohortis primae Tungrorum, Borcovicio. (*Vercovium: Housesteads*)
Tribunus cohortis quartae Gallorum, Vindolana. (*Chesterholm*)
Tribunus cohortis primae Asturum, Aesica. (*Great Chesters*)
Tribunus cohortis secundae Dalmatarum, Magnis. (*Carvoran*)
Tribunus cohortis primae Aeliae Dacorum, Amboglanna. (Camboglanna)
(*Castlesteads*)
Praefectus alae Petrianae, Petrianis. (*Stanwix*)
....., Luvallii. (*Mistake?*)
Praefectus numeri Maurorum Aurelianorum, Aballaba. (*Burgh-by-Sands*)
Tribunus cohortis secundae Lingonum, Congavata. (*Drumburgh*)
Tribunus cohortis primae Hispanorum, Axeloduno. (Mais or Maio) (*Bowness??*)
Tribunus cohortis secundae Thracum, Gabrosenti. (*Moresby*)
Tribunus cohortis primae Aeliae classicae, Tunnocele.
Tribunus cohortis primae Morinorum, Glannibanta. (*Ravenglass*)
Tribunus cohortis tertiae Neruiorum, Alione. (*Maryport*)
Cuneus Sarmatarum, Bremetenraco. (*Ribchester*)

Praefectus alae primae Herculeae, Olenaco. (*Elslack*)
Tribunus cohortis sextae Neruiorum, Virosido. (*Brough by Bainbridge*)
Officium autem habet idem uir spectabilis dux hoc modo:
Principem ex officiis magistrorum militum praesentalium alternis annis.
Commentariensem ut supra.
Numerarios ex utrisque officiis omni anno.
Adiutorem.
Subadiuuam.
Regendarium.
Exceptores.
Singulares et reliquos officiales

LIBER BRITANNICUS. It is thus the elders of the Britons have recorded *their history*, viz., that *there were* seven Roman emperors *who had dominion* over Britain. But the Romans say that *there were* nine of them over the Britons: that is *to say*, that the eighth *was* Severus the second, who died as he was going to Rome from the island of Britain. *The ninth* was Constantine, *who was* sixteen years in the kingdom of the island of Britain when he died. Four hundred and nine years were the Britons under Roman tribute. But afterwards the Britons drove out the Roman power, and did not pay them tax or tribute, and they killed all the Roman chiefs that were in the island of Britain.

Immediately, however, the power of the Cruithnians and of the Gaels advanced in the heart of Britain, and they drove them to the river whose name is *Tin Tyme*. There went afterwards ambassadors from the Britons to the Romans with mourning and great grief, with sods on their heads, and with many costly presents along with them, *to pray them* not to take vengeance on them for the chiefs of the Romans who were put to death by them. Afterwards Roman chiefs and consuls came back with them, and they promised that they would not the less willingly receive the Roman yoke, however heavy it might be.

Afterwards the Roman knights came, and were appointed princes and kings over the island of Britain, and the army then returned home. Anger and grief seized the Britons from the weight of the Roman yoke and oppression upon them, so that they put to death the chieftains that were with them in the island of Britain, the second time. Hence the power of the Cruithnians and Gaels increased again over the Britons, so that it became heavier than the Roman tribute, because their total expulsion out of their lands was the object *aimed at by* the northern Cruithnians and Gaels.

After this the Britons went in sorrow and in tears to the Roman senate, and thus we are told they went with their backs foremost for shame; and a great multitude returned with them, i. e. an innumerable army of Romans, and sovereignty and chieftainry was assumed over

them afterwards. But again the Roman tribute became oppressive to the Britons, so that they slew their kings and chieftains the third time.

Afterwards there came Roman chieftains across the sea, and gained a very great victory over the Britons, so that they vindicated the honour of their people upon them, and they plundered the island of Britain of its gold, and of its silver, and took from it its satin, and its silk, and its vessels of gold and silver, so that they returned home with victory and triumph.

c400 Marcian of Heraclea (Marcianus Heracleensis) *Periplus Maris Exteri*
Of the largest islands and peninsulas, of the first order, the first is the island of Trapobane (Ceylon), forlery called Palaesimundu but now Salike; the second is

Albion of the Brettanic Islands, the third is the Golden Chersonese, the fourth Ivernia of the Brettanic Islands, the fifth the Pelopennese.

Concerning the Pretannic Islands

The Pretannic Islands are two, the one called Albion, the other Ivernia. Albion is much the greater: it lies opposite Gaul, besides Lugdunensis and Belgica, stretching as far as Great Germany. For it is not compact, as other islands are, but as it were disjointed and distended and stretches through the greatest part of the northern ocean, having two very long isthmuses like a sort of feet. Of these the larger stretches to the Cimbric Chersonese, the smaller to Aquitania. the other island Ivernia lies above it, further to the west; it is smaller in size and has the same situation as the aforesaid. Of this then, we shall first describe the peripluc and then go on to the larger island.

Periplus of the Pretannic Island Ivernia.

The Pretannic island of Ivernia is bounded on the north by the Ocean which is called Hyperboreus; on the east by that called Ivernicus; on the west by the Western; and on the south by the Ocean called Veguius. And the whole arrangement of the island is like this..(Lacuna).. The greatest length of the Pretannic island Ivernia, beginning from Notium Promontory and ending at Rhobondium Cape, to give the length of the island, is 170 stades. Its breadth begins at the Sacred Cape and stretches to Rhobogdium Cape, so that the breadth of the island is 1,834 stades. Its capes are distant from the boundaries as follows; its northern cape is distant from the Arctic circle 14,250 stades, its western cape..(lacuna).. from the equator 38,317 stades, its eastern 40,250 stades, its western cape... (lacuna)... from the equator 38,317 stades, its eastern 40,317 from the east. It has 16 peoples, 11 notable cities, 15 notable rivers, 5 notable promontories. The total length of the whole circuit of Ivernia is not more than 9,085 stades, not less than 6,845.

Periplus of the Pretannic Island Albion.

Following on from this we shall now describe the periplus of the island of Albion. The Pretannic island of Albion is bounded on the north by the Ocean called Duecolidonius; (Duecaledonius) on the east by the Oceanus Germanicus; on the west by the Oceanus Ivernicus, beyond which is the island Ivernia, but also the Oceanus Vergivius; and on the south by the Oceanus Pretannicus and the aforementioned regions and peoples of Gaul. And the description of the whole island is like this... (lacuna)... The length of the Pretannic island Albion, beginning from the western boundary at Damnium cape which is also called Okrium and finishing at Taroaedunum headland, which is also called Orkas, the greatest length is 5,225 stades. Its breadth begins at Damnium cape, which is also called Okrium and stretches to the peninsula of the Nevantes and the promontory of the same name, so that its breadth along the longest line is 3,083 stades. It has 33 peoples, 59 notable cities, 40 notable rivers, 14 notable promontories, one notable peninsula, 5 notable gulfs, 3 notable harbours. the total length of the whole circuit of Albion is not more than 28,604 stades, not less than 20,526.

5th century? Julius Honorius Cosmographia

The Western Ocean contains these sea. the sea of the strait of Gades, the sea which they call Orcades, theMare ... mades, the Mare Thyle, the sea which they call the Column of Herculse, the Tyrrhenian Sea, the Mare Britannicum, the Adriatic Sea.

What islands there are in the western ocean and how many.

Hibero island.Mevania island. Britannia island. Ebusos island. Balcaris Major island. Balcaris Minor island. Corsica island. Orcades islands They are nine.

Mountains of which the western ocean contains. The Pyrenean mountain, the mountain of the Alps, Montes Il, the vallum of Britannia. Haemus mountain, rhodope mountain.

Provinces which the western ocean contains ... Britannia

Claudian, Against Rufinus

There is a place where Gaul stretches her furthestmost shore spread out before the waves of Ocean: 'tis there that Ulysses is said to have called up the silent ghosts with a libation of blood. There is heard the mournful weeping of the spirits of the dead as they flit by with faint sound of wings, and the inhabitants see the pale ghosts pass and the shades of the dead. 'Twas from here the goddess leapt forth, dimmed the sun's fair beams and clave the sky with horrid howlings. **Britain** felt the deadly sound, the noise shook the country of the Senones, Tethys stayed her tide, and Rhine let fall his urn and shrank his stream. Thereupon, in the guise of an old man, her serpent locks changed at her desire to snowy hair, her dread cheeks furrowed with many a wrinkle and feigning weariness in her gait she enters the walls of Elusa, in search of the house she had long known so well. Long she stood and gazed with jealous eyes, marvelling at a man worse than herself; then spake she thus: Does ease content thee, Rufinus? Wastest thou in vain the flower of thy youth inglorious thus in thy father's fields? Thou knowest not what fate and the stars owe thee, what fortune makes ready. So thou wilt obey me thou shalt be lord of the whole world. Despise not an old man's feeble limbs: I have the gift of magic and the fire of prophecy is within me. I have learned the incantations wherewith Thessalian witches pull down the bright moon, I know the meaning of the wise Egyptians' runes, the art whereby the Chaldeans impose their will upon the subject gods, the various saps that flow within trees and the power of deadly herbs; all those that grow on Caucasus rich in poisonous plants, or, to man's bane, clothe the crags of Scythia; herbs such as cruel Medea gathered and curious Circe. Often in nocturnal rites have I sought to propitiate the dread ghosts and Hecate, and recalled the shades of buried men to live again by my magic: many, too, has my wizardry brought to destruction though the Fates had yet somewhat of their life's thread to spin. I have caused oaks to walk and the thunderbolt to stay his course, aye, and made rivers reverse their course and flow backwards to their fount. Lest thou perchance think these be but idle boasts behold the change of thine own house." At these words the white pillars, to his amazement, began to turn into gold and the beams of a sudden to shine with metal.

Claudian, Against Rufinus Second Poem

At these words an unanimous roar went up from all the companies. With less din are the cliffs of Ceraunia buffeted by the Italian sea or the thunders evoked from the western winds' wet storm-clouds. They will not separate, and demand the battle of which they have been defrauded. East and west claim the leadership of that illustrious chief. It is a contest of affection; insubordination that none can blame threatens to sap the loyalty of both armies who thus utter their common complaint: "Who is it robs us of our drawn swords? Who strikes the lance from our hand and bids us unstring the bent bow? Who dares dictate to an army under arms? Valour once roused knows no abatement. Spears thirsting for barbarian blood cast themselves from out our hands; our headlong blades force our vengeful arms to follow them; our very scabbards refuse to sheath an unblooded sword. I will not bear it. Shall the Getae ever profit by our dissension? Behold once more the shadow of civil war. Why dost thou seek to separate armies whose blood is one, standards of immemorial alliance? We are a body one and indivisible. Thee will we follow whithersoever thou goest; thee will we accompany even as far as **Thule** lying icebound beneath the pole-star, or to the burning sands of Libya. Should thy path be by the waters of Ind, or the bays of the Red Sea, I would go drink Hydaspes' golden stream. Shouldst thou bid me fare south

and search out the hidden sources of the stripling Nile, I would leave behind me the world I know. Wheresoever Stilicho plants his tent there is my fatherland."

Claudian, On Stilicho's Consulship (A.D. 400)

Then warlike Gaul, her hair combed back, a rich necklace about her neck, and javelins twain in her hands, thus spake with kindling heart: "Why is his title not yet read in the annals of Rome, who by his own might o'ercame for me the Germans and the Franks? Why is the page of history still ignorant of a name that by now should have been inscribed therein so often? Is, then, bringing peace to the Rhine so light a title to fame?"

Next spake **Britain** clothed in the skin of some Caledonian beast, her cheeks tattooed, and an azure cloak, rivalling the swell of ocean, sweeping to her feet: "Stilicho gave aid to me also when at the mercy of neighbouring tribes, what time the **Scots** roused all Hibernia against me and the sea foamed to the beat of hostile oars. Thanks to his care I had no need to fear the Scottish arms or tremble at the **Pict**, or keep watch along all my coasts for the **Saxon** who would come whatever wind might blow."

Then up spake Africa, her hair gay with wheat ears and an ivory comb and her face all sun-burned: "I hoped that after Gildo's death no obstacle could prevent Stilicho's acceptance of the consulship. Does he even yet refuse and hesitate to honour with the fasces so great a triumph — he who has enabled me utterly to forget the tearful name of Moor?"

After these came Italy, pliant vine and ivy interlacing on her head, pressing the wine from plentiful ripe grapes. Said she: "If you are thus eager that Stilicho should augment the dignity of the curule chair, you to whom the mere report can bring delight, how much more rightly does a longing p23inspire me to enjoy his presence, to attend him as he mounts his seat and to salute his opening of the new year's course?"

Mauretania has given ere now her animals to other consuls as a gift, to this consul alone she owes them as a conquered land owes tribute. While we track out the dread progeny of Libya do you hunt the glades and rocks of Europe. Let joy banish fear from the shepherd's breast and his pipe hymn Stilicho in the dreadless forests. As his laws have given peace to the cities so let his shows give peace to the mountains."

She spake and straightway is borne from the leafy Alps across the sea. Hinds bow their necks to her chariot's yoke, hinds whom the dewy moon conceived in her fertile caverns beneath the threshold of the morning sky to be the glory of the goddess. White their skins as driven snow; gold marks their foreheads whence spring branching golden horns lofty as the tallest beech-trees. Opis holds the reins. Lycaste carries the fine-wrought nets and golden snares, and deathless Molossian hounds run barking about the chariot amid the clouds. Five others thus equipped (such were Diana's orders) hasten this way and that, each at the head of her own company; there follow them dogs of various shape, breed and character; some whose heavy jowls fit them for big game, some swift of foot, some keen of scent; shaggy Cretans bay, splendid Spartans, and **Britons** that can break the backs of mighty bulls. Britomartis scours the woods of Dalmatia and the precipitous ridges of Pindus, her hair flying in the wind. Thou, Leontodame, surroundest the glades of Gaul and huntest the marshes of Germany, tracking out any huge boar, his tusks flexed with age, that may have taken shelter among the sedges that flank the Rhine. Swift Hecaerge tires the cloud-capped Alps, the valleys of the Apennines, and the snows of Garganus. Thero with her dogs explores the caves of Spain and from their recesses ousts the horrid bears of whose bloody jaws full oft Tagus' flood has failed to quench the thirst, and whose bodies, numbed with cold, the holm-oak of the Pyrenees o'ershadows with its leaves. The

manlike maiden Nebrophone hunts the mountains of Corsica and Sicily and captures deer and other harmless beasts, beasts that are the joy of the rich amphitheatre and the glory of the woods.

Whatsoever inspires fear with its teeth, wonder with its mane, awe with its horns and bristling coat — all the beauty, all the terror of the forest is taken. Guile protects them not; neither strength nor weight avails them; their speed saves not the fleet of foot. Some roar enmeshed in snares; some are thrust into wooden cages and carried off. There are not carpenters enough to fashion the wood; leafy prisons are constructed of unhewn beech and ash. Boats laden with some of the animals traverse seas and rivers; bloodless from terror the rower's hand is stayed, for the sailor fears the merchandise he carries. Others are transported over land in wagons that block the roads with the long procession, bearing the spoils of the mountains. The wild beast is borne a captive by those troubled cattle on whom in times past he sated his hunger, and each time that the oxen turned and looked at their burden they pull away in terror from the pole.

At last, however, the Alps avenged on the Getae the disgrace of all mountains else and victorious Eridanus that of all other rivers. The event has proved that deep hidden are the ways of destiny. Who would have believed that, once a passage had been forced over the Alps, so much as the shadow of Italy's name would survive? Did not the awful report of Rome's fall cross the sea and spread beyond Gaul and over the Pyrenees? Did not Rumour, her sable wing sped on with panic, sweeping all before her in her flight, affright Ocean from **Britain's** coast to Gades' city and far away from our world make distant Thule tremble with the unaccustomed echoes of war?

Claudian, On Stilicho's Consulship 401-402

At last, however, the Alps avenged on the Getae the disgrace of all mountains else and victorious Eridanus that of all other rivers. The event has proved that deep hidden are the ways of destiny. Who would have believed that, once a passage had been forced over the Alps, so much as the shadow of Italy's name would survive? Did not the awful report of Rome's fall cross the sea and spread beyond Gaul and over the Pyrenees? Did not Rumour, her sable wing sped on with panic, sweeping all before her in her flight, affright Ocean from **Britain's** coast to Gades' city and far away from our world make distant Thule tremble with the unaccustomed echoes of war?

(Part removed)

With this warning Stilicho alike checked the threatened war and won new allies for war, enrolling them at their entreaty and setting such number to their forces as should best suit — neither a burden to Italy nor a terror to its lord.

Then, indeed, at the news of his return, the legions, such love they bore their general, hastened together from every side, and at the sight of Stilicho their courage revived and they broke out into

sobbings and tears of joy. So when a herd of cattle has been scattered throughout some vast forest by the storm's violence the beasts eagerly make for the sound of the ox-herd's well-known song or whistle and the pasture of their native vale, guiding their steps in away to his voice and glad faithfully to reply with lowing, while, wherever his tones fall upon their ear, horns show themselves here and there through the dark foliage. First hasten up the neighbouring troops, their loyalty attested by their defence of Raetia and their mass of spoil from Vindelicia; next the legion that had been left to guard **Britain**, the legion that kept the fierce **Scots** in check, whose men had scanned the strange devices tattooed on the faces of the dying **Picts**. Even the legions that faced the flaxen-haired Sygambri, and those who held the Chatti and wild Cherusci in subjection hither turned their threatening arms, leaving the Rhine, whose garrison they had formed, defended by but one thing — the fear of Rome. Will any

posterity credit the tale? Germany, once the home of peoples so proud and fierce that former emperors could scarce keep them in check with the whole weight of their armies, now offers herself so willing a follower of Stilicho's guiding hand that she neither attempts an invasion of the territory exposed to her attack by the removal of its frontier troops nor crosses the stream, too timid to approach an undefended bank.

Greater art thou, Stilicho, than all; thine only rival is Camillus, who broke the rash power of Brennus as thine have broken that of Alaric. At a time of dire peril ye both gave the aid of gods; but he too late avenged a captured Rome, thou one still safe. What a reversal of fortune did thy return bring about! A new vigour returned to every part of our empire alike, and the glow of health came back to our suffering cities. A p159woman, so the story goes, who died to save the life of a loved husband, was recalled to the upper world by the might of Hercules. Diana with the help of Circe's magic herbs restored to life Hippolytus whom the scorned passion of a stepmother had caused to be torn in pieces. Crete, if the fable be true, saw Glaucus, son of Minos, issue living from the tomb; his body was discovered by the cries of birds to Polyidus, the aged seer, who restored him to life by means of simples; strange indeed was the ruling of fate which apportioned sweet honey as the cause of his death and a hideous serpent as the restorer of his life. But thy return, Stilicho, recalled not one body from the shades but countless peoples sunk in a common death, and snatched whole towns from the jaws of Hell.

That very day Rome rang with the report (though none ever knew its author) that the hero had arrived, and the citizens, assured of Stilicho's protection, applauded this augury of certain victory. Who could tell of the Emperor's joy, who of the courtiers' eager greetings?

Prophecy serves to augment his vain pride. Ah! for the grudging oracles ever dumb with mystic utterance; 'tis the event alone that (too late) discloses the true meaning which the seers themselves could not read. Alaric reached the farthest confines of Liguria where flows a river with the strange name of the City. There he suffered defeat and even then scarcely realized (though that defeat made it clear) that fate had tricked him with an ambiguous word.

Stilicho, too, fails not: at full speed he advanced his army clamorous for battle and spurs their march with these words: "Friends of Rome, the time has now come for you to exact vengeance for outraged Italy. Wipe out the disgrace which the investment of your emperor by his foes has brought upon you, and let your swords end the shame which the defeat on the Timavus and the enemy's passage of the Alps has caused to Rome. This is the foe whom ye so often put to flight on the plains of Greece, whom not their own valour but a world torn by civil strife has kept safe thus far, as they treacherously mock at treaties and traffic in perjury now with the West, now the East. Reflect that all the fierce peoples of **Britain** and the tribes who dwell on Danube's and Rhine's banks are watching and stand ready. Win a victory now and so be conquerors in many an unfought war. Restore Rome to her former glory; the frame of empire is tottering; let your shoulders support it. A single battle and all will be well; but one victory and the world's peace will be assured. We fight not on the slopes of Thracian Haemus nor await our foe where Maenalus throws his shadow across the banks of Alphaeus. We defend not Tegea nor Argos. No: as ye see, the scene of war is the very centre and heart of Italy. Protect Father Tiber with your shields." Thus spake Stilicho to foot and horse.

c 415 Orosius

And since the ocean contains the islands which they call Britannia and Hibernia and which are situated on the far side of the Gauls looking towards Spain, they shall be briefly described. Britannia, an island of the ocean, extends in length towards the

north; on the south it has the Gauls. Access for people crossing to its nearest shore is provided by a city called Rutupi Portus; from here it faces the Manapi and the Batavi, not far from the Morini. The length of this island is 800 miles, its breadth 200 miles. At its back where it faces an unbounded ocean, it has the Orcades islands, of which 20 are uninhabited, 13 inhabited. Then there is the island of Thyle, which is separated from the rest by an infinite distance, lying in the middle of the ocean towards the west-north-west; it is held to be scarcely known to few people. The island of Hibernia stretches between Britannia and Spain, with its greatest length from south-west to north. Its nearest parts, stretching in the Cantabric ocean, look towards the city of Brigantia (Coruna) in Galaecia which faces them at some considerable distance, especially from the promontory where the river Scena (Shannon) has its mouth and where the Velabri and the Luceni dwell. This island is nearer to Britannia, smaller than it in extent but better favoured in the temperance of its soil and climate: it is inhabited by the peoples of the Scotti. Also very near this is the island of Mevania, itself not small in extent and with favourable soil. This too is inhabited by the people of the Scotti.