THE INFLUENCE OF ROME IN BRITAIN

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Five hundred years had passed since Caesar first landed in Britain before the Romans were withdrawn from the island. During their occupation the government was military. The conquerors unsympathetic and often harsh; yet they revealed to these rude barbarians a new world. They brought to them the civilization of Rome. They enjoyed a long peace which was favorable to the physical and spiritual development of Britain. The high civilization they established there was not wholly swept away by the Saxon conquest. Traces of the period are still found in certain engineering works, in a few words of the language, and in the customs and traditions. The government of Britain was under
The control of a governor, called the Prefect or Emperor of Britain. His authority was supreme until the time of Hadrian, who limited his power; he was chosen by the emperor and might be recalled by him at any time; he was in command of the army, and also had the power of administering justice. Subordinate to the Prefect was the Procurator or Questor, also appointed by the emperor. He collected the taxes and controlled the revenues of the province. This revenue arose from a variety of imports: a poll tax, a tax on legacies and on the sale of slaves. The tenth part of the produce of the mines, and a part of the corn and cattle which was paid either in kind or in money. Those provinces which submitted to Rome voluntarily paid one tenth of their corn. The conquered ones paid an amount determined by the procurator. The people also supplied
The army and the governor with corn at a fixed price.

The Romans built towns throughout the island and connected them by military roads. These towns were square or oblong in form, intersected by two main streets cutting one another at right angles and were surrounded by massive walls. They are classed in four groups according to their privileges and importance. The first rank was claimed by the colonists. These were veterans who had been rewarded by Rome with portions of the conquered country. Each city was a miniature Rome. It was governed by the same laws and its magistrates possessed the same authority. There were nine such cities in Britain: Richborough, Chester, York, Lincoln, Colchester, London, Bath, Gloucester, Chester, and Caerleon.

In the municipal cities the people held the
title of Roman citizens, possessed the right of choosing
their own decuriones, and of enacting their own laws.
These privileges were not commonly given, so there
were but two such cities, Perusia and York.
Ten British towns obtained from the different
emperors the Latin right, namely Inverness, Dunkerton,
Bath, Carlisle, Catterick, Blackrobe, Cirencester,
Salisbury, Saister in Lincolnshire, and Shack in
Longwood. They were allowed the choice of their
own magistrates who, at the end of the year, would
resign their office to claim the citizenship of
Rome. To obtain this was the ambition of the
provinces. By means of the annual elections it
confined on many members of each corporation.
The remaining towns were stipendiary,
compelled to pay tribute to Rome. The differences
between these classes gradually dissipated.
The government in all became similar to that of Rome.

From inscriptions it may be inferred that there were three classes of people in the towns above the lowest, who were enrolled in the corporations: the gentry or equites, the decuriones, and the artisans. The gentry were chosen to fill all the high offices. Property was their only qualification. The decuriones were to fill the small, undesirable ones. All arrears in taxes were to be made up by them. They were not allowed to evade this duty by taking orders in the church or by entering the army. The chief magistrates were chosen from the equites. Their authority was restricted to civil affairs. While in office no action could be taken against them.

Below these two classes was the mass of the people.

The Roman towns were the centers of
Roman civilization in Britain. Here was the forum and the amphitheatre. Here the people learned the language of Rome, its customs and traditions. On the departure of the Romans, these towns became centers of small kingdoms, ruled by petty rulers. The government was local. On their conquest by the Saxons, they perceived the value of such towns, occupied them, occupied them, and made them their strongholds.

A network of roads, intended to facilitate the march of the Romans, was spread over the country, sometimes following the old Celtic highways, sometimes diverging from them. In Britain, they were not built with the same massive solidity as in the less remote provinces. Otherwise, they possessed the usual features of Roman engineering. They were made of solid masonry, laid upon strata of gravel.
Between the hills, in low places, where the soil was soft, also near the towns where trade was greatest, they were paved with blocks of stone. The whole system was military, connecting the towns, or military posts of the island. Four of these roads became important Roman highways.

The Fosse begins in Cornwall and extends northeastward to Lincoln. Two roads connected London with the lines of Hadrian. One, Via Nova Street, of Anglo-Saxon times, extends from Dover to Chester, swerving eastward to York, the Southern Prefect's residence, thence to Beaumaris. The other passed through the eastern counties, where many fortified camps were built, probably as a defense against the Saxons.

Ickenhill Street passed by Winchester, Birmingham, Derby, York, into Tynemouth. Ermine Street began in Southampton, extending into South Wales.
Siemen Street, whose Latin name commemorates the healing powers of the Bath waters, connected that city with London. The road from Chester to Caerleon was important since it lead through a mining district.

There are traces of as many as eight of these military highways still to be found. Some are still used.

Of these roads, the Stirling Street became the most famous, as it long formed the boundary between the Saxon Territories and the Danes.

The wild barbarian tribes of the North often came down into the Romanized part of the island, on marauding expeditions. They would kill and destroy, taking away the grain and cattle, and the people as slaves. To separate these tribes from the conquered peoples and to protect them, lines of forts and walls were built across the island.
Agricola protected the northern frontier from the Picts and Scots by a series of forts or castles between the Firth of Forth and Clyde. Later, the emperor Hadrian built the 'Picts Wall', south of that of Agricola, extending from Solway Firth to the river Tyne. The wall may now be traced from Brough on the Sands, to Overcastle. Long stretches are still standing, except the bastlements. There were about three hundred and twenty watch-towers in the wall, a quarter of a mile apart, with milecastles at every mile where soldiers were stationed.

The wall of Antoninus was so called in honor of the Emperor. It was built to keep back the Northern tribes, who had passed the wall of Agricola. This wall extended from Caerleon on the Forth, to Cumber (Dunbarton) on the Clyde.

Severus strengthened Hadrian's line with a new wall.
built of stone. Along the sea it was parallel to that of Hadrian. In hilly regions it went up passing over hills and mountains. Parts of this wall are still standing. It was in good condition until the last century when much of it was pulled down to repair the roads.

There are also remains of Roman walls and other buildings in other parts of St. Britain. Some are in places now inhabited. Some in places now deserted. There are pieces of Roman work at Caerleon, Caerwent, Leicester, Lincoln, also in towns now deserted, as Brecon in Sussex and Bury Castle in Suffolk. There are ruins of two important works in the county of Amandale, Scotland, called Burswinek and Middlesby; also two camps near Kirk of Conerie and at Ardoch, which are still preserved.
From Rome, the Britons learned to improve their agriculture. Trees were thinned and in many places cut down entirely. An improved system of tillage was established. The land was widely cultivated. Large sewers and aqueducts are still in existence in England dating from this period.

The grape was introduced; apples and pears were enlarged and improved by grafting; the pea, radish and other common vegetables were added to the garden; and the rose and lily were also brought during this period.

The Romans introduced all the devices of trade; those manufactorys of tinted glass, Samian potteries and sculptured stone which was not attained by the Germanic civilisation for fourteen hundred years.
Commence sprang up among the ports of which London took the lead. During the reign of Julian eight hundred vessels were employed in the corn trade between Britain and the Roman colonies on the Rhine.

The mines they developed were prolific in salt, iron, tin, and lead. The chief mineral resources were in the tin mines of Cornwall, the lead mines of Northumberland, and in the iron mines of Forest of Dean.

In the minds of the provincials a great revolution was effected. They acquired a taste for improvement and assumed the Roman civilization. They put on the Roman toga, studied Roman literature, and assumed their habits of life. All provincials cherished the traditions of the imperial city and imagined
they became Romans by admitting into their minds
the ideas, beliefs and opinions of their conquerors.

Many traditional customs and superstitions still exist which were introduced
during this period.

Our parishial processions are the ancient Terminia;
our Mayday, the festival of Flora; Halloween,
the festival of Pomona. Our marriage ceremonies
are Roman — the ring, the veil, the gifts, the
bridesmen and bridesmaids. Our funeral images
and customs are also Roman — the cypress and the
yew, the black for mourning, and the flowers
hurled upon graves. We have faith in odd numbers,
as is recorded of the Romans by Titus Quinctius
Durus impari gaudia. The lucky stays of a
century were the dies albi of Rome, the unlucky,
the dies ahilar.
Christianity was probably introduced into Britain by the Roman legions before the close of the second century. Legend has made St. Peter the founder of Christianity in Britain. It has also been ascribed to St. Paul. However, there seems to be no foundation for these theories. Many of these legionaries were Christians, who spread their faith among the barbarians. The doctrine made steady progress in the island. Before the close of the second century, it was scattered among the independent tribes of the North. By contemporary writers, this church is always put on an equality with those of Gaul and Spain. It was in a prosperous condition until the persecution of Diocletian. At the close of his reign, freedom of religious worship was restored.
While the Saxons were conquering Britain, the people were sending their missionaries among the tribes of Ireland and Scotland. A monastery was established on the island of Iona by the Irish bishop Columba, which was called from its founder, Icolmkill. This became the center of the British church. It differed from the Roman church in a few minor points, as the time of observing Easter, the mode of baptism, and the form of the tonsure.

A synod composed of representatives of both churches met at the monastery of Whitby in 664 A.D. The decision was made in favor of Rome. England was quickly brought to the Roman side, and Wales, Ireland, and Scotland soon after. In 716 A.D., Icolmkill, the last strong-
The Romans did not come in personal contact with a considerable part of the native population; so their language did not entirely replace the Celtic. There are several words in the Cambrian dialect which are used with the same meaning as in Latin, although changed by spelling and pronunciation: *aether* from *aer*, *air* from *arma*, *arms*; *fear* from *vir man*; *reapeat* from *caput*, *head*; *rerm* from *arc*, *flesh*; *be* from *bos*, *ox*; and *aichal* from *aquila*, *eagle*.

There are also six words in modern English which can be traced back to this period. Most of these are merely prefixes or suffixes of other words.

These words are *castre*, *aemp*, *strata*, *paired*.
road; column, a settlement usually military; fossa, a trench; portus, a harbor; and raihium, a rampart.
The word castra has been modified in different parts of England. In the south and east under
the influence of the Scot and Dane, it has retained the vowel appearing in the form of
castor, as Lancaster, Doncaster, Tadcaster. In the middle counties, the vowel has been modified
to e, and appears in the form of cester in such
words as Towne, Leicester.
In the south and west it has been softened
into ch. Chester, as in Chester, Manchester.
Station is invariably used as a prefix.
It has passed through several forms, and
appears as straet, street, stead, street, as in Strat
ford,众人, Stratton, Stratton, Stratham.
It is found in the names of towns on the
Roman roads.

Colonia is found in Colne, Lincoln and others; fossa, in Tossenay, Tosshorke, Tosbridge; portus, in Portsmouth, Bridgeport.

Callum is found in two modern English words; bailey and bailiff. The Romans called the two walls surrounding their castles, the inner and outer baileys, and the person in charge of the baileys, the bailiff. Yet it is uncertain whether these are modifications of the word callum, as introduced by the Romans of this period, by the monks, or by the Germanic peoples.

Information to be found on this subject is limited. Many speculations have been made, but authentic history records little. There were but few contempor
any writers in Britain, and these have given
accounts of the period only indirectly, while
those of other countries took but little interest
in this far-off island. Tacitus, it is true, in
his life of Agricola, has given us considerable
information concerning the condition of the
island, but it is biased by personal interest.
More has been done by later writers, who have
considered the subject according to scientific
methods of research.
The results of this influence have become so
closely blended with the Roman influence
as brought by the monks and the Germanic
peoples that it may never be entirely separated.
The period is clouded in obscurity and a
complete history of this civilization will never
be known to man.