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|  | **Boadicea** |  |
|  | |  | | --- | | ***by* W. Cowper**  **When the British warrior Queen,**  **Bleeding from the Roman rods, Sought, with an indignant mien,**  **Counsel of her country's gods:**  **Sage beneath a spreading oak**  **Sat the Druid, hoary chief;**  **Every burning word he spoke**  **Full of rage and full of grief: —**  **"Princess! if our aged eyes**  **Weep upon thy matchless wrongs, Tis because resentment ties**  **All the terrors of our tongues.**  **"Rome shall perish! — write that word In the blood that she has spilt!**  **Perish, hopeless and abhorred,**  **Deep in ruin as in guilt.**  **"Rome, for empire far renowned,               Tramples on a thousand states;               Soon her pride shall kiss the ground —                Hark! the Gaul is at her gates!**  **"Other Romans shall arise,       Heedless of a soldier's name;**  **Sounds, not arms, shall win the prize,**  **Harmony the path to fame.**  **"Then the progeny that springs       From the forests of our land,**  **Armed with thunder, clad with wings,**  **Shall a wider world command.**  **"Regions Caesar never knew,**  **Thy posterity shall sway;**  **Where his eagles never flew —     None invincible as they". —**  **Such the bard's prophetic words, Pregnant with celestial fire,**  **Bending as he swept the chords**  **Of his sweet but awful lyre.**  **She, with all a monarch's pride, Felt them in her bosom glow;**  **Rushed to battle, fought, and died, —**  **Dying, hurled them at the foe:**  **"Ruffians! pitiless as proud,**  **Heaven awards the vengeance due;**  **Empire is on us bestowed, —     Shame and ruin wait for you!"** | |  |

***Boadicea*** [bauadi'sis] — Boudicca [.bou'dika] — Queen of the Iceni people of eastern Britain, who led them in battle against the Romans.

***warrior*** fworis] — an experienced fignting man, especially in former times, a noble warrior

***rod*** — a stick used for beating people

***mien*** *=* bearing, manner

***counsel*** — advice

*sage* — wise as a result of long thinking and the experience

***hoary*** — grey or white with age

***thy*** = your (old use)

***'tis*** = it is

***resentment*** — feeling that one has been badly treated

***perish*** — die in a terrible or sudden way

***abhore*** — hate very much

***the Gaul*** — a member of the Celtic-speaking people who in­habited France and Belguim in Roman times

***heed***— attention esp. to advice or request

***Harmony*** = the musical **art**

***progeny*** = race, descendants

***clad*** = covered or clothed

***bard*** — one of an ancient Celtic order of poets

***celestial*** — of the sky or heaven

***lyre***— an ancient musical instrument with strings stretched  
          a U-shaped frame I *hurl* — shout out violently

***foe***— an enemy

***ruffians***— unpleasant violent men

***bestow***— give

***vengeance***— punishment given to somebody in return for |rm done to other people

***Cowper, William***[kups] — (1731—1800) one of the most dely read English poets of his day.

***Poem***[po(u)im] *n* — a piece of writing, arranged in patterns of es and of sounds, expressing some thought, feeling, or human perience in language full of imagination.

***Lyric 1*** [link] *adj* — expressing strong personal feelings, usual-in songlike form.

***Lyric 2*** *n* — a short lyric poem.

***Lyrics***[links] n — the words of a song.

**Boadicea**

**Of course the Roman soldiers were much better equipped than Boadicea's men, and they were much better trained too. But she led her soldiers into the battle herself, and when the military situation was almost hopeless she encouraged her men to fight.**

**She had a lot of success at first.**

**Her army burned some Roman cities and even London. They destroyed an entire legion.**

**Other tribes joined Boadicea and soon she had a huge army of 100,000 sol­diers.**

**The Romans wanted to catch her, because she led the resistance to their con­quest of England.**

**In the end the Roman army was too strong for her rather wild and ragged band of men. They were surrounded, and had to give in.**

**Queen Boadicea had to face the prospect of becoming a prisoner of the Ro­mans. She was a brave woman, and a great war leader, and she didn't like the prospect at all. She also had two daughters who had been with her during the fighting, and she knew they couldn't expect much mercy from the Roman sol­diers when they were caught.**

**She decided that death would be better for her and her daughters than the dishonour and bad treatment. The history books tell us that first she gave them poison and then took it herself, and when the Roman soldiers reached her, she was dead.**

**There is a monument to queen Boadicea in London.**

**THE FIRST ENGLISHMEN IN  BRITAIN**

**—In the end the Romans got Britain for themselves, and some of them came to live here. There were Romans in Britain for nearly 400 years, but by that time the people of Rome were having a great deal of trouble, and had to fight many battles. They wanted their soldiers from Britain and took them away, and so the Britons were free once more. But they no longer knew how to fight well, and when some people called Picts and Scots from Scotland came to fight against the Britons, they had to ask help from other people. The British King, Vortigern, asked two kings who used to fight on the sea to come to help him. They were called Englishmen, and they were the first Englishmen to settle down and live in Britain  They were named . Hengist and Horsa. When they had helped the Britons they would not go away again, and many more Englishmen came from the country across the sea where they lived, and after a time they won the country from the Britons, and so Britain became England.**