

From the *Annals* of Tacitus (AD 110-120),
a Roman historian

Boudicca, with her daughters before her in a chariot, went up to tribe after tribe protesting that it was indeed unusual for Britons to fight under the leadership of women. “But now”, she said, “it is not as a woman descended from noble ancestry but as one of the people that I am avenging lost freedom, my scourged body, the outraged chastity of my daughters. Roman lust has gone so far that nobody, nor even age or virginity, are left unpolluted. But heaven is on the side of a righteous vengeance; a legion which dared to fight has perished; the rest are hiding themselves in their camp, or are thinking anxiously of flight. They will not sustain even the din and the shout of so many thousands, much less our charge and our blows. If you weigh well the strength of our armies, and the causes of the war, you will see that in this battle you must conquer or die. This is a woman’s resolve, as for men, they may die and be slaves.”