

THE STORY OF HAKON SHOULDER-
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CHAPTER I. THE BEGINNINGS OF HAKON SHOULDER-BROAD.

HAKON, the son of King Sigurd, was taken for head of the flock which had erst followed King Eystein, and the flockmen gave him the king's name. Then was he of ten winters. There were then with him these : Sigurd, the son of Hallward Freeholder of Reyr, and Andreas and Onund, the sons of Simon, and fosterbrothers of Hakon, and many other chieftains and friends of Kings Eystein and Sigurd. They fared first up into Gautland. King Ingi cast his owning over all that which they had in Norway, and made them outlaws. King Ingi fared north into Wick and dwelt there, but whiles north in the land. Gregory sat at King's Rock in the way of the peril, and warded the land there.

CHAPTER II. OF GREGORY DAYSON.

NEXT summer Hakon and his came down from Gautland, and came to King's Rock, and had a right mickle host and fair. Gregory was as then in the town, and called

together a thronged Thing of bonders and by-men, and craved aid of them. He deemed the men gave little cheer to this, and gave out that he trusted them ill. So he fared away with two ships into the Wick, and was all unglad. He was minded to go and meet King Ingi, for he had heard that King Ingi fared with a mickle host from the north round the Wick. But when Gregory was gone but a short way towards the north he came upon Simon Sheath and Haldor, the son of Bryniolf, and Gyrd, the son of Amundi, King Ingi's fosterbrother. Gregory was much fain of them, and he turned back and all they together, and had eleven ships. But when they rowed in to King's Rock, Hakon and his were holding a Thing outside the town, and saw their faring. Then said Sigurd of Reyr: "Now is Gregory fey, since he fareth into our hands with few folk." Gregory laid to land right before the town, and would abide King Ingi, for he was to be looked for; yet he came not. King Hakon got ready in the town, and let Thorliot Brushskull be at the head of that host which was aboard the merchant ships that floated off the town. He was a viking and a robber. But Hakon and Sigurd and the main host was in the town, and drew up on the bridges. All men there had gone under Hakon.

CHAPTER III. THE FLIGHT OF KING HAKON.

GREGORY and his rowed up along the river, and let the ships drift down the stream upon Thorliot and his. For a while they shot at each other, until Thorliot sprang overboard and his fellows, and some were slain, but othersome came aland. Then Gregory and his rowed to the bridges, and straightway Gregory let shoot up bridges from his ship under the feet of Hakon's men. Then fell the man who bore his banner, whom he told off for going up. Then Gregory bade Hall, the son of Audun, the son of Hall, to take up the banner, and he did so, and carried the banner up on to the bridges; but Gregory went up straightway after him, and shoved forth a shield over his head. But forthwith, when Gregory came upon the bridges and Hakon's men knew him, they feil back, and gave way on either side. But when more of the host came up from the ships, Gregory and his men sought forward, and Hakon's men at first shrank aback, and then ran away up into the town. But Gregory and his men followed them up, and drave them twice out of the town, and slew many. No faring was more valiant than this, by the speech of men, which Gregory fared, whereas Hakon had more than forty hundreds of men, and Gregory not full four hundreds.

Then spake Gregory to Hall, son of Audun, after the battle: "Many men do I find lither in onset than you, Icelanders, for ye are more unwont

than we Norway men, but no men do I find more weapon-bold than ye be."

Then a little later King Ingi came in, and let slay many men who had taken to Hakon ; some he let pay fines, but for some he burned the steads, but othersome he drove out of the land, and did to them much ill. Hakon fled away up into Gautland. But the next winter he went overland north into Thrandheim, and came there before Easter, and the Thrand-folk took him for king to his father's heritage, one-third of Norway to wit, against King Ingi. Ingi and Gregory were in the Wick, and Gregory would fare north and set upon them, but many letted it, and that winter it came to nought.

CHAPTER IV. THE SLAYING OF GYRD AND HOWARD.

HAKON fared from the north in the spring, and had wellnigh thirty ships. The Wick-folk out of Hakon's host fared before with eight ships, and harried in both Meres. No man called to mind that there had ever been any harrying between the two Cheapings. Jon, son of Hallkel Hunch, gathered a bonder-host and set upon them, and took Kolbein the Woode, and slew every man's child aboard his ship. Then he went in search of the others, and came upon them with their seven ships, and they fought ; but Hallkel his father did not go to meet him as had been bespoken between them. There fell a many of good bonders, and he was wounded himself.

Hakon fared south to Biorgvin with his band ; and when they came to Stiorvelta, they heard that King Ingi had already come from the east a few nights before, he and Gregory, to Biorgvin ; so they durst not hold on thitherward. They sailed past Biorgvin by the outer way, and came upon some of King Ingi's following on three ships which had been belated from the east. There was Gyrd, the son of Amundi, King Ingi's foster-brother ; he had for wife Gyrid, the sister of Gregory ; another was Gyrd the Lawman, son of Gunnhild ; the third was Howard Butterbread. Hakon let slay Gyrd, the son of Amundi, as well as Howard Butterbread ; but Gyrd the Lawman he had with him, and fared east into the Wick.

CHAPTER V. OF COUNSELS.

BUT when King Ingi heard that, he went east after them, and they met east in the Elf. King Ingi put into the river up along the northernmost branch, and made spying before him about Hakon and his. But King Ingi laid to land out by Hising, and there abode the spies. But when they came back they went to the king, and said they had seen King Hakon's host and all the arrayal thereof ; said that they were lying up by the stakes, and had moored their sterns to the stakes ; " they have two east-faring keels, and have laid them outermost of all the ships ; on these keels are masthead castles, and castles withal in the prow of both."

But when the king heard that, what arrayal they had, he let blow all his host to a husting. But when the Thing was called and set, then sought the king rede of his host, and calls thereto on Gregory Dayson and Erling Askew, his brother-in-law, and other landed-men and captains of ships, and tells them all the arrayal of Hakon's men. Gregory answered first, and made his will clear, and said: "The meeting of Hakon and me has befallen sundry times, and they have oftenest had the more host, and yet had the lesser part in our dealings. But now have we by far the greater host, and it will now seem likely to those who lately have missed noble kinsmen from them, that here will vengeance bear up well, whereas they have long been drifting about before us this summer; and we have often spoken that, if they would but abide us, as now it is said they have done, then would we venture on a meeting with them. Now that have I to say of my mind, that I will pitch the battle against them, if that be not against the king's will; for that I am yet minded to think, as hath been before, that they will now have to give way if we set upon them keenly, and I shall take upon me the onset there where other men deem it hardest."

At the word of Gregory was mickle cheer, and all men gave out they were ready to give battle to Hakon and his. Then all the ships were rowed up along the river until each side saw the other; then King Ingi and his sidled out of the river-stream up under the island. Then the king had talk with all his captains, and bade them array for

onset, and charged Erling Askew therewith, saying, as was sooth, that there was not a wiser man nor keener in battle in that host, though some might be more heady than he. And the king turned his speech to yet more landed-men, and named some by name ; but so closed he his speech that he bade each to set forth what he saw would avail in rede, and after that to be all at one.

CHAPTER VI. THE ANSWER AND COUNSEL OF ERLING ASKEW.

ERLING ASKEW answered the speech of the king : “ Bound am I, O king, not to be silent at thy speech, and if thou wilt wot what my counsel will be, then shall I let thee hear it. The plan which now has been set is straight contrary to my mind, for I call this a sheer peril to fight with them as things now stand, though we have an host mickle and fair, if we shall give them the onfall, and row against this river-stream ; whereas there are three men in each half-room, there will be one to row, and the second to shield him : what, then, beyond one-third of our host is left for doing the fighting ? It seems to me unfightful will they do in the battle who are at the oars, and turn their backs toward our unfriends. Give me leisure for taking counsel, but I promise in return that I shall find a rede, before three days be worn, whereby easier we may bring about an onset on them.”

And in Erling's speech it was much found that he letted the onset ; but no less there were many who egged the onset, and said that Hakon and his

would now run ashore once again as before, "and so we get nothing of them," they said; "but now they have but a scanty company, and we have all their rede in our hand." Gregory spake but few words on the matter, but made such taunt as seemed to say that Erling's chief reason went much hereto in letting the onset, that he would undo the rede which Gregory had set forth, rather than that he knew how to see more clearly through this matter than all others.

CHAPTER VII. OF KING HAKON'S HOST.

THEN King Ingi spake to Erling: "Brother-in-law," said he, "now will we follow out thy counsel as to how the onset shall be arrayed; but since the captains will rather have it so, we shall fall upon them even to-day." Then said Erling: "All cutters and light craft shall row out round the island, and then up the eastern outlet, and thus come down upon them, and try to loose them from the stakes; but then we shall row in upon them in the big ships, and it is not known, till it be tried, whether they (the captains) shall make by as much a better onset than I as they be wilder for it."

This rede was well-liking to all. A certain ness stretched out between the host of King Ingi and Hakon, and neither saw the other's ships. But when the host of the cutters came rowing down the river, that saw Hakon and his folk. But before they had been at a talking for doing their

rede; some guessed that King Ingi and his would fall on, but many were minded to think that they would not brave it, seeing that the onfall seemed to be much tarried, but they trusted well in their arrayal and their host. In their flock there were many great men; there was Sigurd of Reyr, and the two sons of Simon; there, too, was Nicolas, the son of Skialdvor, and Eindrid, the son of Jon Suetneb, who was the most renowned and best befriended man in the folklands of Thrandheim; and many other landed-men and captains of companies were there. Now, when they saw that the men of Ingi came rowing down along the river with many ships, Hakon and his thought that Ingi with his host was minded to flee, and so hewed the moorings of their vessels and fell to their oars, and rowed after them, and would drive them. The ships drove fast down before the stream, and as they bore down along the river past the ness which before was betwixt them, they saw that the main host of Ingi lay down by the island of Hising. Ingi's fellows saw where fared the ships of Hakon, and deemed that they would fall on. So there arose a great bustle and clatter of weapons and eggings-on, and therewithal they broke out into the war-whoop. But thereat Hakon and his turned their ships towards the northern shore, where there was a certain sheltering creek, and thus they gat out of the stream. There they arrayed them and bore stern-moorings ashore, and turned outwards the prows of all their ships, and lashed all the ships together, and let the east-faring hulks lie out away from the other ships, one

up above, the other nether, and lashed them to the longships. But in the midst of the fleet lay the king's ship, and next to it Sigurd's ship, and on the other board of the king's ship lay Nicolas, and next to him Eindrid, the son of Jon; all the smaller ships lay outwarder. They had loaded wellnigh all their ships with stones and weapons.

CHAPTER VIII. THE SPEECH OF SIGURD OF REYR.

SIGURD of Reyr spoke and said: "It is now to be looked for, that the meeting between us and King Ingi, which has been long promised this summer, will now come to pass. Now, we have been making ready for it much long; and many of our fellows have blustered greatly that they would not flee nor falter before King Ingi or Gregory, and it is now well to call such words to mind. But we may with less assurance speak hereof, whereas erst we have got somewhat toothsome in our dealings, for it is so, even as everyone hath heard, that much oft we have fared floundering before them. None the less we are now bound to meet them at our manliest, and to withstand them at our fastest; for only that way out have we for getting of the victory. Now, although we have an host somewhat fewer than they, yet may weird rule it which shall have the gain; and that is the best hope in our case, that God wotteth that we have right on our side. Ingi has already hewn down his two brethren, and no man is so blind as not to see what father-boot-

ing is minded for King Hakon, to wit, to hew him down as his other kinsmen, and that will be seen to-day. From the beginning Hakon craved no more of Norway than the Ridding his father had had, and that was gainsaid him ; but in my esteem Hakon hath a better title to inheritance after Eystein, his father's brother, than Ingi or Simon Sheath or any others of the men who rest King Eystein of his life. Many a one would so look to it, who would save his soul, and had such-like big ill-deeds on his hands as has Ingi, that he would not dare before God to be called by a king's name ; and that I wonder, that God tholeth of him that overboldness ; and that will be God's will, that we hurl him down. Fight we boldly then, for God will give us the victory ; but if we fall, God will reward us with manifold joy therefor, if he lend power to evil men to overcome us. Let men fare steadily, and falter not, if battle befall. Let each one heed himself and those of his company, and God all of us."

Good cheer was given to the speech of Sigurd, and all well behight to do their best. King Hakon went aboard one of the east-faring hulks, and there was set a shieldburg about him, but his banner was on the longship whereon he had been hitherto

CHAPTER IX. OF THE MEN OF KING INGI.

NOW we have to tell of the men of King Ingi; how, when they saw that those of Hakon arrayed them for battle, and but the river was between them, they sent a swift-faring craft out after their host which had rowed away, bidding them to turn back, and the king with the rest of his host abode them and arrayed them for the onset. Spake the captains and told to the host their forecast: firstly, which of the ships should lie nearest, and then where each one should fall on.

Gregory said: "We have a great host and a goodly. Now it is my counsel that thou, king, be not in the onset, for then is all heeded when thou art heeded, and none wotteth where a misshot arrow may stray. They have such array that from out of the masthead castles will be cast stones and shot, and that is but little less risk to them who be farther. They have got no more folk than what is handy for us landed-men to hold battle withal. I shall lay my ship against that ship of theirs which is most, and I ween still that it will be but a short trial to fight with them; so ofttest it has been at our meetings, although another way have been the odds than now."

'Twas well-liking to all, what Gregory spake; that the king should not himself be in the battle.

Then spake Erling Askew: "That rede will I follow, that thou, king, fare not into the battle. So meseemeth of their arrayal that we must needs

pay good heed, if we get not great man-tyne of them; and meseemeth it best to bind up all safe. As to the rede which we had earlier in the day, many spake against that which I reded, and said that I had no will to fight; but now meseems things have turned about much handier for us, seeing that they are already away from the stakes. And now things have so come about, that nought shall I let giving battle; for I see that, which all men wot, how great the need is to scatter this flock of evil-doers, which has fared about all the land with robbery and rifling; for men thereafter might dwell in the land in peace, and serve one only king, and that such a good and rightwise one as is King Ingi, who has already long enough had toil and trouble from the insolence and iniquity of his kinsmen, and been the breast before all the all-folk, and laid himself into manifold risk in giving peace to the land."

Many things Erling spake, and deftly, and yet more head-men besides, and it all came down to one place, that they all egged the onset. They abode the gathering of all their host. King Ingi then had the Beechboard, and he yielded to the prayer of his friends, that he did not go into the battle, but lay behind by the island.

CHAPTER X. THE BEGINNING OF THE BATTLE.

NOW when the host was ready they fall to the on-rowing, and both sides set up the war-whoop; Ingi's men lashed not their ships together, and fared on close-serried, for they had to row right athwart the stream, and it much swept the big ships. Erling Askew set upon the ship of King Hakon, and shoved his prow in betwixt it and Sigurd's ship, and then befell the battle. But the ship of Gregory was swept aground, and heeled over much, so at first they gat them not into the onset. And when Hakon's men saw this, they laid-to on them, and fell on, but Gregory's ship lay before them. Then laid thereto Ivar, the son of Hakon Maw, and the poops of both ships drifted together. Ivar hooked a grapnel round Gregory where he was slenderest, and hauled him towards him, and Gregory swerved out towards the board, and the grapnel swept up along the flank of him, and Ivar was on the very point of hooking him overboard. Gregory was but little hurt, whereas he had a plate-byrny. Ivar called to him and said that he was thick-boarded. Gregory answered, and said that Ivar was so doing with him that needful was that, with nought to spare.

Then things had come to such a pass that Gregory and his were at point to go overboard, till Aslak the Young got an anchor aboard their ship, and drew them off the ground. Then Gregory set on Ivar's ship, and they had to do together a long while; and Gregory's ship was the bigger and

more manned. Fell much folk on Ivar's ship, but some leapt overboard. Ivar was much hurt, so that he was not fightworthy. But when his ship was rided, Gregory let flit him aland, and got him off; and ever after they were friends.

CHAPTER XI. THE FLIGHT OF KING HAKON.

BUT when King Ingi and his fellows saw that Gregory was aground, the king cried on his men to row thereto. He said: "It was the unwisest rede that we should lie behind here, and our friends fare to battle; we have that ship which is the most and best manned of the whole host; and now I see that Gregory needeth folk, that man whom I have best to reward. So lay we into battle at our hardest, and that is rightest that I be in the battle, for I will have the victory for mine own if it is to be gained. But even if I knew beforehand that our men would have the foil, yet would it be the one thing due for us to be there whereas the other men of ours should be; for I may have no more furtherance, if I miss those men who are my breast, and are the briskest, and long have been the foremen for me and my realm."

Then bade he set up the banners, and they did so, and rowed over the river. Then was the battle at its wildest, and the king gat no room for laying on, so thronged lay the ships before him. Then laid they under the east-faring hulk, and there were borne down on them spears and pal-staves

and stones so great that nought might hold out against them, and they could not abide there. But when the host saw it, that the king was come there, they rided a place for him, and then he laid aboard the ship of Eindrid Jonson. Then the men of Hakon left the small ships and went up on to the hulks, but some went aland.

Erling Askew and his men had a hard onset. He was in the fore-room, and called on his fore-castle men, and bade them go up on to the king's ship. They answered that was not an easy matter, for there were iron-bound timbers before them. Then Erling went forth into the prow, and tarried there but a little while or ever they boarded the king's ship and rided that ship. Then took all the host to flee; and after that many of them leapt into the deep, and much folk fled away withal, but all the throng gat them aland. Even as says Einar, the son of Skuli :

In the deep fell men a many
 From the gory bows of sea-steeds;
 Enough meat gat the troll's steed,
 Before the stream drave corpses.
 Elf bitter-cold was reddened
 With the hot flood of wounding;
 Warm ale of wolf with water
 Fell into the belt of Kormt-isle.

A many ships prow-bloody
 In the swift mouth of river
 Drave empty. There the war-host
 Was swaying of the elm-bow.
 'Gainst dank helms flew the red-steel
 Ere fled the host of captains
 Aground from sea-deer. Scant grew
 The Hakon's host in shield-roar.

XI *The Story of Hakon Shoulder-Broad.* 415

Einar wrought on Gregory, the son of Day, a flock which is called the Elf-staves.

King Ingi gave peace to Nicolas, the son of Skialdvor, when his ship was rided, and then he went unto King Ingi, and was with him sithence whiles he lived. Eindrid, the son of Jon, when his ship was cleared, leapt over into King Ingi's ship and craved life and limb. The king was of will to give him life, but the son of Howard Butter-bread ran to him and hewed him his bane-blow, and that work was much blamed; but he said that Eindrid had reded the slaying of his father, Howard. Eindrid was much bewailed, yet most of all within the lands of Thrandheim. There fell a many of Hakon's host, but no more captains. Few men fell out of the host of King Ingi, but many were wounded.

Hakon fled up inland, but Ingi fared north into the Wick with his host, and was in the Wick the winter over, and Gregory withal.

But when from this fight came to Biorgvin those men of King Ingi, Bergliot and his brethren, the sons of Ivar of Elda, they slew Nicolas Beard, a rent-master that had been, and thereupon went home north to Thrandheim. King Hakon came north before Yule, but Sigurd was whiles at home at Reyr. Gregory had taken pledge of King Ingi for him, that he should have all his possessions; for they were close akin, Sigurd and Gregory. King Hakon was in Cheaping through the Yule; and one evening early in the Yuletide his men got to blows in the Court Hall, and eight men came by their death, and many were wounded. But after

the eighth day of Yule there fared into Elda these fellows of Hakon, Alf the Ruffian, the son of Ottar Brightling, and wellnigh eighty men; and they came there unawares in early night, when the others were drunk, and set fire to the house, and they went out and fought for life. But there fell Bergliot Ivarson and Ogmund, his brother, and a very many of men; wellnigh thirty had there been there within.

That winter there died in Cheaping-north Andreas, the son of Simon, the fosterbrother of King Hakon, and was sore bewailed.

Erling Askew and the men of King Ingi, they who were in Biorgvin, gave out that they would fare north now or then that winter to take Hakon, but it came to nought. Gregory sent such words from the east from King's Rock, as that if he sat as nigh as was Erling and his, he would not sit quiet in Biorgvin if Hakon were letting slay the friends of King Ingi in Thrandheim and their fellows in law.

CHAPTER XII. FIGHT ON THE BRIDGES.

KING INGI and Gregory fared in spring from the east unto Biorgvin. But as soon as Hakon and Sigurd heard that King Ingi was fared from the Wick they went east by the overland ways into the Wick.

Now whenas King Ingi and his came to Biorgvin, there arose dissension between Haldor

Bryniolfson and Biorn Nicolasson. A house-carle of Biorn, when they met down on the bridges, asked why the other was so pale, but he said he had been let blood. "I would not by blood-letting be so bleak of face as thou art." "But methinks," quoth the other, "that thou wouldst be likely to take it much worse and more cowardly." Now the beginning was no more than so. Then waxed word on word until they strove, and thereupon fell to fighting. Then it was told to Haldor Bryniolfson that his house-carle had been wounded on the bridges. But Haldor was drinking thereby in the garth, and went thither. But erst were come the house-carles of Biorn, and Haldor deemed they had parted in an uneven manner; so they shoved the house-carles of Biorn, and knocked them about. Then was it told to Biorn Buck that the Wick-wights were beating his house-carles down on the bridges. Then Biorn and his took their weapons and went thither, and would avenge their men; then was wounding betwixt them. Then was told Gregory that Haldor his kinsman-in-law needed help, and that his house-carles were being hewed down out in the open street. Then Gregory and his ran to their byrnies and fared thereto. That heard Erling Askew that Biorn, his sister's son, was fighting with Haldor and Gregory on the bridges up town, and that he needed help. So he went thither much manned, and bade men lend him help, saying it were a shame to men "if one Wick-man is to walk over us here in our kin-hay; for that would be brought up against us for ever and ever." There

fell fourteen men, and nine had their bane straight-way, but five died from wounds sithence; but many men were hurt.

Then the word came to King Ingi that they were fighting up town on the bridges, Gregory and Erling. So he went thither and would part them, but might bring nothing about, so mad as were both sides.

Then Gregory called out to King Ingi, and bade him keep aloof, saying he might bring nothing about as matters then stood, and said that were the greatest scathe if anything should befall him; "whereas none may wot where he may be, who would not spare himself that mishap if he but deemed it might bechance him." Then the king fared away.

Now when the most turmoil dried up, Gregory and his went up to Nicolas church, and Erling and his after them, and then they called out on each other.

Then came again King Ingi, and appeased them, and then both sides would that he alone should do the award between them. Then heard they that Hakon was in the Wick, and King Ingi and Gregory went east, and had very many ships. But when they came east, Hakon and his fled away, and there was no battle. So King Ingi went up to Oslo, but Gregory was at King's Rock.

CHAPTER XIII. THE SLAYING OF MUNAN.

GREGORY heard a little later of the whereabouts of King Hakon and his, that they were in there where is hight Saur-Byes, which lieth up against the wild-wood. He fared thither, and came a-night-time, and thought that Hakon and Sigurd would be at the bigger of the two steads, and there they set fire to the houses. But Hakon and his were at the lesser stead, and came over when they saw the fire, and would lend help to the others. There fell Munan, the son of Ali the Un-Skauned, and brother to King Sigurd, the father of Hakon. Gregory and his slew him when he would to come to the aid of those who were burnt within. But they went out, and a many of men were slain there. Asbiorn Mare gat away from the stead; he was the greatest viking, and was wounded. A certain bonder met him, and Asbiorn prayed the bonder to let him off, and said he would pay him money therefor. The bonder said he would do that which was more to his mind; said he had often gone in fear of him; so he hewed him his bane-blow. Hakon and Sigurd got away, but much of their folk was slain. Thereafter Gregory went east to King's Rock.

A little later Hakon and Sigurd went to the manor of Haldor, son of Bryniolf of Vettland, and set fire to the houses and burnt them. Haldor went out of doors, and was hewen forthwith, and his house-carles with him; and there were slain nigh twenty men in all. Sigrid, his wife, was the sister

of Gregory, and her they let go away to the wood in night-sark alone. There they took Amundi, the son of Gyrd Amundison, and of Gyrid, the daughter of Day ; he was a sister's son of Gregory, and they brought him away with them. He was then of five winters.

CHAPTER XIV. THE FALL OF GREGORY.

GREGORY heard these tidings and deemed them great, and he sought carefully into their whereabouts. He went out of King's Rock in the latter part of the Yule-tide with much folk, and they came to Force on the thirteenth day of Yule. He stayed there for the night, and went to matins there on the last day of Yule, and the gospel was read to him thereafter ; this was on a bath-day. And when Gregory and his saw the host of Hakon, they deemed Hakon's folk much less than their own. A certain river there was between them where they met, and which hight Befia ; the ice was ill on the river, whereas the flood-tide went up from without under the ice. Hakon and his had cut wakes on the river, and had shovelled snow thereon ; so nothing might be seen thereof.

When Gregory came to the river he said that himseemed that the ice was ill to cross, and said that it were rede to fare to a bridge which was a little higher up across the river. The bonder-host answered and said that they wotted not what was the matter, that he should not dare to seek to

them across the ice, no more of folk being against them; they would have it that the ice was good enough, and said they deemed he was luck-forsaken.

Gregory answers, and says that seldom had there been need of taunting him much for lack of heart, and said that should not be needed even now; and he bade them follow him well, and not stand on land, if he go out upon the ice; and said it was their rede to cross an evil ice, and that therefore he was uneager. "But I will not sit under your taunts," said he, and bade bear forth his banner. So he went out on to the ice with his folk; but straightway whenas the bonder company found the ice was bad, then turned aback the host of them. Gregory sank through the ice, yet not much; so he bade his men be wary, but no more went after him than about twenty men, but the rest of the folk turned back.

A man in Hakon's flock shot an arrow to him, and smote him under the throat of him. There fell Gregory, and ten men with him, and there now is the close of his lifetime. It is all folk's say, that he was the most chieftain of the landed-men of Norway in the memory of the men who then were alive, and best he was to us Icelanders since King Eystein the older died. The body of Gregory was flitted up into Hofund, and was buried at Gimsey at the nuns' seat there. Then was Baugeid, the sister of Gregory, abbess there.

CHAPTER XV. KING INGI HEARS OF THE FALL OF GREGORY.

TWO king's stewards fared with the tidings to tell King Ingi thereof up at Oslo; and when they came, they craved speech of the king. He asked what tidings they told. "The fall of Gregory Dayson," said they. "How came about such ill-hap?" said the king. They told him. The king answered: "Then they ruled there who knew the worse."

So it is said, that he took this so ill that he wept like a child. But when that passed off he said this: "I willed to fare find Gregory straightway, when I heard of the slaying of Haldor, for I deemed I knew well enough that Gregory would not sit so long that he would not turn to avenging him; but this folk went on as if nothing was so needful as this Yule-drinking, and that might in no wise be given up. Now I know for sure that if I had been there, things would have gone forward more redefully, or we two else, I and Gregory, would both have fared to one guesting. But there is gone that man who has been the best to me, and has most chiefly held the land in my hands; and hitherto it has been my thought that short while would be between us. Now I shall undertake alone to go meet Hakon and his, and then it shall be either that I shall have my bane, or else I shall stride over Hakon. But none the more avenged is such a man as was Gregory, though they all come for him."

A man answered and said, that he would need

to search but little for them, and said they were minded thitherward to find him. Kristin was there in Oslo, the daughter of King Sigurd, and brother's daughter of King Ingi. The king heard that she was minded to fare away from the town, and sent word to her and asked why she would away from the town. But she said she thought it was so full of uproar, and that it was no abiding-place for women. The king prayed she should not fare away; "for if we gain the day, as I am minded, thou wilt then be well holden here; but if I fall, my friends will not get to dight my body, yet shalt thou beseech that it be granted thee to lay out the dead; and so mayst thou best reward me that I have been well with thee."

CHAPTER XVI. OF KING INGI.

IN the evening of Blaise-mass news came to King Ingi that Hakon was to be looked for at the town. Then King Ingi let blow the host up out of the town, and let array it, and the tally thereof was wellnigh forty hundreds of men. The king let the rank be long, and not more than five deep.

Then spake men to King Ingi that he should not be in the fight, for on him, they said, there lay so much; "so let Worm, thy brother, be lord over the host." The king answers: "This I am minded to think, that if Gregory were alive here now, and I were fallen, and mine avenging were toward, that he would not be lying in hiding-places, but would be in the battle himself. Now

though I be in a worse plight than was he, for my infirmity's sake, yet I shall not be worse willed towards him, and it is not to be looked for that I be not in the battle."

So men say, that Gunnhild, whom Simon had had to wife, the foster-mother of Hakon, let Sit Out for victory to Hakon; but It showed out that they should fight with King Ingi by night, and never by day, and said that that would do. But Thordis Skeggja is named the woman of whom is said that she Sat Out, but the sooth thereof I wot not.

Simon Sheath had gone into the town and laid him down to sleep, and he awoke with the war-whoop.

But as the night wore, news came to King Ingi, and he was told that Hakon and his were coming from without on to the ice, but ice lay all the way from the town out to Headisle.

CHAPTER XVII. THE TALK OF KING INGI.

THEN went King Ingi with his host out on to the ice, and set his array before the town. Simon Sheath was in the arm which looked towards Thralls' Berg; but in that arm, which was in past Nuns' Seat, was Gudrod, King of the South-isles, the son of Olaf Butterbread, and Jon, the son of Svein, the son of Bergthor Buck.

But when Hakon and his came upon the array of King Ingi, either side whooped the war-whoop.

Gudrod and Jon beckoned to Hakon and his men to let them know where they stood before them. And therewith Hakon's men turned thither, but Gudrod and his fled straightway, and that host might have been wellnigh fifteen hundreds of men. But Jon and a great company with him ran into the host of Hakon, and fought on their side. This was told to King Ingi, and he answered thus: "Wide apart have my friends been; never had Gregory so fared while he lived."

Then spake men and bade the king that they should speedily shove a horse under him, and that he should ride out of the battle and up into Raumrealm; "for there wilt thou get plenteous help, even to-day." "I have no mind thereto," said the king. "Oft I hear you say, and sooth I deem it, that little served to undo my brother Eystein after he turned to flight, and yet he was a man well endowed in everything that makes fair a king. Now can I see of my infirmity, how little may undo me, if I take up this counsel, whereas he got so sorely entangled; albeit so far asunder were his conditions from mine, both as to health and all might. I was then in my second winter, when I was taken for king over Norway, and now I am well five-and-twenty. Meseems I have had more troubles and cares in my kingdom than pleasure and joy; I have had many battles, whiles with more folk, whiles with less, and that has been my greatest good luck that I have never turned to flight. Let God rule my life, how long it is to be, but I shall never betake me to flight."

CHAPTER XVIII. THE FALL OF KING INGI.

BUT when Jon and his fellows had riven that arm of King Ingi's array, then fled they, and many withal who had stood nighest thereto; and then the array sundered and were confounded, but Hakon and his set on fast, and by then it was come towards dawn. Then was it sought to the banner of King Ingi, and in that brunt fell King Ingi, but Worm, his brother, upheld the fight. Now many folk fled up into the town. Worm fared twice into the town after the fall of the king, and egged on the folk, and either time he went back out on the ice and upheld the fight. Then Hakon and his sought to that arm of the array whereof was Simon Sheath captain. And in that brunt there fell out of Ingi's host Gudbrand, the son of Shavehew, kinsman-in-law to the king. But Simon Sheath and Hallward Hitch went at each other and fought with their companies, and drove out beyond Thralls' Berg, and in that brunt they fell, both of them, Simon and Hallward. Worm, the king's brother, got good word there, but at last he fled. The winter before Worm had betrothed to him Ragna, the daughter of Nicolas Mew, whom King Eystein Haraldson had had, and he was to go to his bridal the next Sunday. Blaise-mass was then on a Friday. Worm fled east into Sweden to Magnus his brother, who was then king there, but their brother Rognvald was earl there. These were the sons of Ingirid and Henry the Halt, who

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was a son of the Dane-king Svein, the son of Svein.

Kristin, the king's daughter, dight the body of King Ingi, and he was laid in the stone wall in Hallward's church out away from the choir on the south side. By that time he had been king for five-and-twenty winters. In this battle many folk fell on either side, yet by much the most out of the host of Ingi. Out of that host fell Arni, the son of Frirek. But Hakon's men seized the goods of the bridal, and a mighty lot of other plunder.

CHAPTER XIX. OF KING HAKON AND KRISTIN, THE KING'S DAUGHTER.

KING HAKON laid all the land under him, and put his men into all offices and over the cheaping-steads. King Hakon and his men had their meetings in Hallward's church when they were reding the land-redes. Kristin, the king's daughter, gave gifts to the priest who guarded the keys to hide one of her men in the church, that he might hear the talk of Hakon and his men. But when she was aware of their counsels, she sent word to her husband, Erling Askew, in Biorgvin, that he should never trust them.

CHAPTER XX. A MIRACLE OF KING OLAF'S AMONG THE VÆRINGS.

THIS tidings fell at Stickle-stead in Norway, as is aforewrit, that King Olaf cast from him the sword Hneitir whenas he got his wound. But a certain man, Swedish of kin, had broken his sword, and he took up the sword Hneitir and fought therewith. This man got away out of the battle and fared with other fliers, and came forth into Sweden, and home to his house. He had that sword all his life long, and his son after him. And each of those kinsmen took it one after other, and ever that followed the owning of the sword, that each told the other the name of the sword, and withal whence it was come. But that was mickle later, in the days of Kyrialax, the Micklegarth-kaiser, that there were in the garth great companies of Værings. That befell withal one summer when the kaiser was out on certain warfare, that they lay in war-booths. The Værings kept guard and waked over the king, and they lay on the fields without the camp. They shared the night between them for waking, and they who had watched before lay down and slept; and all of them were fully weaponed. It was a wont of theirs, whenever they laid down to sleep, that each had the helm on his head, and his shield over him, and his sword under his head; he should lay his right hand on the grip. A certain one of those fellows to whom was allotted the ward of the last part of the night, when he woke at dawn, there was his sword away from him; but

when he sought, he saw the sword where it lay on the field far aloof. He stood up and took the sword, thinking that his fellows who had waked would have done it to mock him, to beguile the sword away from him; but they all denied it. This same thing befell for three nights. Then he wondered greatly, he and those others who saw and heard this, and men would be searching as to what might be at the bottom of this. Then told he that the sword was called Hneitir, and that Olaf the Holy himself had owned it and borne it in the battle of Stickle-stead, and he told them also how it had fared with the sword sithence. Thereupon these things were told to King Kyrialax, and he let call the man to him who fared with the sword, and gave him gold, three prices of the sword. And the king let bear the sword to Olaf's church, which is upheld by the Værings, and sithence it was there over the altar. Eindrid the Young was in Micklegarth when these things happened, and he told this tale in Norway, even as Einar, the son of Skuli, witnesseth in that drapa which he made on King Olaf the Holy, for there is sung this hap.

CHAPTER XXI. ANOTHER MIRACLE OF KING OLAF.

THIS hap was in Greekland, while Kyrialax was king there, that the king fared on warfare into Vlakmen's-land. And when he came upon the fields of Pezina, there came against him a heathen king with an overwhelming

host. Thither they had brought horse-host and much big wains, with battlements on the top. When they dight night-dwelling, they set up the wains one beside the other outside their camp, but outside of them they dug a huge ditch. And all that work was as great as a burg might be.

The heathen king was blind. But when the King of the Greeks came, the heathen set their array on the fields outside the wain-burg; and the Greeks set their array thereagainst, and then each rode against the other and fought. Fared it then ill and unhappily, in that the Greeks fled and had gotten mickle man-tyne, but the heathen won the victory. Then the king manned an array of Franks and Flemings, who then rode out against the heathen, and it fared with them after the fashion of the former, in that many were slain; all fled who got away.

Then was the King of the Greeks much wroth with his warriors, and they answered him and bade him then take to the Værings, his wine-skins. The king says thus, that he would not waste his best havings so as to lead a few men, howsoever valiant, against so mickle an host. Then Thorir Barnacle, who was then captain of the Værings, answered thus the words of the king: "Even though there were before us a flaming fire, I and my folk would forthwith run against it, if I knew that thereby would be bought peace to thee, king, for the time to come."

But the king answered: "Behight ye to your holy King Olaf for your avail and victory."

The Værings had of men four hundreds and a

half. Then they took oath under handsel, and behight to rear a church in Micklegarth at their own costs, with the aid of good men, and to let hallow that church to the honour and glory of the holy King Olaf. Sithence ran the Værings forth into the field; and when that saw the heathen, they told their king that once more fared a band out of the Greek-king's host upon them, "and this," said they, "is but a handful of men." Then said the king: "Who is that noble-looking man who rideth there on a white steed before their band?" "Nought do we see him," said they.

No less were the odds there than that sixty heathen were against one Christian man; yet none the less the Værings held into the battle all boldly. But so soon as they came together, the host of the heathen was smitten with dread, so that they took to flight forthwith, and the Værings drave them and speedily slew a mickle many. But when the Greeks and the Franks, who had erst fled the heathen, saw this, then they sought thereto, and drave the flight with them; by then the Værings had got into the wain-burg, and there was the most manfall. And when the heathen fled, the heathen king was taken, and the Værings had him with them; and thus the Christians took the camp of the heathen and the wain-burg.

