

THE STORY OF HARALD THE HARD-REDY.

CHAPTER I. THE UPHEAVING OF KING HARALD THE HARD-REDY.

HARALD, the son of Sigurd Sow, and brother to King Olaf the Holy by the same mother, was at Sticklestead in the battle whenas the holy King Olaf fell. There Harald was wounded and got away with the other fleeing men. So saith Thiodolf :

Heard I that the keen shield-storm
On the king anigh Howe drifted,
The burner of the Bulgars,
There well availed his brother.
He, prince but of twelve winters
And three thereto then agèd,
From Olaf dead unwilling
Sundered, and hid the helm-seat.

Rognvald, son of Brusi, brought Harald out of the battle, and got him to a certain bonder's who dwelt in a wood far away from other men, and there Harald was leechèd until he was whole. Sithence the bonder's son followed him east over the Keel, and they fared all by the woodland ways where they might, but nought the highways. The

bonder's son wotted nought who he was whom he was guiding, and as they rode amongst certain wildwoods, Harald sang this :

Now I but little honoured
From wood to wood go creeping,
And yet who wotteth, soothly,
But at last I wax wide-famed.

He fared east over Iamtland and Helsingland, and so to Sweden, and there happened on Rognvald, son of Brusi, and on a great many others of those men of King Olaf as had gotten them from Sticklestead out of the battle.

CHAPTER II. HARALD CAME INTO GARTHREALM.

THE next spring they got them ships and went in the summer east into Garthrealm, to meet King Jarisleif, and were there through the winter. So saith Bolverk :

The sword's mouth, king, thou stroked'st
When thou leftest battle ; mad'st thou
Of raw flesh full the raven.
The wolf howled in the mountain.
But the next year east in Garthrealm
Wert thou, king stubborn-hearted.
Ne'er heard we of peace-waster
Waxing more famed than wert thou.

King Jarisleif gave good welcome to Harald and his, and Harald became sithence captain over the land-warders of the king ; and another was Eilif, son of Earl Rognvald. As Thiodolf says :

Of one thing busied
Were captains twain,
Whereas sat Eilif :
The wedge-host ranked they.
Thrust were the East Wends
Into the strait crook.
Nought light unto Lesjars
Was the law of the host-men.

Harald tarried certain winters in Garthrealm and fared wide about the East-ways. Then he arrayed him to fare out into Greekland, and had mickle company of men ; and thence he went to Micklegarth. So saith Bolverk :

Hard drave the chilly shower
The swart ship's bows by the land-side ;
But there the barks be-byrnied
Bore bravely up their rigging.
Before the bows the meet king
Saw Micklegarth's bright metals.
There board-fair ships a many
Toward the burg's high wing swept onward.

CHAPTER III. HARALD WENT INTO SERVICE IN MICKLEGARTH.

AT that time there ruled over Greekland Queen Zoe the Rich, and with her Michael Katalaktus. And when Harald came to Micklegarth to see the queen, he took war-service there, and went forthwith that same autumn on board galleys with those warriors who fared out into Greekland's sea, and Harald held the company of his own men. Then was captain over the host the man who is named Gyrgir ; he was kinsman of the queen.

But Harald had been for but a little while in the host when the Værings drew them much to him, and they would fare all together whenso were battles, and it came to this that Harald became captain over all the Værings. He and Gyrgir fared wide about the isles of Greekland, and wrought mighty deeds of war on the corsairs.

CHAPTER IV. OF THE VÆRINGS AND GYRGIR.

ON a time when they had fared over land and were to take night-harbour by certain woods, the Værings came first to the night-stead, and chose for themselves tent-stead where they saw it best and lying highest; for there was the lie of the land in such wise, that it was soft, and as soon as rain cometh, there is but ill abiding-place where the land lieth low. Then came Gyrgir, the captain of the host, and saw where the Værings had pitched their tents; so he bade them go their ways and tent them elsewhere, saying that he will tent him there.

Harald answered thus: "When ye be first-come to a night-abode, then ye take up your night-stead there, and we must then tent us in another stead, such as liketh us. So now do ye likewise; pitch your tents in another place where ye will. I deemed it would be a right of the Værings here within the realm of the King of the Greeks, that they should be masters of their own matter, and be free in all matters before all men, and be bound in service to the king only and the queen." They wrangled

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hereover with high words until both sides donned their weapons, and they were on the very point of coming to blows. Then came thereto the wisest men and sundered them, saying that it was a seemlier thing that they should come to peace on this matter, and settle between them clearly, so that no more there should be need of such strife. So then there was a meeting agreed between them, and manned with the best men and the wisest. And at this meeting they so apered it that all were of one mind as to this, that lots should be borne into skirt, and lots should be drawn between Greeks and Værings, which should ride first or row, or berth them in haven, or choose tent-stead: each side should be content as the lot said.

Sithence were lots made and marked. Then said Harald to Gyrgir: "I will see how thou hast marked thy lot, that we may not both mark our lots in one and the same way." And Gyrgir did so. Sithence Harald marked his lot and cast it into the skirt, and so both of them. But the man who should draw the lots took up one and held it between his fingers, and turned up his hand, and said: "These shall first ride, or row, and berth them in haven, and choose tent-stead." Harald gripped his hand and took the lot and cast it out into the sea, and said: "This was our lot." Gyrgir said: "Why lettedst thou not more men see it?" "See thou now," said Harald, "to the one left; and thou wilt ken there thy mark."

Sithence was that lot scanned, and all knew thereon the mark of Gyrgir. So that was doomed,

that the Værings should have the allotted choices about all that they had been striving over.

More matters still befell whereon they were not at one, but ever they closed so, that Harald had his own way.

CHAPTER V. WARFARE OF HARALD AND GYRGIR.

THEY fared all together in the summer and harried. And whenas all the host was gathered together, Harald let his men be without the battle, or else there whereas the man-risk was least, and gave out that he would be wary of losing his warfolk. But when he was alone with his band, he laid him so fast to the fighting, that one of two things should be, either that he should get the victory or his bane. Often it so fell out, when Harald was captain over the host, that he won the victory whenas Gyrgir won it not. This the warriors found, and said that their matter would fare better, if Harald were sole captain over the host, and they laid blame on the war-duke, and said that nought came of him nor his company. Gyrgir said, that the Værings would give him no aid, and he bade them go elsewhere, and he would go with the rest of the host, and win what they might. Then fared Harald from the host, and with him the Værings and the Latins, but Gyrgir fared with the host of the Greeks. And now it was seen what each might do; Harald ever gained victory and wealth, but the Greeks fared home to Micklegarth, out-taken young lads, such

as were minded to get them wealth. They gathered to Harald, and these now had him for war-duke. So now he went with his host west to Africa, which the Værings call Serkland, and then gained a great strength to his host. In Serkland he won eighty burgs; some were given up, but some he took by might. Then he went to Sicily. So says Thiodolf:

Eight tens of towns thou mayst say
In Serkland then were taken :
Young hater of the worm-place
Gleed-red, himself imperilled ;
Or e'er the host-arrayer,
The risk to Serk-men, wended
'Neath shield to raise hard Hild-play
In Sicily the level.

So saith Illugi, the Bryndalers' skald :

Harald, thou brakest Southlands
With shields 'neath noblest Michael ;
The son of Budli heard we
His sons-in-law bade homeward.

Here it is said that then was Michael King of the Greeks at this time.

Harald tarried for many years west in Africa, and got exceeding much chattels, gold, and all kinds of dear-goods. But all the wealth he got, and did not need to have for his own cost, he sent with trusty men of his north to Holmgarth, to the keeping and warding of King Jarisleif, and there was drawn together exceeding wealth, as was like to be, seeing that he was harrying that deal of the world which was the wealthiest of gold and dear-goods, and so mickle as he did thereat, as has

been soothly said afore, that he will have won to himself eighty burgs.

CHAPTER VI. HARALD WON A BURG IN SICILY.

BUT when Harald came to Sicily he harried there, and laid his host to a certain town, mickle and of much people. He sat down before it, whereas the walls were strong, so that it seemed to him doubtful if he might break them down. The townsfolk had victuals enough, and other havings such as they needed for the defence.

Then he sought this rede, that his fowlers took small fowl which nested in the town, but flew into the woods by day to take their meat. Harald let bind on the back of the fowl shavings of fir-tree, and cast therein wax and brimstone, and let set fire thereto. Flew the fowl, so soon as they were loose, all at once into the town to see to their nestlings and dwellings which they had in the house-thatches, which were thatched of reed or straw ; thus caught the fire from the fowl on to the house-thatches. And though each one bore but a little burden of fire, yet waxed thence speedily mickle fire, since many fowls bare it wide about the town into the thatch ; and thereupon burnt one house after the other until the town was all a-low. Then all the folk came forth out of the town and prayed mercy, even those same who had for many a day before spoken proudly and mockingly to the Greek host and the captain thereof. Harald

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gave quarter to anyone who prayed therefor, and sithence got the town into his power.

CHAPTER VII. HARALD WON ANOTHER BURG.

ANOTHER burg there was whereto Harald made with his host. It was both much peopled and strong, so that there was no hope that they might break it. Fields hard and level lay all about the town. Then let Harald take to digging a dyke from where fell a brook through so deep a ghyll that none might see into it from the town. They flitted the mould into the water, and let the stream bear it away. They were at this work both day and night by shifts of companies. But every day the host fell on the town from without; but the townsmen went out into the battlements, and each shot at the other, but anights they slept both. But when Harald knew that the earth-house was so long that it would be come in under the burg wall, then let he his host weapon them. It was against day that they went into the earth-house, and when they came to the end they dug up over their heads, until stones were in the way set in lime; that was the floor of a stone hall. Then they broke up the floor and went up into the hall. There sat before them a many of the townsmen, eating and drinking, and that was to them the greatest of wolves unwist; for the Værings went up there with drawn swords, and straightway slew some, and othersome fled, such as might bring that about. The Værings sought after them, and

some took the town gates and unlocked them, and thereby went in the whole multitude of the host. But when they came into the burg, then fled the burg-folk; but many prayed peace, and all got that who gave themselves up. In this wise Harald gat the town to him, and therewith exceeding wealth.

CHAPTER VIII. HARALD WON THE THIRD TOWN.

ON the third town they came, which was the most of all these, and the strongest, and the richest of chattels and folk. Round this town there were big ditches; so that they saw that they might not prevail there by the same-like wiles as with the burgs before. They lay there much long, in such wise that they got nought done.

But when the townfolk saw that, they plucked up boldness thereat. They set up their array on the burg walls, and then opened the burg gates and whooped at the Værings, and egged them on, and bade them go into the town, and mocked the hearts of them, and said that they were no better for battle than so many hens.

Harald bade his men go on as if they wotted not what they said. "We do nothing thereto," said he, "though we run to the town. They will bring their weapons on us beneath their feet; and although we get into the town with a certain folk, yet have they might to pen inside as many as they will, and keep the others out, whereas they have

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set watches over all the town gates. Now we shall do them no less mockery, and let them see that we dread them not. Our men shall go forth into the meads as nigh to the town as may be, and yet take heed not to go within shot of them. Our men shall fare all weaponless and make them sports, and let the townsmen see this, that we heed not their array." So then this went on for some days.

CHAPTER IX. OF WOLF AND HALDOR.

OF Iceland men who went there with Harald are named, Haldor, the son of Snorri the Priest, who brought this tale hither to the land; the other was Wolf, son of Uspak, son of Usvif the Wise. Both they were the strongest of men, and all-bold under weapon, and were both of the dearest with Harald. They were both in the sports.

Now when matters had gone this way for some days, the townfolk wished to beard them still more, and went without weapons upon the walls of the town, leaving yet the town gates to stand open. Now when the Værings saw this, they so went to their sports one day, that they had swords under their cloaks and helms under their hats. But when they had been playing for a while, and saw that the townfolk wondered nought, they took their weapons swiftly and ran up to the town gate. And when the townspeople saw that, they went well against them and had all their weapons; and there befell battle in the town gate. The

Værings had no shielding armour, save that they wrapped their mantles round the left arm; so they got wounded, and some fell, and all were hard bestead.

Now Harald with the host that was with him in the camp sought thereto to give help to his men. But by then the townfolk were come up on the town walls, and shot and stoned them, and a hard battle befell there, and it seemed to them who were in the gate that the others went slower to help them than they would. And when Harald came to the gate his banner-bearer fell, and he said: "Haldor, take thou up the banner." Haldor answered and took up the banner-staff, and he spoke unwisely: "Who will bear banner before thee, if thou follow so softly as thou hast done now for a while?" But this was more a word of wrath than of truth, for Harald was the boldest under weapons.

So therewith they sought into the town; there was the battle hard, but such was the end of it, that Harald got the victory and won the town. Haldor was much hurt, and had a mickle wound in the face, and that was a blemish to him all the days of his life.

CHAPTER X. HARALD WON A FOURTH TOWN.

NOW there was a fourth town whereto Harald came with his host, and that was the greatest of all those that are afore-said, and so strong was it, that there was no hope

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that they might break it. So they sat about the town, and beset it in such wise that no goods could be flitted thereinto. But when they had tarried here for a little while, Harald fell sick and lay abed. He let set his land-tent away from the other land-tents, for he deemed it for ease not to hear the noise and din of the host. His men whiles came to and fro him in flocks, asking him for counsel.

That saw the townsmen, that some new thing was toward amongst the Værings, and they sent spies to find out what would be the matter. But when the spies came back to the town, they had the tidings to tell, that the captain of the Værings was sick, and therefore there was no falling on the town.

Now when this had been going on a while, then minished the might of Harald, and then his men grew much mind-sick and downcast; and of all this the townsmen heard.

So it came to this, that the sickness was so heavy on Harald, that his death was told of throughout all the host. Sithence the Værings fared to a talk with the townfolk, and told them of the death of their captain, and prayed that the clerks would give him burial within the town. But when the townfolk heard these tidings, there were many that ruled over cloisters and other big churches in the town; these would each fain have that body to his church, whereas they wotted that there would follow it right mickle wealth. So all the multitude of the clerks arrayed them, and walked out of the town with shrines and holy

relics, and made a right fair procession. But the Værings withal made up a great lyke-faring, and the lyke-chest was borne high, tilted over with pall, and many banners borne thereover. But when this was borne in through the town gate, they let fall the chest right athwart the gate over against the doors thereof; and the Værings blew a war-blast in all their trumpets, and drew their swords, and all the Væring host rushed therewith out of the camp, with all weapons, and ran towards the town with shouts and whooping. But the monks and other clerks who had gone out in this lyke-fare, and strove each with the other, and would be first to go out and to take the offering, were now half as eager again to be as far as might be away from the Værings, for they smote down each one who was nearest to them, whether he were learned or lewd. The Værings went so about all this town that they slew the men-folk, and robbed all churches in the town, and seized there untold-of wealth.

CHAPTER XI. OF HARALD, THE SON OF SIGURD.

HARALD was many winters in this warfare now told of, both in Serkland and in Sicily. Sithence he fared back to Mickle-garth with his host, and tarried there but a little while ere he arrayed his journey out to Jerusalem-world. Then he left behind all the wage-gold from the Greek-king, he and all the Værings withal, who betook them to the journey with him. So it is

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said, that in all these journeys Harald fought eighteen folk-battles. So says Thiodolf:

This wots the folk, that Harald
Hath wrought of brunts of battle
Eighteen all grim : peace often
For this king hath been broken.
Famed king in blood thou reddened'st
Sharp claws of dusky eagle,
Before thou fared'st hither.
Where cam'st thou, wolf gat feasting.

CHAPTER XII. THE JERUSALEM JOURNEY OF HARALD.

HARALD went with his host out to Jerusalem-land, and sithence up to Jerusalem-town; but wheresoever he fared over Jerusalem-land all towns and castles were given up to his wielding. So says Stuf the Skald, who had heard the king himself tell these tidings :

The edge-bold stout-heart farèd
Jerusalem to conquer,
The upper land was friendly
To the Greeks and slaughter-wrecker.
By might enow the land came
Unburned into the handling
Of the hardener of the battle.
—*Let the soul of mighty Harald . . .*

Here it is said that this land came unburnt and unharried into the power of Harald. He then went out to Jordan and bathed him there, as is the way of other palmers. Harald bestowed a great wealth on the Grave of the Lord and the

Holy Cross and other holy relics in Jerusalem-land. Then he made safe the road all out to Jordan, and slew robbers and other harrying folk. So saith Stuf :

The rede and wrath, so word ran,
Of the king of the Agdir-people
Withstood the wiles of men-folk
On either bank of Jordan.
But for true trespass people
Paid ill at the king's hands ; soothly
Into sooth peril gat they—
Abide where well it liketh . . .

Then fared he back to Micklegarth.

CHAPTER XIII. HARALD SET IN PRISON.

WHENAS Harald was come to Micklegarth from Jerusalem-land, he longed to fare back to the North-lands to his heritage ; for he had then heard it that Magnus Olafson, his brother's son, had become King of Norway and of Denmark withal ; so he gave word to leave his service to the King of the Greeks. But when Queen Zoe was ware thereof, she grew full of wrath, and hove up guilts against Harald, and told that he would have misdealt with the Greek-king's wealth which had been gotten in warfare, whenas Harald had been captain over the host.

Now there was a may, young and fair, hight Maria ; she was brother's daughter to Queen Zoe, and that may had Harald wooed, but the queen

had naysaid it. So have said Værings north here, they who have been at wage in Micklegarth, that this tale was had there of men who knew, how that Queen Zoe would herself have Harald to her husband, and that that was the guilt most told against Harald, when he would fare away from Micklegarth, though other matters were upborne before all folk. At that time Constantine Monomachus was King of the Greeks, and ruled the realm along with Queen Zoe. For these causes the King of the Greeks let lay hand on Harald, and do him into prison.

CHAPTER XIV. HARALD CAME OUT OF PRISON.

BUT when Harald came hard on the prison, then showed himself to him the holy King Olaf, and said that he would help him. And there in the street was sithence made a chapel and hallowed to King Olaf, and there has that chapel stood sithence. The prison was made this way, that there is a tower, high, and open at the top, and a door from the street to go thereinto. Therein was Harald cast, and with him Haldor and Wolf. The next night thereafter came a rich woman to the top of the prison, and had got up by certain ladders, she and her two servant-men. They let sink down a rope into the prison, and hauled them up. To this woman the holy Olaf had done boot erewhile, and had now shown himself to her in a vision to the end that she should loose his brother out of prison. Forthwith Harald fared to the

Værings, and they all stood up to meet him and greeted him well. Sithence all the whole host weaponed them, and went to where the king slept; they lay hands on the king and sting out both his eyes; so says Thorarin Skeggison the Skald in his drapa :

The fierce king gained the hand-gleeds,
But the throned King of Greekland
Went with a hurt most grievous,
And stone-blind was he thenceforth.

So says Thiodolf the Skald :

The waster of wolves' sorrow
Let sting out both the eyen
Of the throne-king; then and there was
Beginning of the stir-days.
The Agdir-folks' all-wielder
In the East a mark full grisly
Laid on the valiant kaiser;
Ill way the Greek-king farèd.

In these two drapas on Harald, and in many other songs on him it is told that Harald himself blinded the Greek-king; a duke or a count or other noble man might be named hereto, if they wotted that that were truer; but Harald himself brought this story, and those other men who were there with him.

CHAPTER XV. THE FARING OF HARALD FROM MICKLEGARTH.

THAT same night Harald and his went to the chambers wherein Maria lay asleep, and took her away by might. Then they went to the galleys of the Værings and took two

galleys, and rowed sithence into Seawoodsound. But when they came there whereas the iron chains lay right athwart the sound, then spake Harald, and bade men fall to the oars on either galley, but those who did not row should all run aft in the galley, and each should have in his arms his baggage-bag. So ran the galleys up on to the chains. But so soon as they were fast, and lost way, then bade he all men run forward. Then that galley whereon was Harald plunged forward and leapt off the chain, a-riding it, but the other brake as it rode the chain, and many men were lost, but some were saved swimming. Thereby Harald gat him out of Micklegarth, and so into the Black Sea. But before he sailed away from the land, he set the young maid ashore, and gave her a good following back to Micklegarth, and bade her tell Zoe, her kinswoman, how much might she had over Harald, or how much the queen's might had withstood it, that he should get the maiden.

Then sailed Harald north into Ellipalta, and fared thence all over the East-realm. In these journeys Harald wrought certain merry verses; there are sixteen of them altogether, and one ending to all. This is one :

Past Sicily the hull swept
Wide out; there the swift poop's-hart
'Neath lads glode well, as like was;
And O! but we were proud then.
Yet wot I that but little
Shall laggard there bestir him;
Yet still the Gerd of gold-ring
In Garths lets scorn upon me.

This he pointed to Ellisif, daughter of Jarisleif, King in Holmgarth.

CHAPTER XVI. HARALD CAME TO HOLMGARTH.

BUT when Harald came to Holmgarth, King Jarisleif gave him a wondrous good welcome, and there he tarried the winter over, and took into his own keeping all the gold which he had sent afore thither from Micklegarth, and manykinds of dear-goods. That was so mickle wealth, that no man in northern lands had seen such in one man's owning. Harald had three times come into palace-spoil while he was in Micklegarth. For that is law, that whenever the King of the Greeks dies the Værings shall have palace-spoil ; they shall then go over all the king's palaces where are his wealth hoards, and there each one shall freely have for his own whatso he may lay hands on.

CHAPTER XVII. HARALD GOT THE DAUGHTER OF KING JARISLEIF.

THAT winter King Jarisleif gave unto Harald to wife his daughter, hight Elizabeth, whom the Northmen call Ellisif. This witnesseth Stuf the Blind :

All-wielder of folk of Agdir,
The battle bounteous, gat him
His wished mate ; took the men's friend
Gold plenty and king's daughter.

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But towards spring he arrayed his journey out of Holmgarth, and fared that spring to Aldeigia-burg, and got him ships there, and sailed away from the east in the summer ; he turned first unto Sweden and hove into Sigtun. So saith Valgard of the Mead :

Thou shooted'st out ship, Harald,
'Neath fairest freight ; thou flitted'st
Gold bottomless from Eastlands,
From Garths ; fame give men to thee.
Aye-doughty king, thou steered'st
Sharp through the hard storm onward,
But the ships bowed ; there thou sawest
Sigtun when lulled the sea-drift.

CHAPTER XVIII. MEETING OF KING HARALD AND SVEIN WOLFSON.

THERE found Harald Svein Wolfson that autumn ; he had fled away from King Magnus at Holy-ness. But when they met, each greeted the other well. Olaf the Swede, King of Sweden, was mother's father to Ellisif, the wife of Harald ; but Astrid, the mother of Svein, was sister to King Olaf. There made Harald and Svein fellowship together, and bound it with privy covenant. All Swedes were friends of Svein, whereas he had his mightiest kindred in that land. And then became all Swedes friends of Harald withal, and his helpful men, and many mighty men there were knit to him by affinity. So says Thiodolf :

Oak-keel cut heavy waters
From Garths all out of Eastlands,

Brisk land-ruler! All Swede-folk
 Sithence were standing by thee.
 Mad storm fell on the lord-king,
 The ship of Harald reeling
 On swollen lee-board sped under
 Broad sail with gold a-mickle.

CHAPTER XIX. THE WARFARE OF KING HARALD.

SITHENCE they betook them on board ship,
 Harald and Svein, and speedily a great
 host drew to them, and when that host was
 arrayed, they sailed from the east to Denmark.
 So saith Valgard:

Sithence, O fight-blithe Yngvi,
 The oak tossed underneath thee
 In the sea all out from Sweden:
 Right heritage was doomed thee.
 Rib-hound around flat Skaney
 Was borne, when ran ye straightway
 Before the wind; the ships scared
 The maids nigh sib to Danemen.

They first hove into Sealand, and harried there
 and burnt wide about. Then they held over to
 Fion, and went aland there and harried. So says
 Valgard:

Harald, thou didst do harry
 All Selund. King, thou thrustest
 Thy foes aback; the wolf ran
 Swift to go see the slaughtered.
 The many-manned king wended
 Up on to Fion, and gat there
 For helms no little labour;
 The sheared shield brake full greatly.

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Bright fire burned in the town there
Of Roskild in the South-land ;
The nimble king there let he
Smoke-belcher fell down houses.
Enough of landsmen lay low ;
Belied the fetters freedom
To some ; the households woeful
To the woods all silent dragged them

The folk ill-sundered tarried ;
For the Danes that lived thereafter
Away they drifted thenceforth,
But caught were the fair women.
Lock held the woman's body ;
Before thee many a woman
Went to the ships : the fetters
The bright skin bit full fiercely.

CHAPTER XX. KING MAGNUS CALLED OUT A MUSTER.

KING MAGNUS OLAFSON went in the autumn north into Norway after the fight at Holy-ness. Then heard he the tidings that Harald Sigurdson his kinsman had come to Sweden, and this moreover, that he and Svein Wolfson had made fellowship between them, and had out a great host, and were minded to lay under them the Dane-realm, and sithence Norway. King Magnus bade a war-muster out from Norway, and speedily a great host drew to him. Then heard he that Harald and Svein were come to Denmark, and were burning and bringing to bale-fire all things, and that the landsmen went under them widely there. And that was said withal, that Harald was greater than other men and stronger,

and so wise that nothing was beyond his doing, and that ever he had the victory when he fought; so wealthy withal in gold, that nought like it was known. So says Thiodolf:

Now unto stems of sea's hawk
 To hope good peace is risky.
 Of mickle fear the folk wot;
 Ships off the land there hath he.
 Will hold fight-bounteous Magnus
 From northward steeds of rollers,
 But noble Harald dighteth
 From southward other wave-nags.

CHAPTER XXI. THE SEEKING OF PEACE BETWIXT KING MAGNUS AND HARALD.

THE men of King Magnus, they who were of his counsel, say that it bethinketh them as to how matters have come into a strait place, if these two kinsmen, Magnus and Harald, shall bear bane-spear each after other; so many men offer them hereto to fare and seek after peace betwixt them. So from thus talking over the thing, the king assented thereto. Then were men gotten to man a swift cutter, and they fared at their swiftest south to Denmark; there they gat to them Danish men, such as were full-come friends of King Magnus, to bear this errand to Harald. This business was much privy.

But when Harald heard it said, that King Magnus his kinsman would bid him peace and fellowship, and that he should have one half of Norway against King Magnus, and each against

the other half of their loose wealth, Harald yeasaid that bidding. And thus done these privy matters went back to King Magnus.

CHAPTER XXII. SUNDERING OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF KING SVEIN AND HARALD.

ALITTLE later it was, that Harald and Svein spake on an evening over the drink, and Svein asked what precious things Harald had, whereby he set the greatest store. He answered that it was his banner, Landwaster. Then asked Svein what went with the banner that it was so mickle dear a thing. Harald said it was told of it, that he would have the victory before whom the banner was borne, and said that even so had it betided sithence he had got that. Svein answered: "Then shall I believe that this nature goes with the banner, if thou have three battles with King Magnus thy kinsman, and have the victory in each." Then answered Harald in surly wise: "I know the kinship between me and King Magnus, though thou mind me not thereof; and for all we may fare against each other with war-shield aloft, that is nought against another fashion of our meeting being seemlier." Then Svein changed colour, and said: "This will some folk be saying, Harald, that thou hast so done before, as to hold to that only of thy covenants as seemed to thee would drag thine own case most forward." Harald answers: "Less cases wilt thou know of my not having held my

covenants, than I ween King Magnus will cry that he knoweth of thy not having held with him." And therewithal each went his way.

In the evening, when Harald went to sleep in the poop of his ship, he spake to his shoe-swain: "Now will I not lie in the bed to-night; whereas my mind misgives me that all will not be guileless. I found this evening that Svein my uncle-in-law was much wroth with my plain speech; so thou shalt hold ward thereof, if here be to-night aught of tidings."

Then went Harald into another place to sleep, but laid in his bed there a tree-stub. But in the night a boat rowed up to the poop; and a man went up aboard there, and lifted the tilt of the poop, and sithence went up inside it, and hewed into the bed of Harald with a mickle axe, so that it stood fast in the tree. The man leapt forthwith out into the boat, but pit-mirk it was, and he rowed straight away; but the axe which stood fast in the tree was left behind for a token. Then Harald waked his men, and let them know into what treachery they were come: "We may see," said he, "that we have here no help in Svein, so soon as he casts himself into treason against us; so will that be the best choice, to seek to get away hence while choice there is. Let us loose our ships and row away by stealth."

So do they, and row that night north along the land; and they fare day and night, until they met King Magnus thereas he lay with his host. Then went Harald to meet King Magnus his kinsman,

and a welcome meeting that was, even as Thiodolf says :

O wide-famed king, thou lettest
 Plough waters with thin shipboard ;
 Clave dear ships flood in Denmark,
 There where from east thou fared'st.
 The son of Olaf bade thee
 Half land, half thanes against him
 Sithence ; there met methinketh
 The kinsmen fain exceeding.

Thereupon the kinsmen talked matters over between themselves, and all that fared in peace-yearning wise.

CHAPTER XXIII. KING MAGNUS GAVE TO HARALD HALF THE REALM.

KING MAGNUS lay by the land, and had his land-tilt ashore. Bade he to board his kinsman Harald, and Harald went to the feast with sixty men, and right brave was that banquet. But as the day wore, King Magnus went into the tent where Harald sat, and with him went men bearing burdens, and that was weapons and raiment. Then the king went up to the outermost man and gave to him a good sword, and to the next a shield, then clothes, or weapons, or gold ; to them greater who were the nobler.

Sithence he came up before Harald his kinsman, and had in his hand two reed-wands, and said : "Which of these wands wilt thou take ?" Answered Harald : "The one that is nearest me."

Then spake King Magnus : " With this reed-shoot I give thee half Norway-realm, with all dues and scat and all the dominion thereto appertaining ; with these terms, moreover, that thou shalt be king in every place in Norway as rightfully as I be. But when we are all together, I shall be the first man hailed and served and seated ; whereas there be three men of dignity together, I shall sit betwixt them ; I shall have king's berth and king's bridge. Thou shalt steadfast and strengthen our power in this stead, that we have made thee such a man in Norway as we had thought none should ever be, whiles our head was still up above the mould."

Then stood Harald up and thanked him well for this honour and glory. And so both sat down and were right merry. That day in the evening went Harald and his men to their ships.

CHAPTER XXIV. KING HARALD GAVE PRECIOUS GIFTS TO KING MAGNUS.

THE next morning King Magnus let blow all his host to a Thing ; and when the Thing was set, King Magnus made known to all men the gift he had given to King Harald his kinsman. Thorir of Steig gave the king's name to Harald there at the Thing.

That day King Harald bade King Magnus to his board, and he went that day with sixty men to the land-tent of King Harald, whereas he had arrayed a banquet. There were then both the kings amongst the gathered guests, and fair was

the feast, and the entertainment most brave, and the kings were merry and glad.

But as the day wore, then let Harald the king bear a right many bags into the tent ; therewith also men bore in clothes and weapons and other kinds of precious things, and this wealth he shared, and gave and dealt amongst King Magnus' men who were then at the feast. Then he let unloose the bags, and spake to King Magnus : " Ye gave us yesterday mickle dominion which ye had won from your unfriends and ours ; but ye took us into fellowship with you. This was well done, for ye have laboured much thereto. So is it, on the other hand, that we have been a dweller in outlands, and yet have we been in certain man-perils ere I might bring together this gold, which ye may now see. This will I lay down to the fellowship with you, for we shall own all chattels with equal hands, even as we each own half the realm of Norway. I wot that our mind-shapes are unlike ; whereas thou art a much more bountiful man than I am. Now this money we shall share between us equally, and then each may deal with his share as he will."

Then Harald let spread abroad a big neat's hide, and let pour thereon the gold from the bags ; then were scales gotten and weights, and the money was parted asunder, and shared all by weight ; and all who saw it thought it a mickle wonder that in the North-lands so much gold should be come together in one place. But, indeed, this was the havings and wealth of the King of the Greeks, where, as all men say, houses are full of red gold.

Now were the kings all-merry. Thereupon there came forth a certain stoup that was as big as a man's head. King Harald took up the stoup, and said: "Where is now that gold, kinsman Magnus, that thou wouldst bring out to match this knop-head?"

Then answered King Magnus: "So have un-peace and great hostings betid, that well-nigh all gold and silver hath gone which was in my ward; and now there is no more gold in my having save this ring," and he took the ring, and handed it to Harald. He looked at it, and said: "This is little of gold, kinsman, for a king of two kingdoms; and yet there may be some who misdoubt it whether thou rightly own this ring."

Then answered King Magnus, heavy of heart: "If I own not this ring aright, then wot I not what I have rightfully come by, for King Olaf the Holy, my father, gave me that ring at the last parting."

Then King Harald answered, laughing: "Thou sayest sooth, King Magnus, thy father gave thee the ring; but he took it from my father for no great guilt; and, forsooth, it was no good times for small kings in Norway when thy father was at his mightiest."

King Harald gave to Steig-Thorir at this feast a mazer girt with silver, and therewith a silver bowl, either gilt, and full up with sheer silver pennies; there went with it two gold rings, and they weighed together a mark; he gave him withal his own cloak of brown purple, lined with white skins, and behight him mickle honour and his friendship

withal. Thorgils, the son of Snorri, so said that he saw the altar-cloth which was made of this cloak; but Gudrid, the daughter of Guthorm Thorirson, said that Guthorm her father owned the mazer-bowl, so that she saw it. So saith Bolverk:

O foe of gold, the green ground
 Became thine own, so heard I,
 Sithence thou meeted'st Magnus,
 And gold to him thou badest.
 The peace 'twixt you two kinsmen
 All peacefully endured;
 But Svein, he looked out only
 Sithence for wave of battle.

CHAPTER XXV. OF KING MAGNUS AND KING HARALD.

KING MAGNUS and King Harald ruled both over Norway the next winter after their appeasement, and each had his own court. In the winter they fared about the Uplands a-feasting, and were whiles both together, and whiles each by himself. They fared right away north to Thrandheim and to Nidoyce. King Magnus had guarded the holy relic of King Olaf sithence he came into the land, and clipped his hair and nails every twelve months, and had himself the key wherewith the shrine might be unlocked. At that time manifold tokens befell at the holy relic of King Olaf.

Soon befell flaws in the concord of the kings, and there were many so evil-minded that they went in an ill wise between them.

CHAPTER XXVI. KING SVEIN FARED TO DENMARK.

SVEIN WOLFSON lay behind asleep whenas Harald fared away ; sithence Svein made speerings about the farings of Harald. And when he heard that Harald and Magnus had made peace between them, and that now they had both one host, he held his company east about Skaney-side, and tarried there until he heard in the winter that King Magnus and King Harald had held their host north to Norway. Thereupon Svein held his company south to Denmark, and that winter he took all the king's dues there to himself.

CHAPTER XXVII. KING HARALD WRANGLLED ABOUT KING'S BERTH.

BUT when it was spring King Magnus and King Harald bade out an host from Norway. And on a time it befell that King Magnus and King Harald lay one night both in one haven. But the next day King Harald was the first boun ; and he sailed forthwith. But in the evening he hove into the haven whereas he and King Magnus were minded to be that night. King Harald laid his ship in the king's berth, and there tented him. King Magnus sailed later in the day, and he and his came in such time into harbour, as that Harald and his men had already tented them ; and saw that Harald had berthed his ship in the king's berth, and meant to lie there.

But when King Magnus and his had struck sail, then spake King Magnus: "Let men now graithe them to rowing, and sit down end-long the boards; but some undo their weapons, and don them; and if they will not put off, then shall we fight."

But when King Harald sees that King Magnus is minded to give them battle, he said to his men: "Hew ye the hawsers, and let us shove the ships out of berth; wroth now is kinsman Magnus." So did they, that they laid the ships out of the berth, and King Magnus laid his own thereinto. When both had dighted them, King Harald went with certain men on to the ship of King Magnus. The king greeted him well, and bade him welcome. Then answered King Harald: "That deemed I, that we were come amidst friends, but somewhat I misdoubted me a while, whether ye would so let it be; but sooth is as is said, 'bairns mind swift burneth,' wherefore I will account this no otherwise than as a child's deed."

Answered King Magnus: "It was kin-deed, not a child's deed, though I should bear in mind what I gave and what I had kept back. If this little matter were now done in our despite, then would soon be another; but we will hold altogether to our covenant such as it was done, and that same will we have from you, even as due we have."

Then King Harald answered: "It is an old custom, that the wisest gives way;" and therewith he went back to his ship.

In suchlike dealings between the kings it was found that hard it was to heed matters. King

Magnus' men told that he was in the right, and they that were unwise told that Harald had been somewhat shamed. But King Harald's men said that nought otherwise was the agreement than that King Magnus should have the berth if they both came in at one and the same time, but that Harald was not bound to out-berth him if he were berthed already; and they would have it that King Harald had done wisely and well. But they, who would make it worser, told that King Magnus willed to break the covenant, and would have it that he had done wrong and dishonour to King Harald. From these quarrels there soon wrought such talk of unwise men, to such a point that there was dissension between the kings; and many things were found hereto concerning which the kings thought each his own way, though here be but few such written.

CHAPTER XXVIII. DEATH OF KING MAGNUS THE GOOD.

THIS host King Magnus and King Harald held south to Denmark; and when Svein heard thereof he fled away east to Skaney. The kings, Magnus and Harald, dwelt a long while that summer in Denmark, and laid all the land under them. In the autumn they were in Jutland.

It befell on a night, whenas King Magnus lay in his bed, that he dreamed, and thought he was in stead whereas was his father, the holy King Olaf; and he thought he spake to him: "What

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wilt thou choose now, my son, to fare with me, or to be of all kings the mightiest, and live long, and do such an ill deed as thou mayest boot scarcely, or not at all?"

He thought he answered: "I will that thou choose for my hand." Then he thought the king answered: "Then shalt thou fare with me."

King Magnus told this dream to his men. But a little later he gat sick, and lay abed at a place called Southrop. And when he was come anigh to his bane, he sent Thorir his brother to Svein Wolfson, to bid him that he should give such help to Thorir as he might need; that went with the message, that King Magnus gave to Svein the Dane-realm after his day. He said that it was meet that Harald should rule over Norway and Svein over Denmark.

Then died King Magnus the Good, and was right much mourned of all the folk. So saith Odd Kikina-skald:

Much tears dropped men a-bearing
To grave the king full bounteous;
To them was the burden heavy
Whom with the gold he gifted:
So wavered hearts, that the house-carles
Of the king their tears held hardly;
Soothly the king's own people
Sithence is often downcast.

CHAPTER XXIX. THE LYKE-FARE OF KING MAGNUS TO NORWAY.

AFTER these tidings had King Harald a Thing with his host, and told men his mind, to wit, that he was minded to take the host to the Thing of Vebiorg, and let take him there to king over the Dane-realm, and sithence win the land, and tells it as his heritage from his kinsman King Magnus, no less than the realm of Norway. He bids the host to strengthen him, and gives it out that then would the Northmen be masters of the Danes throughout all time.

Then answered Einar Thambarskelfir, and let folk know that he was more bound to flit to grave the dead body of King Magnus his fosterson, and to bring him to his father King Olaf, than to be fighting in the outland, or to be coveting another king's realm and havings. So ended his speaking, that he deemed it better to follow King Magnus dead than any other king alive. Then he let take the body and lay it out stately, so that they might see the arrayal on board the king's ship. Then all the Thrand-folk and Northmen got them ready to go home with the body of King Magnus, and thus the war-host broke up. Then King Harald saw this to be his best choice, to fare back to Norway and make that realm his own first, and thence to gather strength of host. And so King Harald fared now with all the host back to Norway. But when he was back in Norway he had a Thing with the folk of the land, and let take him to king over all the land. So fared he from

the east out of the Wick that he was taken for king by every folkland in Norway.

Einar Thambarskelfir fared with the body of King Magnus, and with him all the host of the Thrand-folk, and brought it to Nidoyce, and he was laid in earth at Clement's Church, where then was the shrine of King Olaf the Holy.

King Magnus had been a man of middle growth, straight-faced and bright-faced, and bright of hair; deft of speech, swift of counsel, masterful of heart; the most bounteous of money, a great warrior, and the boldest under weapons; of all kings he was the most beloved; him praised both friends and foes.

CHAPTER XXX. OF KING SVEIN WOLFSON.

THAT autumn King Svein Wolfson was staying east in Skaney, and set out on a journey to Sweden, and was minded to give up that title of honour which he had taken to him in Denmark. But when he was come up to his horse, lo, there rode thereto certain men, and told him the tidings; first, that King Magnus Olafson was dead, and next, that all the host of the Northmen was gone from Denmark. Svein answered swift thereto, and said: "I take God to witness that never henceforth shall I flee the Dane-realm whiles I am alive." Then he leapt on his horse, and rode south into Skaney, and straightway much folk drifted to him; and this winter he laid under him all the Dane-realm and

all Danes took him to king. Thorir, the brother of King Magnus, came in the autumn to King Svein with the word-sendings of King Magnus, as is written afore, and Svein gave him a good welcome, and Thorir was long sithence with him in good cheer.

CHAPTER XXXI. HARALD SOLE KING.

KING HARALD SIGURDSON took kingdom over all Norway after the death of King Magnus Olafson. And when he had ruled over Norway one winter, as it wore towards spring, he bade out a war-gathering from all the land, one half of the all-men host in men and ships, and made south for Jutland. He harried in the summer far and wide and burned, and hove into Godnfirch. Then Harald wrought this :

While yet the oak of linen
The man of her's caresseth,
Hold we, O Gerd of song-spell,
In Godnafirch our anchors.

Then he spoke to Skald Thiodolf and bade him do the rest, and he sang :

One spaedom do I tell now :
With fluke cold-neb next summer
Shall hold the ship more southward ;
For the hook the deep yet eke we.

To this Bolverk points in his drapa, that Harald

went to Denmark the next year after the death of King Magnus :

The next year didst thou dight thee
 From out the land a war-host ;
 Sea with bright brine-steed shear'd'st thou ;
 O'er fair ships went the water.
 Dear hull on darksome billow
 Was lying. Then the Dane-folk
 Was hard bestead. All folk saw
 Off land the war-ships laden.

CHAPTER XXXII. OF THE DAUGHTERS
 OF THORKEL GUSHER.

THEN burnt they the homestead of Thorkel Gusher. He was a great chief, but his daughters were led bound aboard ship. They had wrought much mockery the winter before about that, that King Harald would fare to Denmark with war-ships. They cut an anchor out of cheese, and said that such would well hold the ships of Norway's king. Then was sung this :

The maids of the Danes of isle-ring
 From out the cheese all-sour,
 The rings of anchors sheared,
 That thing the king did anger.
 Now seeth many a maiden
 A full-stout crook of iron
 Holding the king's ships : thereof
 To-morn shall few be laughing.

It is told that the spy who had seen the fleet of King Harald spake thus to the daughters of Thorkel Gusher : " This said ye, Gusher's daughters, that King Harald would not come to Denmark."

Answered Dotta : " That was yesterday." Thorkel ransomed his daughters with an exceeding deal of wealth. So says Grani :

The proud Hlokk of the drifting
Of Kraki, never let she
Her eyelids dry, a-wending
Out in the full thick Hornshaw.
Drave flight the lord of Fialir
Of the king's foes to the strand there ;
All swiftly Dotta's father
Must pay the wealth out therefor.

King Harald harried all through this summer in the Dane-realm, and gat him an exceeding deal of wealth ; but he was not inlanded that summer in Denmark, but went back in the autumn to Norway, and was there through the winter.

CHAPTER XXXIII. OF THE BAIRNS OF KING HARALD.

KING HARALD gat to wife Thora, the daughter of Thorberg Arnison, the winter next after the death of King Magnus the Good. They had two sons, the older hight Magnus, and the second Olaf. King Harald and Queen Ellisif had two daughters, one hight Mary, the other Ingigerd.

But the next spring after this warfare, of which the tale has just been told, King Harald bade out an host, and went in the summer to Denmark and harried, and sithence summer after summer. So saith Stuf the Skald :

We heard of, wasted was Falster,
 And mickle fear the folk gat.
 There full fed was the raven ;
 Each year the Danes were frighted.

CHAPTER XXXIV. HEATHBY BURNED.

KING SVEIN ruled over all Dane-realm
 sithence that King Magnus died. In
 winter he sat in quiet, but in summer he
 was abroad with all his common war-host, and be-
 hight to fare north into Norway with the host of
 the Danes, and to do there no less evil than King
 Harald did in the Dane-realm. King Svein
 offered this winter to King Harald that they
 should meet the next summer in the Elf, and there
 fight it out between them or else come to peace.
 And both of them were busy all the winter through
 arraying their ships, and the next summer both
 had out one half of their common war-host.

That summer came abroad from Iceland Thor-
 leik the Fair, and took to working a flock about
 King Svein Wolfson. He heard so soon as he
 came north into Norway, that King Harald was
 gone south to the Elf to meet King Svein. Then
 sang Thorleik this :

Hope is now that the war-host
 Of Up-Thrandfolk may swiftly
 Hap on the king war-cunning
 On Rakni's road in point-stour.
 There then may God yet wield it,
 Which taketh land or life-breath
 From other. Svein thinks little
 Of peace the seldom-lasting.

And he sang this withal :

Wroth Harald, he who often
 Hath red shield off the land reared,
 Now the broad board-beasts bringeth
 From north on paths of Budli.
 But the gold-mouthed, fair-dighted
 Mast-gleaming deer that Svein hath,
 E'en he the spears that reddeneth,
 Seek o'er the seas from southward.

King Harald came with his host to the tryst appointed, and heard that King Svein lay south by Sealand with his fleet. So King Harald parted his host, and let the more part of the bonder-host fare back, but fared with his body-guard and landed-men, and the chosen of the host, and all that of the bonder-host which was nighest to the Danes. They fared south to Jutland south of Vendil-skagi, and so south about Thioda, and there fared everywhere with war-shield. So says Stuf the Skald :

Fled Thioda-folk from meeting
 The king ; straightway the soul-proud
 High heart great things areded.—
O'er lands with Christ for ever.

They went all the way south to Heathby, took the merchant-town and burned it. Then King Harald's men wrought this :

All Heathby in the fury
 From end to end was burned up ;
 That may be called methinketh
 A doughty deed of valour.
 Like that for Svein we win harm.
 Last night before the dawning
 Upon the town wall stood I—
 Flame gushed from out the houses.

Of this Thorleik also telleth in his flock, when he had heard that no battle had befallen in the Elf:

Fight-Ragnir, he who wots not,
May ask of the king's war-folk,
How 'twas that the king the wrath-fain
To Heathby him hath gotten ;
When Harald sped the wind-skates
From eastward to the king's town
But needless early. Soothly
Ne'er should it have betided !

CHAPTER XXXV. THE FLIGHT-FARE
OF KING HARALD BY THE JUTLAND
SEA.

THEN King Harald went north, having sixty ships, and the most big and much laden with plunder, which they had taken in the summer. But when they came north off Thioda, King Svein came down from the land with a mickle host, and bade King Harald to fight and come aland. King Harald had an host less by more than one half ; so he bade King Svein to fight with him a-shipboard. So says Thorleik the Fair :

Svein, even he who born was
At the best of tides of Mid-garth,
Bade to the folk the mighty
On land the shields to redden.
But Harald, shy of failing,
Quoth he would fight the rather
On wind-hawk, if swift-redy
The king his land would hold to.

After this King Harald sailed north about Vendil-skagi ; but then the wind baffled them, so

they laid their ships under Leeseey, and there they lay over-night. Then came on a mist lying on the sea; but when it was morning and the sun ran up, they saw out to sea as if certain fires were burning. So this was told to King Harald, and he looked, and spake forthwith: "Strike the tilts of the ships, and let men fall to the oars. The Dane-host now is come upon us, and the mist will have cleared whereas they are, and the sun be shining on their dragon-heads, such as are overlaid with gold."

And even so it was as he said, for there was come King Svein with an host not to be fought against. Rowed then either of them as they most might. The Danes had ships speedier under oars, but the ships of the Northmen were both water-logged and much deep, so that it drew together much betwixt them.

Then saw King Harald that things would not do as matters stood. The drake of King Harald fared last of all his ships. Then spake King Harald to throw overboard rafts, and let come on them clothes and precious things. So much was the calm, that these things drifted with the tide-stream. But when the Danes saw their own wealth drift on the main, they turned off after it who fared ahead, for they thought it easier to take that which floated loose than to have to fetch it from on board the Northmen. Hereby was the chase tarried.

But when King Svein came after them with his ships, he egged them, and quoth that were a mickle shame, having so great an host as they had,

if they should not get them taken, and have all power over them, seeing that they had but a little company. Took the Danes then to harden the rowing again. But when King Harald saw that the ships of the Danes went faster, he bade his men lighten the ships, and throw overboard malt and wheat and swine-flesh, and hew down their drink, and thus they stood a while. Then let King Harald take war-hurdles, casks, and tuns that were toom, and cast them overboard, and therewith the war-taken men. And when that was drifted together on the sea, then King Svein bade save the men, and so it was done. In that dwelling it drew asunder between them. Then the Danes turned back and the Northmen went their way. So saith Thorleik the Fair :

I heard it all, how King Svein
 On ship-path chased the Eastmen,
 But the other king swift-minded
 Therefrom away he held him.
 All gettings of the Thrands' king
 On the Jutland main storm-swollen
 Now needs must they be floating.
 More ships withal they lost there.

King Svein turned the fleet back under Leeseey, and there came upon seven ships of the Northmen; that host was of the war-muster, and bonders only. And when King Svein came upon them, they prayed for peace and bade money for themselves. So says Thorleik the Fair :

The king's friends the stout-hearted
 Bade much to the lord of men there
 Of ransom, they the lesser
 Of folk set battle sleeping.

The bonders, the keen-redy,
Thereat they stayed the onset
When words befell : to the men's sons
No chaffer was the life-breath.

CHAPTER XXXVI. OF KING HARALD SIGURDSON.

KING HARALD was a man masterful and given to rule in his own land ; much sage of wit, so that it is all men's talk that no lord ever was in northern lands so deep-witted as was Harald, or so nimble of rede. He was a mickle warrior and the boldest under weapons ; he was strong, and defter of weapons than any other man, even as is writ afore. And yet is mickle more of his doughty deeds unwritten, which comes of our lack of lore ; and again, that we will not bring to book stories without witness. Though we have heard speeches or heard tell of other things, we deem it better, that from henceforth matters be added, than that it should be found needful to take those same things out. A mickle tale of King Harald is set forth in those songs which Iceland-men brought to himself or to his sons, for which sake he was their mickle friend. He was also the greatest friend to all the folk of this land ; and whenas there was a mickle dearth in Iceland, King Harald gave leave to four ships to carry meal to Iceland, ordering that no ship-pound should be dearer than one hundred of wadmal ; he gave leave to fare abroad to all poor folk who could get them victuals across the sea ; and thence this land came through for that year, and bettered.

King Harald sent out hither a bell to the church to which Olaf the Holy had sent the wood, and which was reared at the Althing. Such memories have men here of King Harald, and many other great gifts which he granted to those who sought to him.

CHAPTER XXXVII. OF HALDOR SNORRISON.

HALDOR, the son of Snorri, and Wolf, the son of Uspak, of whom the tale hath been told afore, came to Norway with King Harald. In many ways they two were unlike. Haldor was the most of men, and the strongest and fairest. This witness bore King Harald to him, that he had been the one, of the men that were with him, who was least startled at sudden haps, whether that were man-peril or tidings of joy, or whatso of peril might come to hand ; then was he no gladder thereby nor ungladder ; neither slept he more nor less, nor drank nor ate other than his wont was therein. Haldor was a man few-spoken, stubborn of word, bare-spoken, rough-tempered and unmeek ; and that fell ill with the king, whereas he had with him enough of other men noble and serviceful. Haldor tarried with King Harald for but a little while, and went to Iceland, and set up a house at Herdholt, where he dwelt till eld, and became an old man.

CHAPTER XXXVIII. OF WOLF USPAK-SON.

WOLF, the son of Uspak, was with King Harald in mickle love; he was the wisest of men, deft of speech, of mickle valiance, faithful and single-hearted. King Harald made Wolf his marshal, and gave him Jorunn, the daughter of Thorberg, the sister of Thora, whom Harald had to wife. The children of Wolf and Jorunn were these: Joan the Strong of Rasmead, and Brigida, the mother of Sheep-Wolf, the father of Peter Burden-Swain, the father of Wolf-Fly and Sigrid. The son of Joan the Strong was Erlend Homebred, the father of Archbishop Eystein and his brethren. King Harald gave to Wolf the Marshal the landed-man's right, and a grant of twelve marks and half a folkland in Thrandheim to boot. So says Stein, the son of Herdis, in Wolf's Flock.

CHAPTER XXXIX. OF KING MAGNUS.

KING MAGNUS, son of Olaf, let build Olaf's Church in Cheaping; in which place the body of King Olaf had been waked nightlong; that place was then over above the town. There, too, he let raise the king's garth. The church was not all done before the king died, but King Harald let that be fulfilled which fell short. He also let begin to build a stone-hall there in the garth, but it was not full done before he died. King Harald let rear from

its foundations Mary's Church upon the Mel, nigh where the holy body of the king had lain in earth the first winter after his fall. That was a great minster, and wrought strongly of lime, so that it might scarce be got broken when Archbishop Eysteinn let take it down. The holy relic of King Olaf was warded in Olaf's Church while Mary's Church was a-doing. King Harald let house the king's-garth down below Mary's Church by the river where it is now ; and where he had let build the hall, he let hallow a house for Gregory's Church.

CHAPTER XL. THE BEGINNINGS OF HAKON THE WHITE, SON OF IVAR.

THERE was a certain man, Ivar by name, who was a landed-man of noble birth ; he had house in the Uplands and was daughter's son to Hakon the Mighty. Ivar was of all men the fairest to behold. A son of Ivar was hight Hakon ; of him it is so said, that he was above all men, who were at that time in Norway, as to prowess, strength, and pith. Already in his young age he was on warfare, and therein gathered to him much renown. And so Hakon became the worthiest of men.

CHAPTER XLI. OF EINAR THAMBAR-SKELFIR.

EINAR THAMBARSKELFIR was the mightiest of landed-men in Thrandheim. But between him and King Harald there was somewhat few dealing; yet had Einar the grants which he had had while King Magnus was alive. Einar was mighty wealthy. He had to wife Bergliot, the daughter of Earl Hakon, as is afore-writ. Eindridi, their son, was a full-grown man by this time, and had then to wife Sigrid, the daughter of Ketil Kalf and Gunnhild, sister's daughter of King Harald. Eindridi had the fairness and goodness of his mother's kindred, Earl Hakon or his sons; but the growth and strength he had of his father Einar, and had all the prowess which Einar had beyond other men; and a well-beloved man he was withal.

CHAPTER XLII. OF EARL WORM.

WORM was then earl in the Uplands; his mother was Ragnhild, the daughter of Earl Hakon the Mighty. Worm was a man most worshipful. At that time was east in Jadar at Soli, Aslak, the son of Erling; he had to wife Sigrid, the daughter of Earl Svein, son of Hakon. Gunnhild, another daughter of Earl Svein, Svein Wolfson, the Dane-king, had to wife. Such was the offspring of Earl Hakon then in Norway, and many other noble folk, and all that kindred was much fairer than other men-folk, and

the most of them mickle men of prowess and all noble-minded.

CHAPTER XLIII. KING HARALD'S MASTERFULNESS.

KING HARALD was of a masterful mind, and that waxed the more the more fast he was in the land ; and it came to this, that to most men it availed ill to gainsay him, or to push forward aught else save that which he would let be. So saith Thiodolf the Skald :

The lord-wont host of the brooker
Of battle hath all humble
To sit and stand as mindeth
The mighty battle-sweller.
And louteth all the people
To the fattener of the fight-stare.
Few is to do, but yeasay
As the king shall bid the people.

CHAPTER XLIV. DISCORD BETWEEN THE KING AND EINAR THAMBARSKELFIR.

EINAR THAMBARSKELFIR was most the leader of the bonders throughout Thrandheim, and held up the answers for them at Things, whenas the king's men sought at them. Einar kened well the law, nor did he lack boldness to flit that forth at Things, even though the king himself were there ; and all the bonders gave him their help. The king got much wroth thereat, and at last it came to this,

that they contended together with high words. Said Einar to the king that the bonders would not thole his lawlessness, if he would break the common law of the land on them; and it fared so between them many times. Then took Einar to have much folk about him at home, and much more when he went to the town when the king was there before.

And on a time Einar fared to the town with a great company, eight or nine longships and well-nigh five hundred men. And when he came to the town he went up with this host. King Harald was in his garth, and stood out on a gallery and saw how Einar's folk went from the ships. Men say that Harald then sang this :

Brisk Einar Thambarskelfir
 I see, the man who kenneth
 To shear the film of sea-weeds,
 Walk up here with a many.
 That lord full mighty bideth
 The filling of a king's seat :
 I find less host of house-carles
 At earl's heel drifteth often.

The reddener of the shield-blink,
 Einar, will yet beguile us
 Of this our land, but if he
 Thin mouth of axe be kissing.

Einar tarried in the town for some days.

CHAPTER XLV. THE FALL OF EINAR AND EINDRIDI.

ONE day a folk-mote was held, and the king was himself at that mote. There had been taken in the town a certain thief, and was had to the mote. The man had been erewhile with Einar, and he had got a liking for the man. Einar was told hereof, and he deemed then he wotted that the king would not let the man get off any the more because Einar set store by it. Then Einar let his men take to their weapons, and sithence went unto the mote; takes Einar the man from the mote by force. Thereafter the friends of both go in, and bore pleas of peace between them; and it came to this, that a meeting was bespoken, whereat they themselves should meet. The council-chamber was in the king's garth by the river Nid; the king went into the chamber with few men, but the rest of his company stood outside in the garth. The king let turn a shutter over the luffer, so that little was open thereof.

Then came Einar into the garth with his folk, and spake to Eindridi his son: "Be thou outside with the folk; there will then be no peril for me." So Eindridi stood without by the chamber door.

But when Einar came into the chamber, he said: "Mirk it is in the king's council-chamber." And forthwith men leapt upon him, and some thrust and some hewed. But when Eindridi heard that, he drew his sword and ran into the

chamber, where he was straightway felled, and they both together.

Then ran the king's men to the chamber and before the door, but the bonders dropped hands, whereas now they had never a leader; each egged the other, and said that shame it was of them if they should not avenge their chief, but for all that there was never an onset.

The king went out to his host and set it in array, and set up his banner, but no onset was of the bonders. So then the king went on board his ship and all his folk, and rowed sithence out down the river, and thence went his way out into the firth.

Bergliot, the wife of Einar, heard of his fall, and was then in the chamber which she and Einar had had before out in the town. She went forth-with up into the king's garth whereas was the bonder-folk, and egged them much to battle. But at that nick of time the king rowed down along the river. Then spake Bergliot: "Miss we now Hakon, the son of Ivar, my kinsman; forsooth the banesmen of Eindridi would not be rowing down river there if Hakon stood here on the bank."

Sithence Bergliot let lay out the bodies of Einar and Eindridi, and they were laid in earth at Olaf's Church beside the tomb of King Magnus, the son of Olaf.

After the fall of Einar King Harald was so sore ill-liked for the deed, that nought lacked but that the landed-men and bonders fell on him and held him battle, save that no leader there was to let raise banner for the bonder-host.

CHAPTER XLVI. OF KING HARALD AND FINN ARNISON.

FINN ARNISON abode at this time at Eastort in Yriar; he was then a landed-man of King Harald. Finn had to wife Bergliot, the daughter of Halfdan, the son of Sigurd Sow. Halfdan was brother of King Olaf the Holy and King Harald. Thora, the wife of King Harald, was brother's daughter of Finn Arnison, and Finn was most dear to the king, and all those brethren. Finn Arnison had been for certain summers in West-viking; and they had been all together in warfare: Finn, and Guthorm, son of Gunnhild, and Hakon, the son of Ivar.

King Harald went out down Thrandheim-firth, and all the way to Eastort; there had he good welcome. Then talked they together, the king and Finn, and spake between them over those tidings which had latest betid, the taking of the lives of Einar and his son, to wit, and that murmur and turmoil which the bonders made at the king. Finn answers swiftly: "Thou art the worst-conditioned in everywise; whatso thou doest thou doest ill; and sithence art thou so sore adrad, that thou wottest not where to have thee."

The king answered laughing: "Kinsman-in-law, I will now send thee up to the town, and I will that thou bring the bonders to peace with me; and I will, if that goeth not, that thou fare to the Uplands and bring it about with Hakon Ivarson that he be not my withstander."

Finn answers : " What shalt thou lay down for me, if I fare this fool's errand ? for both the Thranders and the Uplanders are foes of thee so mickle, that no messengers of thine may go thither, unless at their own risk." The king answers : " Go thou, kinsman-in-law, on this errand ; for I know that thou wilt be on the way, if any be, to make us peace, and choose thou thy boon of us."

Said Finn : " Hold thou to thy word then, and I shall choose the boon : I choose peace and land-dwelling for my brother Kalf, and that he have all his lands ; and moreover, that he have his name-boot and all that dominion which he had ere he fared out of the land." The king answered and yeasaid all this which Finn had spoken. They had witnesses thereto and handfasting.

Sithence said Finn : " What shall I bid Hakon that he yeasay thee truce ? he ruleth most for those kinsmen." The king answered : " That shalt thou first hear, what Hakon speaks concerning peace on his hand. Sithence bring thou my case as far forth as thou mayst, and at last deny thou nought save the kingship alone."

Then King Harald went south to Mere, and drew together company, and became much-manned.

CHAPTER XLVII. THE JOURNEY OF FINN ARNISON.

FINN ARNISON went up to the town, and had with him his housecarles, well-nigh eighty men. And when he came to the town he had a Thing with the townsfolk, and spoke at that Thing long and deftly, and bade the townsfolk and the bonderstake up all other redethan to be of ill will to their king or to drive him away. He minded them how much ill had come upon them, since they had so misdome against the holy King Olaf. He said eke, that the king will boot these manslayings even according as the best men and the wisest would will to doom. So Finn closed his speech that men would to let this matter stand quiet till the messengers came back whom Bergliot had sent to the Uplands to see Hakon Ivarson. Thereupon Finn went out to Orkdale with the men who had followed him to the town, and thence he fared up to Dofra-fell and east over the fell. Finn fared first to see Worm, his son-in-law (the earl had to wife Sigrid, the daughter of Finn), and told him of his errand.

CHAPTER XLVIII. OF FINN AND HAKON, SON OF IVAR.

THEREUPON they appoint a meeting with Hakon Ivarson. And when they met, Finn brought forward before Hakon the errand which King Harald bade him. It was soon found, in Hakon's speech, that him-thought

he was mickle bound to avenge his kinsman Eindridi; he said that such words had come to him from Thrandheim, that he would gain there strength enough for an uprising against the king. Then Finn set it forth before Hakon how by a mickle deal better it was to take from the king as many honours as Hakon himself might know how to bid, rather than to risk raising battle against the king, whenas he was already bound in service to him. He said that he would fare unvictorious: "And then hast thou forfeited both wealth and peace; while, if thou gain the day on the king, thou wouldst be hight a lord's-dastard." This speech of Finn's the earl backed up withal.

But when Hakon had bethought him of this matter, then he unlocked that which abode in his mind, and said thus: "I shall make peace with King Harald if he will give me in wedlock his kinswoman Ragnhild, the daughter of King Magnus Olafson, with such a dowry as beseemeth her and is well liking to her." Finn said that he would yeasay this on behalf of the king. And this affair they settle between them.

Then fared Finn back north to Thrandheim; and thus this unrest and turmoil settled down, so that the king still held his dominion in peace within the land; for now was smitten down all that banding together which the kinsmen of Eindridi had had for to withstand King Harald.

CHAPTER XLIX. OF HAKON IVARSON.

AND when the appointed meeting came round to which Hakon should come to look to this covenant, he fared to see King Harald. And when they take to their talk the king says he will hold to all that on his own behalf which had come into the peace between Hakon and Finn. Said the king : "Thou, Hakon, shalt talk this matter over with Ragnhild, whether she will yeasay this match ; but it is neither for thee nor any other to woo to Ragnhild in such wise that she be not consenting thereto." Sithence went Hakon to Ragnhild, and set forth to her this wooing. She answered thus : "Oft find I how all dead to me is King Magnus my father, if I be given to a mere bonder ; notwithstanding that thou be a fair man and well furnished of all prowess. If King Magnus were alive, then would he give me to no less a man than a king. Now there is no hope of this, that I will to be given to a man untitled."

Sithence Hakon went to see King Harald, and told him the talk of Ragnhild and him, and rehearsed to him the covenant made between him and Finn ; Finn withal was there, and more men beside, such as had been at the parley between him and Finn. Hakon so sayeth, taking them all to witness, that the matter was settled on these terms, that the king should furnish Ragnhild from home in such wise as it liked her : "Now she will not wed a man untitled ; but thou mayst give me a name of dignity, for I have kin thereto to be called

earl, and certain other matters have I thereto withal, as folk say."

Answers the king : " Olaf, the king, my brother, and King Magnus, his son, while they ruled the realm, let there be one only earl in the land ; even so have I done since I was king ; and I will not take away from Earl Worm the dignity which I have erst given him."

Now Hakon saw his affair, that it would never speed, and it liked him right ill. All wroth was Finn withal, and they said that the king did not keep his word ; and with matters so done, they parted.

CHAPTER L. HAKON FARES TO DENMARK.

THENfared Hakon forthwith out of the land, and had a longship well manned, and made land south in Denmark, and went forthwith to see King Svein, his kinsman-in-law. The king welcomed him worshipfully, and gave him great grants there ; and Hakon became there the captain of the land-ward against the vikings who harried much in the Dane-realm, Wends, to wit, Courlanders, and other folk of the east ways ; he lay out aboard warships winter as well as summer.

CHAPTER LI. THE SLAYING OF AS-
MUND.

ASMUND a man is named who, it was said, was sister-son of King Svein, and his fosterson. Asmund was of all men the doughtiest, and the king loved him much. But when Asmund grew up, he speedily became a man much unruly, and a man-slayer. That liked the king ill, and he let him fare away from him, but gave him a good feof, wherewith he could well hold himself and a company with him. But so soon as Asmund took to him the king's money, he drew much folk to him, but that money which the king had given him did not avail to his costs; so he took much more withal of that which the king owned. But when the king heard this, he summoned Asmund to come and meet him. And when they met, then said the king that Asmund should be of his bodyguard, and have no following; and even so the matter had to be as the king willed. But when Asmund had been with the king for a little while, he was ill content there; and so he ran away one night and came to his following, and then did still more evil than erst.

But as the king was once a-riding the land, and came nigh to where was Asmund, he sent out folk to take Asmund by force. Sithence the king let set him in irons, and keep him thus for a while, and thought that he would grow tamer. But when Asmund came out of irons, he ran away forthwith, and got to him men and warships, and took to harrying both inland and outland, and did the

most of war-works, and slew many folk, and robbed far and wide.

But the folk who were in the way of this un-peace came to the king and bewailed them of their scathe. But he answered: "Why do ye tell these things to me? Why fare ye not to Hakon Ivarson? He is the warden of my land, and set here to give peace to the bonders, and to punish vikings. I was told that Hakon was a bold man and a valiant, but now meseemeth that he will put himself forward nowhere, wherein he deems is man-peril."

These words of the king were brought to Hakon, and eked with many more. Sithence fared Hakon with his host to seek Asmund, and their fleets met, and there befell a hard battle and a mickle. Hakon went up on to the ship of Asmund and rided it; and it came to this, that he and Asmund themselves dealt together in weapons and blows. There fell Asmund, and Hakon smote the head from off him. Sithence Hakon went in hot haste to meet King Svein, and so came to him that the king was sitting at the meat-board. Hakon stepped up to the board, and laid the head of Asmund thereon before the king, and asked him if he knew it. The king answered nought, and turned as red as blood to look upon. Sithence went Hakon away.

A little after he sent men to Hakon, and bade him fare away from his service: "Tell ye him that I will do him no hurt, but I may not take heed to all my kinsmen."

CHAPTER LII. THE WEDDING OF HAKON IVARSON.

SITHENCE Hakon fared away from Denmark and north into Norway to his lands. By then was Earl Worm, his kinsman, dead. Men were much fain of Hakon, his friends and kindred ; and therewith many noble men made it their business to go between him and King Harald to make peace between them, and it came so far that they made peace on the terms that Hakon should get to wife Ragnhild, the king's daughter, but King Harald gave Hakon earl's name, and such like rule as Earl Worm had had. Hakon swore oaths of faith to King Harald for such service as he was in duty bounden to.

CHAPTER LIII. PEACE MADE BETWEEN KING HARALD AND KALF.

KALF, the son of Arni, had been in west-viking sithence he fared from Norway, and often in winter he was in Orkney with Earl Thorfinn, his kinsman-in-law. Finn Arnison, his brother, sent word to Kalf and let tell him the covenant which he and Harald had bespoken between them, that Kalf should have land-dwelling in Norway and should have his lands and such grants as he had had of King Magnus. But when this message came to Kalf, he arrayed himself forthwith for the faring, and fared east to Norway first, to see Finn, his brother ; then Finn took truce for Kalf, and then they themselves met

the king and Kalf, and made up peace between them, even as the king and Finn had covenanted between them before. Kalf bound himself to the king on the self-same terms as whereby he had bound himself to King Magnus; that Kalf, to wit, should be in duty bound to do all such works as King Harald would, and as he deemed would further his kingdom. Thereupon Kalf took over all his lands and all such grants as he had had before.

CHAPTER LIV. THE FALL OF KALF ARNISON.

BUT the summer next after, King Harald bade out an host and went south to Denmark, and harried there through the summer. But when he came south to Fion there was a mickle host gathered against them. Then the king let his host go from the ships, and array them for going inland. He arrayed his folk, and let Kalf Arnison be captain of a company, and bade them go up aland first, and told them whitherward they should hold them, and said he would go up after them, and so bring them aid. Kalf and his went up, and speedily came an host upon them, and Kalf gave battle forthwith; but nought long was the fight, for Kalf was speedily overborne by odds, and he and his company turned to flight; but the Danes followed them, and many of the Northmen fell. There fell Kalf Arnison.

King Harald went aland with his battles, and soon they came upon the slain and found the body

of Kalf, and it was borne down to the ships. But the king went up inland and harried there, and slew a many men. So says Arnor :

In Fion the lord-king reddened
The bright edge ; thence did minish
Fion-dwellers' host, and fire
Ran over men-folks' dwelling.

CHAPTER LV. FINN ARNISON'S FAR- ING OUT OF THE LAND.

AFTER that Finn Arnison accounted it for enmity on the king concerning the fall of Kalf his brother, and he would have it, that the king had compassed his bane, and that that was but a hoodwinking of him, Finn, when King Harald lured Kalf his brother from west over sea into his power and faith. Now when this talk came aloft, that said many men how that it had been much short-sighted of Finn to trust to it that Kalf should ever get good faith of King Harald ; for they deemed that he was long-grudging, even in lesser matters than those wherein Kalf had done to beguile him with the king. The king let every man say what he would about this ; he neither yeasaid it, nor denied it at all ; but this one thing was found herein, that the king thought it well befallen. And King Harald sang this song :

Bane-compasser am I now
Of two men and eleven ;
Yet mind I of such murders :
I egg me to the slaying.
Gold-spoilers of my malice
Yet talk ; and big word fareth

With falseness. Little needeth,
Men say, for leek to eke him.

Finn Arnison took this matter so sorely to heart, that he fared away from the land and came south into Denmark. He fared to meet King Svein, and gat there good welcome. For a long time they sat on privy talk, and at last it came out that Finn took service with King Svein and became his man. King Svein granted an earldom to Finn, and Halland for feof, and there he had the ward of the land against the Northmen.

CHAPTER LVI. OF GUTHORM, SON OF GUNNHILD.

GUTHORM hight a son of Ketil Kalf and Gunnhild of Ringness; he was a sister-son of King Olaf and King Harald. Guthorm was a man of goodly build and early of man's growth. Guthorm was often with King Harald, and in mickle love there, and in counsel with the king, for Guthorm was a wise man and a well-beloved. Guthorm was often a-warfaring and harried much in the westlands, and had a great company with him. A land of peace and winter-dwelling he had in Dublin in Ireland, and was in mickle good liking with King Margath.

CHAPTER LVII. THE DEALINGS OF GUTHORM WITH MARGATH, KING OF THE IRISH.

THE summer after, fared King Margath and Guthorm with him, and harried in Bretland, and got there an exceeding deal of wealth. Thereupon they hove into Angelseysound, where they were due to share their plunder. But when was borne forth that mickle silver, and the king saw it, he would to have all that wealth himself alone, and now set but little store by his friendship with Guthorm. Guthorm took it ill that he should be robbed of his lot, he and his men. The king said he would give him two things to choose for his hand, "either to be content with what we will let be, or to hold battle with us else, and he to have the money who has the victory; and thou, moreover, shalt go off thy ships, and I shall have them." To Guthorm it seemed that a great trouble now stood on either hand of him. It seemed him nought worshipful to let go his ships and goods without forfeit thereto. All perilous, moreover, it was to fight with the king and that great host which followed him; but of their hosts was such odds that the king had sixteen longships and Guthorm but five. Then Guthorm bade the king grant him three nights' frist to take counsel with his men on this matter; for he thought he might soften the king in that while, and bring his matter into more friendly stead by the pleading of his men; but that which

he spake for was not gotten of the king. Now this was the eve of Olaf's wake.

Now Guthorm chose rather to die with manhood, or to fight him victory, than to thole shame and disgrace and mocking words for so mickle a miss. Then called he unto God and to the holy King Olaf his kinsman, and prayed them for furtherance and help, and behight the house of this holy man tithe of all the war-plunder which should fall to their lot if they gained the victory. Then he arrayed his company and ranked it against that mickle host, and fell to and fought with them. And by the propping of God and the holy King Olaf gat Guthorm the victory. There fell King Margath and every man who followed him, young and old. And after that glorious victory wendeth Guthorm home gladsome with all the lot of wealth which they had gained in the battle. Then was taken of the silver which they had gotten every tenth penny, as was behight to the holy King Olaf, and so exceeding mickle wealth was that, that from that silver Guthorm let make a rood after the stature of him, or of his captain of the prow, and that likeness is seven ells high. Guthorm gave the rood so made to the church of the holy King Olaf, and there it has been ever sithence in memory of the victory of Guthorm and the miracle of the holy King Olaf.

CHAPTER LVIII. A MIRACLE OF KING OLAF IN DENMARK.

A COUNT there was in Denmark evil and envious, who had a bondwoman, Norwegian of kin and of Thrandheim stock. She worshipped the holy King Olaf, and trowed firmly in his holiness. But the count of whom I told erst scorned all that which was told him of that holy man's miracles, and said it was nothing but empty talk and gossip, and made him gab and game of the praise and worship which the land-folk gave to that good king.

But now time wore unto the day of high-tide whereon that merciful king lost his life, and which all Northmen held. Then would this unwise count nowise hold it holy, and he bade his bondwoman to bake, and heat the oven to bread on that very day. She deemed she wotted of the mood of this count, that he would avenge him sorely upon her, if she obeyed not what he bade her do. So she went unwilling and baked the oven, wailing much while she worked, and she threatened King Olaf, and said she would trow in him never more, unless he avenged with some token this unheard-of thing. And now ye may hear meet punishment and truthful miracle. In one nick of time it was, in one hour that the count grew blind on both eyes, and the bread she had shoved into the stove was turned into stones. Some of that grit has come into the church of the holy King Olaf, and wide about otherwhere. Sithence has Olaf's mass ever been held in Denmark.

CHAPTER LIX. A MIRACLE WROUGHT
BY KING OLAF ON A CRIPPLE.

WEST in Valland was a man infirm, so that he was a cripple, and went on knees and knuckles. On a day he was abroad on the way and was asleep there. That dreamed he, that a man came to him glorious of aspect, and asked whither he was bound; and the man named some town or other. So the glorious man spoke to him: "Fare thou to Olaf's Church, the one that is in London, and thou wilt be whole."

Thereafter he awoke, and fared to seek Olaf's Church, and at last he came to London Bridge, and there asked the folk of the city if they knew to tell him where was Olaf's Church. But they answered, and said that there were many more churches there than they might wot to what man they were hallowed. But a little thereafter came a man to him who asked whither he was bound; and the cripple told him. And sithence said that man: "We twain shall fare both to the church of Olaf, for I know the way thither." Therewith they fared over the bridge, and went along the street which led to Olaf's Church. But when they came to the lich-gate, then strode that one over the threshold of the gate, but the cripple rolled in over it and straightway rose up a whole man. But when he looked around him his fellow-farer was vanished.

CHAPTER LX. KING HARALD'S WAR-FARE TO DENMARK.

KING HARALD let rear a cheaping-stead east in Oslo, and sat there often; whereas it was good there for the ingathering of victual, with wide countrysides all round about. There he sat well for the warding of the land against the Danes no less than for onsets at Denmark, which he was often wont to, though he might have no great host out.

Now it so fell one summer, that King Harald fared with some light ships and no great company, and held south into the Wick. And when the wind was fair he sailed across up under Jutland, and took land there and harried, and the folk of the land gathered together and warded their land. So then King Harald made off for Limbfirth, and hove into that firth. Now Limbfirth lies in this way, that into it one fares as through a narrow river-deep, but as one goes up the firth then is it as a mickle sea. King Harald harried there on either land; but the Danes had everywhere gathered against him. Then King Harald brought his ships up to a certain island, a little land, and unbuiled; and as his men searched it, they found no water there, and told the king. He let search if any ling-worm might be found in the island, and when that was found, they brought it to the king; and he let bring the worm to a fire and bake it and worry it so that it should thirst as much as might be. Then thread was tied round the tail of it, and the worm was let

loose, and speedily it crawled away, while the thread untwisted itself from the ball of twine; and men went after the worm until it plunged into the earth. There the king bade dig for water; so it was done, and they found water there without lack.

King Harald learnt the news from his spies that King Svein was come before the mouth of the firth with a great host of ships, but that faring in was slow to him, whereas only one ship might get in at a time. King Harald held his ships up the firth, and up to where it is broadest, whereas it hight Lowsbroad. Now from the innermost of that bight there is a narrow slip west to the main sea, and thitherward King Harald and his rowed in the evening. But in the night, when it had grown dark, they unladed the ships, and dragged them over the low land-neck, and had done it all before day, and arrayed the ships again, and then they sailed north past Jutland. Then they said:

There Harald scraped
Out of hands of the Danes.

Then said the king that he should come another time into Denmark in such a wise that he should have more folk and bigger ships. Thereon the king went north to Thrandheim.

CHAPTER LXI. THE SHIP-BUILDING OF KING HARALD.

KING HARALD sat that winter in Nidoyce ; he let build a ship that winter out at Eres that was a buss-ship. This craft was fashioned after the waxing of the Long-Worm, and done most heedfully in all wise. There was a drake-head forward, and a crooked tail aft ; and the bows of her were all adorned with gold. It was of thirty-five benches, and big thereto, and the bravest of keels it was. All the outfit of the ship the king let be made at the heedfullest, both sails, and running-tackle, anchors and cables. That winter King Harald sent word to King Svein south in Denmark to come from the south to the Elf to meet him there and to battle, so that there they should share their lands in such wise that one or the other should have both kingdoms.

CHAPTER LXII. OUT-BIDDING OF KING HARALD.

THAT winter King Harald bade out an host, the all-folk-hosting from Norway. And when spring came on, a great host was drawn together. Then King Harald let set out that mickle ship on the river Nid, and sithence let set up the drake-head. Then sang Thiodolf the Skald :

Fair dame ! the ship I saw run
Out river-wards to sea-flood.

Ken thou, where the long hull lieth
 Of the brave drake off the land there.
 The mane of the bright worm gleameth
 O'er the lading since they shoved it
 From off the slip ; there upbare,
 Burnt gold the prow adornèd.

Then King Harald fits out the ship and arrays
 his journey, and when he was ready he held the
 ship from out the river ; there was its rigging
 much heedfully done. So saith Thiodolf :

On bath-day the men's leader
 The long tilt slings from off him,
 Then when the high-souled women
 From the town the worm's hull look on.
 Next fell the young all-wielder
 To steer the new ship westward,
 From out of Nid, as the lads' oars
 Into the sea were falling.

The king's host kenneth slitting
 The straight oars out of the water.
 The woman stands a-wondering
 At the oar-stroke as a marvel.
 Ill pleased will be the maiden
 If the swart square-cleft sea-catcher
 Should go a-twain ; yet gives she
 Her leave thereto for full peace.

The thole knows woe ere torn is
 Sea-catcher from the strong sea.
 O'er the hail-cold stream the Northmen
 Row out the nailed sea-adder.
 Where with seven tens of oar-blades
 The host holds for the main sea :
 'Tis as from the land a-looking
 One saw an iron erne's wing.

King Harald held the host south along the
 land, and had out the all-folk muster, both of men

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and ships. But when they sought east into the Wick, they got foul winds and big, and lay-to in havens wide about, both in the out-isles and in up the firths. So saith Thiodolf :

The shaven stems of cutters
Under the woods have shelter.
The lord of the war-host girdleth
The land with prows of war-ships.
The all-men's war-host lieth
Within each wick of skerries.
The swift ships all high-byrned
Let shelter them the nesses.

But in the heavy weather which now befell, the big ship needed good ground-holding. So says Thiodolf :

With bow the king now smiteth
The high surf-garth of Leeseey ;
Then trieth the king to utmost
The cables of the cutter.
Nought is the scathe of lindens
Unto the bowed iron joyous ;
Grit and the ugly weather
Gnaw at the rod thick-fashioned.

But when the wind was fair, King Harald held the host east to Elf, and came there at eve of day. So says Thiodolf :

Stoutly thrust on King Harald
His half unto the Elf now ;
The lord of Norway nighteth
Anigh the land's out-marches.
The king hath Thing at Thumla ;
There due unto the raven
With Svein is dayed his meeting,
But if the Danes do shirk it.

CHAPTER LXIII. OF KING HARALD'S HOST.

BUT when the Danes hear that the host of the Northmen was come, then they flee, all they who might bring it about. The Northmen hear that the Dane-king has also an host out, and that he lieth south about Fion and Sealand. But when King Harald heard that King Svein would not hold tryst with him, or give him battle, as was bespoken, then took he the same rede as erst: he let the bonder-folk fare back, but manned an hundred ships and an half, and held with that host south past Halland, and harried wide. He laid his host into Lofa-firth, and harried up the land there.

A little after King Svein came on them with the Dane-host, and had three hundred ships. But when the Northmen saw the host, then let King Harald blow his folk together; but many said that they should flee, and told it that to fight was of no avail. The king answered: "Sooner shall every man of us fall athwart the other, rather than flee." So says Stein, son of Herdis:

Then said the king hawk-hearted
 That which he minded must be,
 And quoth that come to nothing
 All hope of peace for him was.
 Quoth the lord-king renownèd
 That each of us thwart other
 Should fall before the yielding.
 Men brake up all their weapons.

Sithence King Harald let array his ship-host

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for an onset, and laid his big dragon forward amidst of the battles. As says Thiodolf:

Wolf-gracious friend-gifts' giver
Eager let float the dragon
Before mid-breast of battle,
The point of king's host was it.

That ship was right well arrayed and manned of many. So says Thiodolf:

Peace-eager king was bidding
His valiant ranks stand fast there.
Meseemed the king's friends shielded
O'er-lapping-wise the rowlocks.
The doughty man-deeds' doer
With shields locked the strong adder
Off Nizi, so that each one
Lay edge o'er edge of other.

Wolf the Marshal laid his ship on one board of the king's ship: he said to his men that they should lay the ship well forward. Stein, the son of Herdis, was on board Wolf's ship. He sang:

Wolf, the king's marshal, egged us
All, when the high spears quakèd,
When quickened was the rowing
Upon the sea out yonder.
The shell-edged friend of the valiant
Land's lord, he bade be laid there
His ship well forth by the king's ship,
And the lads that same yeasayèd.

Hakon, son of Ivar, lay outermost in one wing, and many ships followed him, and that host was right well arrayed; but outermost in the other

wing lay the headmen of the Thrandfolk, and mickle host and fair was that.

CHAPTER LXIV. OF THE HOST OF KING SVEIN.

KING SVEIN also arrayed his host ; he laid his ship in the midst of the battle over against the ship of King Harald ; but nearest to him laid forth Earl Finn his ship ; and next thereto the Danes arrayed all that host which was the most valiant and best dight. Thereupon both sides lashed their ships together all throughout the middle of the fleet. But whereas the host was so mickle, it befell that all the flock of the ships went loose, and each one laid his own ship forward into the battle as he had heart thereto ; but that was right miseven. Now though the odds were very great, yet either side had an host not to be overborne. King Svein had seven earls in his host ; as says Stein, son of Herdis :

The strong-heart lord of hersirs
 Risked with the Danes a meeting,
 Abiding it with long-ships
 Told half a second hundred.
 Next was it that the sitter
 At Hleithra wroth did shear him
 The tangle's meadow thither
 With a three hundred sound-mares.

CHAPTER LXV. UPHEAVING OF THE
BATTLE OF NIZ.

KING HARALD let blow the war-blast
so soon as he had arrayed his ships, and
let his men row up for onset. So says
Stein, son of Herdis :

Off river-mouth King Harald
For Svein won hurtful passage,
For peace must bid the king there
Whereas he made withstanding.
The king's friends sword-begirded
Hardened the fray withoutward
Of Halland. Hot wound sighed forth
Blood on to the sea-billow.

Then the battle was joined, and was of the
fiercest ; either king egged on his host. As says
Stein, son of Herdis :

Each doughty shelter-shy king
Bade the lads' host to shoot there,
And hew ; but short the space was
Betwixt the hosts of battle.
Flew both the stones and arrows,
Then when the brand flung off it
The red blood. Then was changing
The life of the fey warriors.

It was late in the day that the battle was joined,
and so it held nightlong. King Harald shot from
bow a long while. So saith Thiodolf :

All night the king of Uplands
Drew bow ; the brisk land-ruler
Was letting drift the arrows
On to white weed of battle.

The bloody point went creeping
 Through wounds of men be-byrnied ;
 Waxed flight of spears where Finn-geld
 Stood in the shields of Fafnir.

Earl Hakon and the folk that followed him did not lash their ships, but rowed after those ships of the Danes that fared loose ; but every ship he grappled he rided. And when the Danes saw that, then drew every one of them his ship from where the earl fared, and he sought after the Danes wherever they gave aback, and thus they were wellnigh turned to flight. Then a cutter rowed towards the ship of the earl, and he was called on and told that one wing of the battle of King Harald was giving way, and a many of their host had fallen there. Then the earl rowed thither and made a hard onset there, so that the Danes gave back once more. So fared the earl all night, and thrust forward whereas need was most ; and wheresoever he came on, nought held before him. So Hakon rowed about the outer battle.

In the latter part of the night the main-flight broke on the Danes, whereas then had King Harald gone up with his following on to the ship of King Svein, and that was so thoroughly rided that all men fell save them that leapt into the deep. So says Arnor the earls' skald :

Svein the right valiant went not
 Sackless from off his galley :
 That is my mind ; for soothly
 Hard metal on the helms came.
 The craft of the swift-spoken
 Jutes' friend must needs float empty

Before away the king fled
From his dead chosen warriors.

But when the banner of King Svein was fallen, and his ship was voided, then fled all his men, and some fell. But on the ships that were lashed together, some men leapt into the deep there and then, and some got on to other ships which were loose, but all King Svein's men rowed off who might bring it about. That was an all-mickle man-fall; and where the kings themselves had fought, and the most of the ships had been lashed, there lay voided of King Svein's ships more than seven tens; as says Thiodolf:

Sogn's king, the sturdy men say,
In one swift hour ridded
At fewest tale brave war-ships
A seventy of Svein's people.

King Harald rowed after the Danes, and drave them; but that was nought easy, inasmuch as the fleet of the ships was so thronged ahead that scarce might any get forward. Earl Finn would not flee, and he was laid hands on; his eyesight was bad. So saith Thiodolf:

Svein owest thou now guerdon
To six Dane-earls who let wax
The whetting of the shaft-play
For victory in one battle.
Finn Arnison the war-bright,
Who would not save his nimble
Brave heart, was there laid hand on
Amidst the ranks of battle.

CHAPTER LXVI. OF VANDRAD.

EARL HAKON lay behind with his galley whenas King Harald and the rest of the host drave the rout; whereas the earl's keel might not fare forward there by reason of the ships that lay in the way of him. Then rowed a man in a boat to the ship of the earl, and lay-to at the poop, a mickle man, and had a wide hat.

He called up on to the ship and said: "Where is the earl?" He was in the fore-hold stanching the bleeding of a certain man.

The earl looked towards the man of the hat, and asked his name. He answered: "Here is Vandrad; speak with me, earl;" and the earl louted out over the board to him. Then spake the boatman: "I will take life of thee if thou wilt give it." The earl raised himself and named two of his men, both men dear to him, and said: "Step into the boat, and flit Vandrad ashore, and take him to Karl the bonder, my friend, and tell him this for a token, that he let Vandrad have the horse I gave him the day before yesterday, and his saddle therewith, and his son for a guide."

Then they stepped into the boat, and take to their oars, but Vandrad steered. This was in the first dawn of day, and there was withal ship-going of the most, some rowing to land and some out to sea, both small craft and big.

Vandrad steered where him-seemed there was most sea-room between the ships. But whereso the ships of the Northmen rowed anigh to them,

then told the earl's men who they were, and all let them fare whereso they would.

Vandrad steered along the strand, and laid not to land till they came beyond where the thronging of the ships was. Sithence they went up to the homestead of Karl, as day began to brighten. They went into the chamber, and there was Karl new clad. The earl's men told him their errand, and Karl said they should eat first, and let set board before them and gat them washing.

Then came the housewife into the chamber and said straightway: "Mickle wonder it is that never any sleep or rest we may get all night through, for the whooping and clatter!"

Answered Karl: "Knowest thou not that the kings have been fighting all night?" She asked: "Which has had the better?" Answered Karl: "The Northmen have got the victory." "Belike our king has fled once more," said she. Karl answered: "Men wot not whether he be fled or fallen." She answered: "In sorry case be we for a king; he is both halt and craven." Then spake Vandrad: "Nought is the king craven; but nought is he victorious."

Vandrad took wash last; and when he took the towel he wiped himself in a courteous manner with the middle thereof. But the housewife took the towel and pulled it away from him, and said: "But little of good cannest thou; that is but uplandish to wet all the towel at once." Answered Vandrad: "There shall I yet come whereas I shall dry myself with the midmost of a towel."

Then Karl set the board before them, and

Vandrad set him down in the midmost. They ate a while, and walked out sithence; then was the horse arrayed, and Karl's son ready to guide him, and had another horse. So they ride off into the wood, but the earl's men went back to their boat, and rowed out to the earl's ship.

CHAPTER LXVII. OF KING HARALD.

KING HARALD and his host drave the rout for but a short way, and sithence rowed back to the ships that were empty; then they ransacked the slain. On the king's ship was found a many dead men, but nought was the body of King Svein found there, and yet they deemed they knew that he must have fallen. Then King Harald let lay out the bodies of his dead men, and bind the wounds of them who needed it. Then he let flit aland the bodies of the men of King Svein, and sent word to the bonders to bury the dead. After that he let share the plunder, and dwelt there some while. Then heard he the tidings that King Svein was come to Sealand, and that there was come to him all the host which had fled from the battle, and much other company besides, and he had a countless host.

CHAPTER LXVIII. OF EARL FINN.

EARL FINN ARNISON was laid hands on in the battle, as is afore writ, and was led to the king. King Harald was right merry then, and said: "Here then we meet now, Finn, but last was it in Norway. That Danish court there has not stood all fast for thee; and ill work have the Northmen to drag thee after them blind, and doing this for the saving of thy life."

Then answered the earl: "Many evil things the Northmen must needs do, and the worst all that which thou biddest." Then said Harald: "Wilt thou have thy life now, unmeet though it be to thee?" Answered the earl: "Not from thee, hound." Spake the king: "Wilt thou then that thy kinsman, Magnus, give thee peace?" For Magnus, son of King Harald, was then steering of a ship. Then spoke the earl: "How shall that whelp rule the giving of peace?"

Then laughed the king, and thought it game to gird at him, and said: "Wilt thou take thy life from the hand of Thora, thy kinswoman?" Said the earl: "Is she here?" "She is here," said the king.

Then Earl Finn uttered that scurvy word which sithence has been upheld in memory of how wroth he was so as he might not get his words stilled: "Nought wonderful though thou hast bitten well now, whereas the mare was following thee."

Life was given to Earl Finn, and King Harald had him with him a while; but Finn was somewhat unmerry and unmeek in words. Then

spake King Harald : " That see I, Finn, that thou wilt not come to with me or thy kinsfolk, so I will now give thee leave to fare to King Svein, thy kinsman-in-law." The earl answers : " This will I take, and with the more thanks, the sooner I may come hence away." Sithence the king let flit Earl Finn up aland, and the Hallanders gave him good welcome. Thereafter King Harald held his host north into Norway, and fared first to Oslo, and there he gave home-leave to all his host that would fare.

CHAPTER LXIX. OF KING SVEIN.

SO say men that King Svein sat that winter in Denmark, and held his realm as before. He sent that winter north to Halland after Karl the bonder and his wife, and when they came to the king he calls Karl to him. Then asked the king if Karl knew him, or deemed he had seen him before. Karl answered : " I know thee now, king, and I knew thee before, so soon as I saw thee, and it is thanks to God that the little furtherance which I gave thee turned out for thine avail." The king answered : " All the days that I shall live sithence, for them I have to reward thee. Now shall the first thing be this, that I give thee any stead in Sealand thou choosest for thyself; and that withal, that I shall make a great man of thee, if thou cannest to handle it."

Karl thanked the king well for his words and said : " There is still left a boon which I will bid of thee." The king asked what that was. Karl

said: "I will bid thee this, that thou, king, let me take my wife with me." The king answered: "That I will not give thee, for I shall get for thee a wife much better and wiser. Let thy wife fare with the cot-stead that ye have had hitherto; that will be furtherance for her."

The king gave to Karl a mickle stead and noble, and fetched him a good wedding, and so he became a man of great account; that was far-famed and heard wide, and north into Norway it came.

CHAPTER LXX. TALK OF KING HARALD'S COURTMEN.

KING HARALD sat in Oslo the winter next after the battle of Niz. In the autumn, when the host came from the south, there was much talking and telling of the battle which had been that harvest off the Niz, for each one who had been there deemed he knew something to tell of. On a time certain men sat in a certain under-croft a-drinking, and were all full of talk. They talked over the battle of Niz, and therewithal which had borne away the most word-glory thence. And they were all of one accord that no man there had been such as Earl Hakon: he had been the boldest under weapons, the cunningest and the luckiest, and that was of the greatest help which he did, and he wan the victory.

King Harald was outside there in the garth a-talking with certain men. Sithence he walked

past the bower-door and said: "Here every one would be hight Hakon," and so went his way.

CHAPTER LXXI. EARL HAKON FLEES THE LAND BEFORE THE KING.

EARL HAKON went in the harvest to the Uplands, and sat there through the winter in his dominion; he was right well beloved of the Uplanders. As time wore on through spring, it befell on a while, whenas men sat by the drink, that again the talk fell on the battle of Niz, and men praised much Earl Hakon, but othersome brought others no less forward than him. Now when they had talked thereof a while, one of the men answered and said: "Maybe that more men than Earl Hakon fought boldly off the Niz, yet no one will have been there, as I think, to whom such good hap sought as to him." They said that will have been his most good hap that he drave to flight a many of the Danes. Answered that same: "A greater good hap was this, that he gave life to King Svein." Then another answered: "Thou wilt not be wotting that which thou sayest." He answers: "This wot I all-clearly; whereas he told me himself, who brought the king to land."

But it was as oft is said, "Many are the king's ears;" and the king was told hereof. And forthwith the king let take a many horses, and straightway the same night he rode off with two hundred men, and rode on all night and the day

after. Then there rode against them some men who were faring down to the town with meal and malt. There was a man, hight Gamal, who was in the following of the king. He rode up to one of these bonders, who was a friend of his, and they fell to privy talk. Said Gamal: "I will make a bargain with thee, that thou ride thy very swiftest by hidden ways, whereby thou knowest it shortest, and come to Earl Hakon and tell him that the king will slay him, whereas the king now knoweth that the earl cast King Svein on land off the Niz." This bargain they struck between them. Rode the bonder, and came to the earl where he sat at the drink, and was not gone to sleep. And when the bonder had told his errand, the earl stood up forthwith and all his men. The earl let flit all his chattels from the stead into the wood, and all men fared away from the homestead that very night.

Whenas the king came, he tarried there through the night. But Earl Hakon rode his ways and came east down into the Swede-realm to King Steinkel, and tarried with him through the summer. King Harald turned back down to the town, and in the summer the king went north to Thrandheim and tarried there, but fared back east into the Wick by harvest.

CHAPTER LXXII. OF THE JOURNEY-INGS OF EARL HAKON.

EARL HAKON went forthwith that summer back to the Uplands so soon as he heard that the king was gone north, and there he tarried till the king came back from the north. Then the earl went east into Verm-land, and dwelt there long through the winter, and King Steinkel gave to the earl the rule of that land. He fared in winter, as it wore, west unto Raumrealm, and had a great host, which the Gaut-folk and Vermlanders had fetched him. And then took he his land-dues and scat from the Uplanders, such as were indeed his own. Sithence he fared back east to Gautland, and dwelt there through the spring. King Harald sat the winter through in Oslo, and sent off his men to the Uplands, to gather there scat and land-dues, and the king's fines. But the Uplanders said this much, that they would pay all dues which it behoved them to pay, and fetch them into the hand of Earl Hakon while he was alive, and had not fordone himself or his dominion; and the king got thence no land-dues that winter.

CHAPTER LXXIII. PEACE MADE BETWEEN KINGS HARALD AND SVEIN.

THAT winter words and messengers fared between Norway and Denmark, and that was in the bounden terms, that either, Northmen and Danes, would make peace and

And when the kings met, men took to talking over the appeasement of the kings. But so soon as this was had in mouth, then a many bewailed the scathes they had gotten from harrying, in robberies, to wit, and man-loss ; and it was long that it looked unlikely for peace. As is said here :

Then when the men of each side
Be met, tell the brisk bonders
Much high all-many words there,
E'en such as anger menfolk.
The thanes who strive all through it,
Toward peace turn not o'er swiftly,
And in the very lord-kings
As yet the high heart swelleth.

If peace shall be, all-peril
Of the kings' wrath shall be therewith ;
They who do know peace-making
In scales shall weigh all matters.
Behoves the kings to say forth
Whatso the host well liketh.
If the folk must part yet worsen,
That wieldeth wilful griping.

Thereupon the best men, and those who were wisest, took matters in hand, and then the kings came to peace on these terms, that Harald should have Norway, and Svein Denmark unto those land-marches which of old had been between Norway and Denmark. Neither should boot the other ; warfare should be laid down as it had begun, and he to have the hap who had gotten it ; this peace should stand while both they were kings. This atonement was bounden by oaths, and sithence both kings handed over borrows, even as is said here :

This have I heard, that Harald
 And Svein gave borrows gladly
 Each unto each 'gainst troubles.
 'Twas God that this hath rulèd.
 There was appeasement lockèd
 With witnesses and full peace.
 Let them so hold the sworn oaths
 That neither folk shall shard it.

King Harald held his host north into Norway,
 but King Svein fared south to Denmark.

CHAPTER LXXIV. BATTLE OF KING HARALD WITH EARL HAKON.

KING HARALD was in the Wick that summer, but sent his men to the Uplands for his dues and scat which he owned there. Then made the bonders no payment, and quoth that they would let all that bide Hakon the Earl, if he were coming to them. Earl Hakon was then in upper Gautland, and had a great host. But as summer wore, King Harald held east for King's Rock; sithence he took all such light skiffs as he might get, and held up along the Elf, and had them drawn off the water where waterfalls were in the way, and flitted the craft up into Vener-water. Sithence he rowed east over the water to where he heard was Earl Hakon. But when the earl got news of the farings of King Harald, he sought down from the land, and willed not that the king should harry them. Earl Hakon had a great host which the Gauts had fetched him. King Harald laid his ships up into a certain river-mouth; sithence he

set out on a land-raid, but left some of his folk to guard the ships. The king himself rode, and some of his folk, but by far the most part went afoot. They had to fare over a certain wood, and there were before them certain bush-beset mires, and then a holt. And when they came up on the holt, they saw the earl's host; there was a mire between them. Then both arrayed them forthwith.

Then said King Harald that his folk should sit up on the bank, "and try we first, if they be minded to make an onset. Earl Hakon is reckless," said he.

The weather was frosty, and somewhat of snow driving. Harald and his men sat under their shields, but the Gauts had but little raiment, and grew starved of cold. The earl bade them abide till the king should set on, and they were standing all alike high.

Earl Hakon had the banners which King Magnus Olafson had owned.

The lawman of the Gauts hight Thorvith; he sat on a horse the reins whereof were bound to a stake which stood in the mire; he spake and said: "God knows that we have a great host and exceeding valiant men: let King Steinkel hear that we be of good avail to this good earl. I wot, that though the Northmen fall upon us, we shall meet them dauntlessly. But if the youth fall out of order and bide not, let us run no further than to this brook here; but if the youth fall out of order yet more, as I wot will not be, then run we no further than to the howe here."

In that nick of time leapt up the host of the Northmen, and whooped the war-whoop, and beat on their shields, and then took the Gaut-host to whoop withal. Now the horse of the lawman pulled so hard, whereas he was frightened by the war-whoop, that the stake came up, and flew about the head of the lawman, who said: "Wretchedst of all Northmen for thy shot!" And therewith the lawman galloped away.

King Harald had beforehand thus bidden his host: "Though we make din and whooping about us, go we not beyond this bank before they come hither to us." And they did so. But so soon as the war-whoop came up, the earl let bear forth banner, but when the Gauts came up under the bank, the host of the king cast themselves down upon them; straightway then fell some of the earl's folk, and some fled. The Northmen drave the flight no long way, for this was at the eve of day. They took the banner of Earl Hakon, and what they might of weapons and raiment. The king let bear before him both banners as he fared down.

They spake between them, whether the earl would be fallen; but when they rode down through the wood, they might ride but one man along the way. Then leapt a man right across the way, and thrust a spear through him who bore the banner of the earl; he gripped the banner-staff, and galloped off therewith the other way into the wood.

But when this was told to the king, he said: "The earl is alive; fetch me my byrny."

The king rides to his ships through the night.
 Many said the earl had wrought his revenge.
 Then sang Thiodolf :

So the stark king hath wielded
 That Steinkel's host, that war-help
 Should give to the earl fight-merry,
 To hell is given over.
 Saith he who makes it fairer,
 Swiftly aback turned Hakon
 Whereas his hope of helping
 Thencefrom but ill was proven.

CHAPTER LXXV. THE SLAYING OF HALL KODRAN'S-BANE.

KING HARALD was aboard his ship the rest of that night, but in the morning, when it was light, ice was laid all around the ships, so thick that one might walk all about them. Then the king bade his men cut the ice from the ships, and out into the Water; so went the men then and fell to the ice-hewing. Magnus, the son of Harald, steered the ship which lay nethermost in the river-mouth, and nearest to the Water. But when men had much hewn out through the ice, a man came running out along the ice to where the breaking of it was going on, and set to cutting the ice, as if he were wood and bewitched. Then a man said: "Now is it the same again as oft, that none bears a hand so well to whatsoever he goeth about, as doth Hall Kodran's-bane; see now whatwise he heweth the ice."

But that man was aboard Magnus' ship hight

Thormod, son of Eindridi: so when he heard Kodran's-bane named, then ran he on Hall and smote him a bane-stroke. Kodran was the son of Gudmund, the son of Eyolf, but Valgerd was sister of Gudmund, and mother of Jorun, the mother of Thormod. Thormod was one winter old when Kodran was slain, and never had he seen Hall, the son of Utrygg, before.

By this was the ice hewn out to the Water, and Magnus laid his ship out into the Water, and took to his sail forthwith and sailed west over the Water. But the king's ship lay uppermost in the wake, and he got out latest. Hall had once been in the king's following, and he was now as wroth as might be. The king came late into haven, and by that time Magnus had shoved the slayer off into the wood and bade boot for him. But things were on the point of the king falling on Magnus and his men, until the friends of both came thereto and appeased them.

CHAPTER LXXVI. OF KING HARALD.

THIS winter King Harald fared up into Raumrealm, and had much folk. He bare guilts to hand on the bonders that they had withheld from him dues and scat, but had strengthened his foemen in unpeace against him; so he let take the bonders, and some he maimed, some he slew, and many he robbed of all they had. They fled away who might bring it about. He let burn the countrysides wide about and make an utter waste. So says Thiodolf:

The awer of holm-dwellers
 Took hard rein on the Raumfolk ;
 The war-ranks of wight Harald
 Fast there meseems went forward.
 There was the vengeance fashioned
 By bidding of the lord-king,
 And then the high-wrought root-dog
 Made meek the wretched bonders.

Then King Harald went up into Heathmark, and burnt there, and did war-work there no less than in the other place. Thence he went down to Hathaland and Ringrealm, and burnt there, and fared all with war-shield up. So says Thiodolf :

Burned wealth of angry thanes there ;
 Fast caught the gleeds on thatches ;
 The shaker of the war-dukes
 With ill stone smote Heathmarkers.
 Folk cravèd life ; but the fire
 Passed dreadful doom on Ringfolk,
 Or ever there the downfall
 Of the bane of Half was gotten.

After that the bonders laid all the matter under the king's hand.

From the death of King Magnus fifteen winters passed away ere was the battle of Niz, and after that two winters until kings Harald and Svein made peace. So says Thiodolf :

The steel did bite the war-shields
 Off strand ; but in the third year
 That strife the Hords' king anchored.
 Folk took the peace for shelter.

After their peace there was the king's quarrel with the Uplanders for three half years. So says Thiodolf :

Hard speaking that all duly
Should mate the works whereby now
The king taught those Uplanders
To have an idle ploughshare.
The wise king's head hath gotten
Itself through these three half years
Such fame, so long that ever
Henceforth shall it be lasting.

CHAPTER LXXVII. OF ENGLAND'S KINGS.

EDWARD, son of Ethelred, was king in England after Hordaknut his brother; he was called Edward the Good, and so he was. The mother of King Edward was Queen Emma, daughter of Richard the Rouen-earl; her brother was Earl Robert, the father of William the Bastard, who then was duke in Rouen of Normandy. King Edward had to wife Queen Gyda, the daughter of Earl Godwin, son of Wulfnoth. The brothers of Gyda were these: Earl Tosti, the oldest; the second, Earl Morcar; the third, Earl Walthiof; the fourth, Earl Svein; the fifth, Harald, who was the youngest; he was brought up at the court of King Edward, and was his fosterson, and the king loved him exceeding much, and had him for son, for the king had no bairn.

CHAPTER LXXVIII. OF HARALD GODWINSON.

IT befell on a summer that Harald Godwinson had to go on a journey to Bretland, and fared a-shipboard. But when they came into the open sea, contrary winds took them, and they drave off into the main. They took land west in Normandy, and had gotten a storm man-perilous. They put in to the town of Rouen, and there found Earl William; he took Harald and his fellows fainly, and Harald abode there long in the harvest in good cheer, whereas storms were on, and there was no faring by sea. But as it wore toward winter, the earl and Harald talked over it, how that Harald should dwell there winter over. Harald sat in the high-seat on one hand of the earl, and on the other hand of him sat the earl's wife; she was fairer than any woman that men have seen. Ever they all talked together gamesomely at the drink. The earl oftenest went early to sleep, but Harald sat long at night on talk with the earl's wife; and so it fared long in winter-tide.

On a time as they talked, she says: "Now has the earl talked with me, and asked what we would be always talking about, and now he is wroth." Harald answers: "We shall now at the swiftest let him know all our converse." So the next day Harald called the earl to talk with him, and they went into the council chamber, where was then the earl's wife and their council. So Harald took up the word and said: "This I have to tell thee, earl, that more abideth behind my coming

hither than I have hitherto borne forth to thee. I am minded to bid thy daughter for my wedded wife ; I have talked this over with her mother oft, and she has promised me that she would further the case with thee."

Now so soon as Harald had upborne this matter, all they who were there took it well and flitted it before the earl, and the matter came to this at last, that the maiden was betrothed to Harald. But whereas she was young, there was settled certain winters' delay of the bridal.

CHAPTER LXXIX. THE DEATH OF KING EDWARD.

BUT when spring came, Harald arrays his ship and fares away, and he and the earl parted in mickle great love. So Harald went out to England to see King Edward, and came not to Valland sithence for his bride. King Edward ruled over England for three and twenty winters, and died in sick bed in London on the nones of January ; he was laid in earth at Paul's Church, and Englishmen call him holy.

CHAPTER LXXX. HARALD GODWINSON TAKEN TO KING.

THE sons of Earl Godwin were then the mightiest men in England. Tosti was appointed captain over the host of the English king, and was land-ward when the king began to fall into eld, and was set above all

other earls. Harald his brother was ever in the court, and was the next man to the king in all service, and had all the king's treasures to heed.

That is men's say, that when it wore towards the death of the king, Harald was then nigh about him, and but few other men. Then Harald louted over the king, and said: "Hereto I call you to witness, that the king gave me now the kingdom and all might in England."

Thereupon the king was carried dead from the bed. The same day there was a meeting of lords, whereat was talked who should be taken to king. Then let Harald bear forth his witnesses that King Edward gave him the kingdom on his dying day. So ended that meeting, that Harald was taken to king, and was hallowed with king-hallowing on the thirteenth day in Paul's Church. Then all the lords of the land, and all the folk, yielded him fealty. But when his brother, Earl Tosti, heard this, it liked him ill, for he thought that he was no worse worthy to be king. "I will," said he, "that the lords of the land choose him for a king, whom they deem best fitted thereto." And these words fared between the brothers. King Harald so said, that he will not give up the kingdom, inasmuch as he had been set down in the king's seat, in that place which was the king's own, and had been anointed sithence and king-hallowed. Moreover, all the might of the multitude turned towards him, and he had all the treasures of the king to boot.

CHAPTER LXXXI. EARL TOSTI MET KING SVEIN.

NOW when King Harald was ware that his brother Tosti would have him out of the kingdom, he trowed him but ill; for Tosti was a very wise man, a mickle warrior, and well befriended among the lords of the land. So King Harald took away from Earl Tosti the host-ruling and all power he had had before beyond other earls there in the land. Earl Tosti would in no wise thole it, to be the servant of his own brother; so he fared away with his folk south over sea into Flanders, and dwelt there a little while; and then fared to Friesland, and so thence to Denmark to find King Svein his kinsman. But Wolf the Earl, the father of Svein, and Gyda, the mother of Earl Tosti, were brother and sister. The earl craved of King Svein help and men-giving. King Svein bade him home to him, and says he shall have an earl's dominion in Denmark, such as thereby he shall be a lord of worship there. But the earl answered: "This am I yearning for, to fare to England back to mine heritage; but if I get no strength thereto from thee, king, then will I rather lay this before thee, that I give thee all the strength that I have to hand in England, if thou wilt fare with the Dane-host to England to win the land, even as did Knut, thy mother's brother." The king answered: "So much less a man am I than King Knut my kinsman, that scarce may I hold the Dane-realm for the Northmen. Knut the Old owned Den-

mark of heritage, and England by war and battle ; yet was that, for a while, not unlooked for, that he might lay down life there ; but Norway he got without battle. Can I remind me more measurely after my little matter than after the great deeds of Knut my kinsman."

Then spake Earl Tosti : " Lesser becomes now my errand hither than I had weened that thou wouldst let it be, and thou such a noble man, in the need of me, thy kinsman. Now maybe that I seek friendship thither whereas mickle unmeeter it is, yet it may be that I may find that lord who will blink less at much greater redes than thou doest, king."

Thereupon king and earl parted, and were not the best of friends.

CHAPTER LXXXII. TOSTI'S JOURNEY TO NORWAY.

SO Earl Tosti wended on his way, and came forth into Norway, and went to see King Harald, who was then in the Wick. But when they met, the earl bore up his errand before the king, telling him all about his journey from the time he fared from England, and bids the king to lend him aid to seek his kingdom in England. The king answered thus : that the Northmen would not be over-eager to fare to England a-warfare, and to have there an English lord to rule over them. " Men say," says he, " that those Englishmen there are not all-trusty."

The earl answered : " Whether is that sooth,

that I have heard men say in England, that King Magnus, thy kinsman, sent men to King Edward, and that was in the word-sending, that King Magnus owned England no less than Denmark, for taken heritage after Hordaknut, even as the oaths of them had stood thereto."

The king answered: "Why then did he not have it, if he owned it?"

Answered the earl: "Why hast thou not Denmark, even as King Magnus had it before thee?"

The king answered: "The Danes have no cause to boast them against us Northmen, for many a brand have we burnt on those kinsmen of thine."

Then said the earl: "If thou wilt not to tell me, then will I tell thee: for this cause did King Magnus make Denmark his own, that the lords of the land gave him aid; but for this cause thou gatst it not, that all the folk of the land withstood thee. And therefore it was that King Magnus battled not for England, that all the folk of the land would have Edward for king. Now if thou wilt make England thine own, I may so do, that the more part of the lords in England shall be thy friends and furtherers, for I lack nought against my brother Harald save the king's name only. That wot all men, that no such warrior as thou has been born in the Northlands, and that meseemeth wonderful that thou shouldst have been fighting for Denmark these fifteen years, but wilt not have England which now lieth loose before thee."

King Harald thought carefully over what the

earl said, and understood that much of what he spoke was true, and, on the other hand, was fain to get that realm.

Sithence king and earl talked together long and oft; and they set this counsel between them, that in the summer they should fare to England and win the land. King Harald sent word over all Norway, and bade out a levy, one half of the all-men war-muster.

Now this was much befamed, and many were the guesses how the journey would fare. Some folk spake, and told the tale of all the great deeds of King Harald, that this was not a matter beyond his dealing; but some said that England would be hard to seek to, whereas the man-folk thereof were an exceeding many, and that host which is called the Thingmen-host was so doughty, that one man of them was of better avail than any two of the best men of Harald. Then answered Wolf the Marshal:

Unloath I gat wealth ever;
 No need unto the marshals
 Of the king, that they should turn them
 To the prow-room of King Harald,
 If two of us shall give back
 Before one Thingman only.
 Bright linen-brent, I taught me
 Other than that in youth days.

That spring Wolf the Marshal died. King Harald stood over his grave, and spake as he turned away therefrom: "There now lies he, who was the most faithful and the most dutiful to his lord."

In the spring Earl Tosti sailed west to Flanders, to meet the company that had followed him out from England, and that other which had gathered to him both from England and there in Flanders.

CHAPTER LXXXIII. THE DREAM OF GYRD.

KING HARALD'S host gathered together at the Solund Isles. But when King Harald was ready to put out from Nidoyce, he went first to the shrine of King Olaf and unlocked it, and cut his hair and nails, and then locked the shrine and cast the keys out into the Nid, and the shrine of Olaf the Holy has never been unlocked sithence. At this time were worn from his fall five and thirty winters, and he lived thirty and five winters withal in this world.

King Harald, with the folk that followed him, held south to meet his host. There came together a mickle host, so that men say how that King Harald had wellnigh two hundreds of ships, besides victualling keels and small cutters.

Whenas they lay amidst the Solund Isles, dreamed that man who was aboard the king's ship, and is named Gyrð. He thought he was there on board the king's ship, and looked up to the island, and saw where stood a mickle troll-quean, who had a short-sword in one hand and a trough in the other; he thought, withal, that he saw over all their ships, and that a fowl sat on the prow of each ship, and it was all ernes and ravens. The troll-quean sang :

Sure 'tis that the all-wielder
 From the east is egged on westward,
 To meet with a many knuckle :
 My gain shall that be soothly.
 Corpse heath-cock there may choose him
 His meat ; he wots there waits him
 Due steak from the lord-king's stem-hawks ;
 Unceasing there I follow.

CHAPTER LXXXIV. THE DREAM OF THORD.

THORD is a man named who was aboard that ship that lay a short way from the king's ship. He dreamed on a night that he saw the fleet of King Harald fare towards land, and thought that he wotted that was England. On the land he saw a great array, and thought that both sides were making ready for battle, and had many banners aloft. But before the host of the landsmen rode a mickle troll-quean, and sat on a wolf ; and had that wolf the corpse of a man in his mouth, and blood fell about the chaps of it. And when he had eaten that man, the troll-quean cast another into his mouth, and sithence one after the other ; but each one he gulped. She sang :

The bride of the brood of giants
 Scatheful sees ill-fare fated
 To the king ; and lets a red shield
 Shine as it draws toward battle.
 Man's flesh the woman flingeth
 To yawning chaps ; mad-faring
 The quean the wolf's mouth dyeth
 All inwardly with man's blood.

CHAPTER LXXXV. KING HARALD'S DREAM.

MOREOVER, King Harald dreamed on a night that he was at Nidoyce and met King Olaf his brother, and he sang this song to him :

Famed King the Thick fought battle
 Most conquering for the fame's sake ;
 A holy fall to earthward
 I gat for that I at home sat.
 Of this I still am fearsome
 That, king, thy death beginneth ;
 God wields this not : thou fillest
 The steeds of the greedy troll-wife.

Many other dreams were then told and other kind of forebodings, and the most were heart-heavy.

King Harald, ere he should fare from Thrandheim, had let take his son Magnus to king, and when King Harald went away he set Magnus in kingdom in Norway. Thora, Thorberg's daughter, was also left behind, but Queen Ellisif fared with him, and her daughters Maria and Ingigerd. Olaf, the son of King Harald, fared also with him from out the land.

CHAPTER LXXXVI. KING HARALD'S WEST-BOUND JOURNEY.

BUT when King Harald was boun, and fair wind fell, he sailed out into the main, and came in from the main to Hjaltland, but some of his host made the Orkneys. King Harald

lay there but a little while before he sailed for the Orkneys, and had with him thence a mickle host, and the Earls Paul and Erlend, the sons of Earl Thorfinn ; and he left behind there Queen Ellisif and their daughters, Maria and Ingigerd. Thence he sailed south along Scotland and then along England, and made land at the land which hight Cleveland. There he went aland, and harried forthwith, and laid the land under him, and none withstood him. Thereupon King Harald made for Scarborough, and fought with the townsmen. He went upon the cliff that there is, and let do there a mickle bale, and laid fire therein. And as the bale was ablaze they took big forks and shot the bale down into the town ; took to burn then one house after another, and then all the town gave itself up ; and there the Northmen slew many men, and took all the wealth they could lay hold on. No choice there was then for Englishmen, if they would have life, but to go under the hand of King Harald. So then he laid under him all the land whereso he fared. Sithence King Harald went south along the land with all the host and made Holderness. There came a gathering against him, and King Harald had battle there, and got the victory.

CHAPTER LXXXVII. OF THE ARRAY OF THE EARLS.

SITHENCE fared King Harald into Humber, and up along the river, and laid there to land. Then were the earls up in York, Earl Morcar, to wit, and Earl Walthiof his brother, with an overwhelming host. Then lay King Harald in Ouse, when the host of the earls came down on him. Then went King Harald aland and took to arraying his host; one arm of the array stood forth on the river-bank, while the other stretched inland towards a certain dyke. There was a fen deep and broad, and full of water. The earls let their battle-array sink down along the river with all the host thereof. The king's banner was anigh to the river, and there was the array full thick, but thinnest towards the dyke, and that folk the least trusty. Then the earls sought down along the dyke, and that arm of the Northmen's battle that reached to the dyke gave way before them, and the Englishmen sought forward after them, and thought that the Northmen would flee. It was the banner of Morcar that fared forward there.

CHAPTER LXXXVIII. THE SLAYING OF EARL MORCAR.

BUT when King Harald saw that the array of the Englishmen was come down along the ditch right against them, he let blow the war-blast and egged on his battles all-eagerly, and

let bear forth the banner Landwaster. Quickened the onset then so hard that all shrank before it, and mickle man-fall was in the host of the earls. Then speedily turned the host to flight, some fleeing up along the river, some down, but the most part ran out into the dyke, and so thick lay there the slaughter, that the Northmen could walk dryshod across the fen. There was lost Earl Morcar, as says Stein, son of Herdis :

Much folk in the fen forlorn was.
 The sunken men were drownèd.
 Unfew of yore the lads lay
 All round about young Morcar.
 Man's lord the flight drave forward.
 To strong flight took the war-host
 Before the king the nimble.
 —*Olaf high-minded wots him*—

This drapa Stein, son of Herdis, wrought on Olaf, son of King Harald, and here it is said that Olaf was in the fight with his father, King Harald. This is told of also in Harald's stick :

Lay a-fallen
 Down in fen there
 Walthiof's people,
 Hewn by weapons,
 So that the war-whet
 Northmen might be
 Going over
 On corpses only.

Earl Walthiof and what escaped of his host fled up to the town of York, and there befell the greatest man-fall. The battle was on the Wednesday next before Matthew-mass.

CHAPTER LXXXIX. OF EARL TOSTI.

EARL TOSTI had come west away from Flanders to King Harald so soon as he came to England, and the earl was in all these battles. And now it came to pass, even as he had told Harald before they met, that a multitude of men drifted to them in England that were kin and friends of Earl Tosti, and that was to the king mickle strength of men. After this battle which is aforesaid, all the folk of the countrysides anigh went under King Harald; but some fled. Then King Harald set about his way to win the city, and laid his ship-host at Stamford Bridge. But whereas the king had won so mickle victory over great lords and overwhelming odds, all folk were afraid, and deemed it hopeless to withstand him. Then made the townsmen that rede for them, to send bidding to King Harald, to offer themselves to his wielding, and the town withal. This was all so bidden, that on the Sunday the king went with all his host to the town, and the king and his men set a Thing without the town, and the townsmen sought to the Thing, and all folk yeasaid it, to be under obedience to King Harald, and gave him to hostage sons of high-born men, even according as Earl Tosti could wit how to tell of all men in that town. So the king fared in the evening to his ships with victory self-made, and was right joyful. A Thing was summoned in the town betimes on the Monday; thereat should King Harald dight that stead with men of dominion, and give right and fief.

That same evening after sunset came up from the south toward the town King Harald Godwinson with an overwhelming host. He rode into the town by the grace and goodwill of all the people thereof. Then were all the town-gates taken and all the ways, so that no news should come to the Northmen. This host was in the town night-long.

CHAPTER XC. THE UP-GOING OF KING HARALD.

ON the Monday, when King Harald had taken day-meal, he let blow to land-wending. Then he arrays the host, and deals the folk, who shall fare, and who be left behind. He let two men go up out of every company for every one left behind. Earl Tosti arrayed him for the up-going with King Harald, he and his company. But behind, for the guarding of the ships, were Olaf, the king's son, and Paul and Erlend, the Earls of Orkney, also Eystein Heathcock, son of Thorberg Arnison, who at this time was the most renowned and most dear to the king of all the landed-men. Then had King Harald behight him Maria his daughter.

The weather was wondrous good, and hot the sunshine. The men left behind their byrnies, and went up with shields and helms and spears, and girt with swords. Many also had shot and bows; and they were right merry.

But when they drew anigh the town, there rode out against them a mickle host; saw they the

horse-reek, and thereunder fair shields and white byrnies.

Then the king stayed his host, and let call to him Earl Tosti, and asked what host that might be. The earl answered and said he thought it most like that this would be unpeace; but said that mayhappen these would be some kinsmen of his seeking for mercy and friendship, and to get in return trust and faith of the king. Then spake the king and said that they should keep quiet at first, and spy the host. So did they, and the nearer the host drew, the more it was, and all to behold as one ice-heap, whereas gleamed the weapons.

CHAPTER XCI. THE REDE OF EARL TOSTI.

THEN spake King Harald Sigurdson :
 “Take we now some good rede and wise,
 whereas there is no hiding it that unpeace
 is toward, and it will be the king himself.”

Then answered the earl : “That is the first thing, to turn back at our swiftest to the ships after our folk and our weapons, and then we will meet them to our most might; or else to let our ships guard us, for then shall their riders have no might over us.”

Then said King Harald : “Other rede will I have : to set the swiftest horses under three brisk fellows, and they to ride at their swiftest, and tell our people, and then speedily will come help from them; for this reason, that the Englishmen shall

have to look for the fiercest brunt from us or ever we bear the lower lot."

Then spake the earl, and bade the king rule in this as in other matters, and said withal that he was nowise eager for flight. Then let King Harald set up his banner Landwaster, and Frirek hight he who bare the banner.

CHAPTER XCII. OF KING HARALD'S BATTLE-ARRAY.

SITHENCE King Harald arrayed his host ; he let his array be long and nought thick. Then bowed he the arms backward so that they met together, and that was a wide ring, and thick and even all round about withoutward, shield by shield, and so in likewise above ; but the king's following was withoutward of the ring, and there was the banner, and a chosen company was that. In another stead was Earl Tosti with his company, and another banner he had. For this cause was it so arrayed, that the king knew that riders were wont to ride on in knots, and forthwith back again.

Now says the king that his company and the company of the earl shall go forth there whereas need is hardest. "And there, too, shall be our bowmen with us ; but they that stand foremost shall set their spear-tails into the earth, and set their points before the breasts of the riders if they ride on us ; but they that stand next, let them set their spear-points at the breasts of their horses."

CHAPTER XCIII. OF HARALD GODWINSON.

KING HARALD GODWINSON was come there with an overwhelming host both of riders and footfolk. Then King Harald Sigurdson rode about his battles and scanned the manner of their array; he sat on a black blazed horse, and the horse fell under him, and the king forward off him; but he stood up swiftly and said: "Fall is faring-luck."

Then spake Harald the England-king to the Northmen that were with him: "Did ye know that big man who fell off his horse there, he with the blue kirtle and the goodly helm?" "There is the king himself," said they. The England-king said: "A big man, and masterful of look; but, belike, forlorn of luck."

CHAPTER XCIV. THE PARLEY OF THE KINGS.

ASCORE of riders of the host of the Thingmen rode before the array of the Northmen, and were all-byrnied, and their horses withal. Then spake a rider: "Whether is Earl Tosti in the host?" He answereth: "That is not to laine; here wilt thou find him."

Then spake a rider: "Harald thy brother sendeth thee greeting, and these words withal: that thou shouldst have peace, and all Northumberland; and rather than that thou shouldst not fall in to him, then will he to give thee one-third of

all his realm." Answered the earl: "Somewhat other bidding than unpeace and shaming, as in last winter. Had this been then bidden, many a man would be alive now who now is dead, and better would stand the kingdom in England. Now take I this choice, but what will he bid to King Harald Sigurdson for his toil?"

Then said the rider: "Said hath he somewhat about it, how much he would grant him of England: seven foot's room, to wit, or so much longer as he is higher than other men."

Then said the earl: "Fare ye now, and tell King Harald to make ready for battle. Another thing shall be told forsooth among the Northmen, than that Earl Tosti should fare away from King Harald Sigurdson, and into the flock of his un-friends, whenas he has to fight west in England. Nay, rather shall we all take one rede, to die with honour or get England by victory."

Thereupon the knights rode back. Then King Harald Sigurdson spoke to the earl: "Who was this smooth-spoken man?" Said the earl: "That was Harald Godwinson." Then spake King Harald Sigurdson: "Too long was this hidden from us; they were come so nigh unto our host, that nought would this Harald have known how to tell the death-word of our men."

Then said the earl: "True is that, lord; such a chief went right unwarily, and well might it have been as thou sayest. That saw I, that he would bid me peace and mickle rule; but that I might be his banesman if I told of him; and I will rather that he be my banesman than I his."

Then spake King Harald Sigurdson to his men : " A little man was this, but stiff he stood in the stirrup."

So say men that King Harald Sigurdson sang this ditty :

Forth go we
In folk-array
All byrnilless :
(Beneath blue edges
Shine out the helms)
Mine have I not.
Now lie our shrouds
On ships down yonder.

Emma hight his byrny ; it was long, so that it took him to mid-leg, and so strong that never had weapon fastened on it.

Then spake King Harald Sigurdson : " This is ill sung ; it behoveth to make another song better." Then sang he this :

We creep not into shield-bight
Before the crash of weapons
In battle : e'en so bade me
The word-fast Hild of hawk-field.
The pole of jewels bade me
Aforetime bear the helm-staff
High 'mid the din of metal,
Whereas Hlokk's ice and skulls meet.

Then sang Thiodolf :

Although the king his own self
Fall unto field, nought shall I
From the king's young heirs be turning.
Things go as God may will it.
The sun shines on no clearer
King-stuff, than is of them twain.
The avengers of that Harald
Swift-redy, are hawks doughty.

CHAPTER XCV. BEGINNING OF THE BATTLE.

NOW heaveth up the battle, and the Englishmen fall a-riding on the Northmen; hard were they taken to, and unhandy it was to the Englishmen to ride on the Northmen because of the shot; so they rode round about them.

At the first it was a loose battle, while yet the Northmen held well their array, and the English rode hard on them, and straightway from them when they gat nothing done.

Now when the Northmen saw that, and them-seemed that they were ridden on softly, they fell on them, and would drive the flight. But when they had broken the shield-burg, then rode the Englishmen upon them from all sides, and bore on them spears and shot.

Now when King Harald Sigurdson saw that, he went forth into the battle whereas most was the weapon-brunt. There was then the hardest of battles, and fell much folk on either side. Then was King Harald Sigurdson so wood that he leapt right out from the ranking, and hewed with both hands; and then held before him nor helm nor byrny. Then all they who were nighest him fled away, and it was a near thing but the Englishmen would flee. So says Arnor the earls' skald:

The king, help-shy, before him
 Bare no small breast in helm-din,
 Nor quavered the fight-nimble
 Heart of the king; there whereas

The bloody sword of the brisk one,
The beater-down of king-folk,
For hersir's need bit warriors.
Men saw that in the battle.

CHAPTER XCVI. THE FALL OF KING HARALD SIGURDSON.

KING HARALD SIGURDSON was smitten in the throat with an arrow, and that was his bane-sore ; then fell he and all that company which had gone forth with him, save them who shrank aback, and these held the banner. Yet was there still the hardest of battles. Then went Earl Tosti under the king's banner. Then fell either side to rank them a second time, and then was there a stay of the battle for a long while. Then sang Thiodolf :

The folk hath paid ill tribute ;
The host's in peril, say I ;
Needless bade Harald people
This journey from the eastward.
The king bepraised abided
The scathe of life, and so closed
The life of the king the nimble,
That hard bestead are all we.

But ere the battle joined again, King Harald Godwinson offered peace to Earl Tosti his brother, and those other men who were yet left alive of the Northmen's host. But the Northmen whooped out with one voice, and said that they would fall each athwart the other sooner than take peace of Englishmen ; and therewith they whooped the

war-whoop, and a second time the battle was joined; as says Arnor the earls' skald:

The death of the king the dreadful
 Ungainful was; the spear-points
 With gold inwoven spared not
 The luller of the robbers.
 All men of the bounteous king's host,
 By much they chose to fall there
 Round the fight-nimble leader
 Than take them peace thenceforward.

CHAPTER XCVII. HEATHCOCK'S BRUNT.

AT this nick of time Eystein Heathcock came from the ships with what host followed him; they were all-byrnied. Then gat Eystein King Harald's banner, Landwaster. Now there was a battle for the third time, and the hardest of all it was. Fell then much English-folk, and were on the very point of taking to flight. This fray was called Heathcock's Brunt. Eystein and his had gone so exceeding eagerly from the ships, that they were so mithered that they were wellnigh undone before they came to the battle; but sithence they were so wood, that they shielded them nought while they might stand up. At last they cast off their ring-byrnies; and then it was easy for the English to find hewing-steads on them, but some of them burst altogether, and died unwounded. There fell nigh all of the great men among the Northmen. This befell at the latter end of the day. It was as was to be looked for, that it was not even with all men.

Many fled away ; many also were they who got away by sundry turns of good luck ; and it fell mirk of the evening or ever all the manslaying had ended.

CHAPTER XCVIII. OF STYRKAR THE MARSHAL.

STYRKAR, the marshal of King Harald Sigurdson, a most renowned man, came away ; he gat him a horse, and so rode away in the evening. A wind sprang up, and the weather grew somewhat cold ; and Styrkar had no more raiment than a shirt, a helm on his head, and a naked sword in his hand. He grew cold as his weariness wore off.

There met him on the road a certain wain-carle in a lined coat. Then said Styrkar : “ Wilt thou sell the doublet, bonder ? ” “ Not to thee, I ween,” says he ; “ thou wilt be a Northman ; I ken thy speech.”

Said Styrkar : “ If I be a Northman, what wilt thou then ? ” The bonder answered : “ I would slay thee ; but now, so ill it goes, that I have no weapon thereto.”

Then said Styrkar : “ If thou mayest not slay me, I shall try it, if I may not slay thee.” And therewith he heaved the sword aloft, and set it on the neck of him, so that off went the head ; and then he took the skin-coat, and leapt on his horse, and hied down to the strand.

CHAPTER XCIX. OF WILLIAM THE BASTARD.

WILLIAM THE BASTARD, the Rouen-earl, heard of the death of King Edward his kinsman, and that withal, that Harald Godwinson was taken to king in England, and had taken king-hallow. But William deemed himself of better title to the kingdom in England than Harald, for kin sake twixt him and King Edward; and withal he deemed he had to pay Harald for that shaming whereas he had broken off the betrothal to his daughter.

So by reason of all these things together William drew together an host in Normandy, and had a right mickle multitude of men and foison of ships. The day he rode out of the city to his ships and was come on to his horse, his wife went up to him and would to speak with him. But when he saw that, he kicked at her with his heel, and drove the spur against her breast, so that it sunk deep in; and she fell, and got her death forthwith; but the earl rode off to his ships, and fared with the host out to England. In his company was Bishop Otto, his brother. But when the earl came to England, he harried and laid the land under him wheresoever he went. Earl William was bigger and stronger than any other man, a good knight, the greatest of warriors, and somewhat grim-hearted; the wisest of men, but accounted untrusty.

CHAPTER C. THE FALL OF KING HARALD GODWINSON.

KING HARALD GODWINSON gave leave to Olaf, the son of King Harald Sigurdson, to fare away, together with the company that still kept with him and had not fallen in the battle. But King Harald turned away with his army into the southern parts of England; for he had then heard that William the Bastard fared from the south upon England, and laid the land under him. With King Harald there were then his brothers, Svein, Gyrd, and Walthiof. The meeting of King Harald and Earl William befell in the south of England at Helsingport, and there was a great battle. There King Harald fell, and Earl Gyrd his brother, and a great deal of their host. That was nineteen nights after the fall of King Harald Sigurdson. Earl Walthiof, the brother of Harald, got away by flight, and late in the evening the earl met a certain company of William's men; and when they saw the folk of Earl Walthiof they fled away into a certain oak wood, a hundred of them together. Earl Walthiof lay fire in the wood, and let burn all up together. So says Thorkel Skallison in Walthiof's-flock :

Let there the Ygg of battle,
An hundred king's own warriors
Burn up in that hot fire :
To the men a night of singeing.
'Tis heard that there the men lay
'Neath claw of steed of troll-quean ;
The dusky steed of alder
Gat feast of the Frankmen's corpses.

CHAPTER CI. THE SLAYING OF EARL WALTHIOF.

WILLIAM let take him for king in England. He sent word to Earl Walthiof that they should come to peace, and he gave him safe-conduct to that meeting. The earl went with but few men, and when he came upon the heath to the north of Castlebridge, there came against him two king's bailiffs with a company of men, and took him, and set him in fetters, and sithence was he hewn down. The Englishmen held him for holy. So says Thorkel :

William, that reddens metals,
 Who cut the icy main sea
 From southward, has bewrayèd
 Brave Walthiof in his trusting.
 Sooth is that late will leave now
 Slaying of men in England :
 No greater lord there dieth
 Than was my lord aforetime.

Sithence was William king in England for one-and-twenty winters, and his offspring ever after him.

CHAPTERS CII. AND CIII. THE JOURNEY OF OLAF HARALDSON FROM ENGLAND.

OLAF, son of King Harald Sigurdson, held his host away from England, and sailed out from Raven's-ere, and came in the autumn to the Orkneys ; and there were the tidings

toward, that Maria, the daughter of King Harald Sigurdson, had died suddenly that same day and hour that her father, King Harald, fell. Olaf dwelt there through the winter. But the next summer Olaf went east to Norway, and was then taken to king, together with Magnus, his brother. Queen Ellisif went from the west with her stepson, Olaf, and Ingigerd her daughter. Then, too, came with Olaf from west over the main Skuli, who was called sithence the king's fosterer, and Ketil Crook, his brother. They were both noble men and of high kin of England, and both exceeding wise; they were, moreover, both of them of the dearest to the king. Ketil Crook fared north into Halogaland, and King Olaf gat him there a good wedding, and from him is come a many great folk. Skuli, the king's fosterer, was a wise man, and of mickle stir, and the goodliest of men to look upon; he became the captain of King Olaf's bodyguard, and spake at Things, and ruled with the king in all land-ruling. King Olaf offered Skuli to give him that folkland in Norway which he might deem the best, with all such incomings and dues as belonged to the king. Skuli thanked him his offer, but let him know that he would rather ask of him other things, for this reason: "That if there be a change of kings, maybe the gift shall be undone. But I will," says he, "take with thanks certain lands which lie anigh to those cheaping-steads where ye, lord, are wont to sit and take Yule-feasts." The king said yea to this, and made over to him lands east by King's Rock, and by Oslo, by Tunsberg, by Borg, by

Biorgvin, and north by Nidoyce. These were well-nigh the best lands in each stead of these, and these lands have belonged ever since to those kinsmen which are come from Skuli's kin. King Olaf gave him in marriage his kinswoman Gudrun, the daughter of Nefstein. Her mother was Ingigerd, the daughter of King Sigurd Sow and Asta; and Ingigerd was the sister of King Olaf the Holy and of King Harald. The son of Skuli and Gudrun was Asolf of Reini, who had to wife Thora, the daughter of Skopti, son of Ogmund. The son of Asolf and Thora was Guthorm of Reini, the father of Bard, the father of King Ingi and of Duke Skuli.

CHAPTER CIV. THE BODY OF KING HARALD BROUGHT FROM THE WEST.

ONE winter after the fall of King Harald his body was brought from the west out of England and north to Nidoyce, and was laid in earth in Marychurch, the one he had let do. It was the talk of all men that King Harald had been beyond other men in wisdom and deft rede, no matter whether he should take swiftly, or do longsome, a rede for himself or for others. He was of all men the boldest under weapons; victorious was he withal, even as now has been written this while. So says Thiodolf:

All-doughty waster of biders
 In Selund brooked his boldness;
 Heart ruleth half of victory
 Of men, sooth Harald proves it.

King Harald was a goodly man, and noble to

behold ; bleak haired and bleak bearded, his lip-beard long ; one eyebrow somewhat higher than the other ; large hands and feet, yet either shapely waxen ; five ells was the tale of his stature. To his unfriends was he grim, and vengeful for aught done against him. So says Thiodolf :

The king rede-heeding pineth
 His thanes for fierceness proven.
 Methinks the king's men bear but
 That which they wield their own selves.
 Sword-sharers have such burdens
 As for themselves they bind up.
 So shareth Harald pinings
 That each brooks truth 'gainst other.

King Harald was one of the most eager for might, and for all manner of good gain ; he was much giftful to his friends, them who him liked well. So says Thiodolf :

Wakener of galleys' battle
 Let give me for my song-work
 A mark : he lets deservings
 Be wielders of his favour.

King Harald was fifty years old when he fell. No tales of mark have we about his growing up till he was of fifteen winters, even when he was at Sticklestead in the battle along with King Olaf his brother ; but sithence he lived for five and thirty winters, but all that while never without uproar and unpeace. King Harald never fled from battle, but he often sought to save himself in face of overwhelming odds, when he had to deal therewith. All men said this, they who followed him in battle and on warfare, that, when he was

bestead in mickle peril, and it came suddenly on his hands, that rede would he take up which all men saw thereafter was the one likeliest to be of avail.

CHAPTER CV. MAN-PAIRING BETWEEN KINGS HARALD AND OLAF.

HALDOR, the son of Bryniolf the Old, the Elephant, was a wise man, and a great lord. He spake thus, when he heard the talk of men, that they much mis-squared the minds of the two brethren, King Olaf the Holy and King Harald; thus said Haldor: "I was with both brethren in mickle good liking, and the minds of both were known to me. Found I never two men more like of mind-shape: both were the wisest and the most weapon-bold of men, eager for wealth and might, masterful, not the people's men, rule-some and pine-some. King Olaf broke down the land-folk to christening and the right belief; but he punished grimly them who turned deaf ears thereto. The lords of the land would not thole of him just doom and equal doom, but raised up against him an host, and felled him on his own land; and for that he became holy. But King Harald harried for his own renown and dominion, and broke down under him all folk he might, and fell on another king's land. Both these brethren were in every-day's manners men of religion and of noble bearing; they were also wide-faring and men mickle of toil, and became of such things far-famed and highly renowned."

CHAPTER CVI. THE DEATH OF KING MAGNUS.

KING MAGNUS, son of Harald, ruled over Norway for the first winter after the fall of King Harald; sithence he ruled the land for two winters along with King Olaf, his brother. Then were both kings: Magnus had the northernmost of the land, Olaf the easternmost. King Magnus had a son hight Hakon, him fostered Steig-Thorir; he was the most hopeful of men.

Now after the fall of King Harald Sigurdson, Svein, the Dane-king, claimed that peace was sundered between Northmen and Danes; told, that peace had been set no longer than while they both lived, Harald and Svein. So there was an outbidding in either kingdom. The sons of Harald had out before the coasts of Norway an all-folk's host both of men and ships, but from the south fared King Svein with the host of the Danes. And now messengers fared between the two, bearing message of peace. Said the Northmen that they would either hold to the same peace which before was made, or otherwise they would fight. Therefore this was sung:

King Olaf his land warded
 With words of war and peace-speech
 Suchwise that no all-wielder
 Durst lay a claim thereunto.

So, too, says Stein, son of Herdis, in Olaf's-drapa:

At Nidoyce, where lies sleeping
 The holy king, will the fight-stern

Forbid King Svein his heirship,
For soothly is he mighty.
Olaf the king meseemeth
Will love his kindred highly ;
Nought need Wolf's-heir be claiming
To all the land of Norway.

In this summoned hosting was atonement made
betwixt the kings, and peace betwixt the lands.

King Magnus fell sick of the ringworm plague,
and lay abed a while, and died at Nidoyce, and was
laid in earth there. He was a king well beloved
of all folk.