

THE STORY OF KING OLAF
TRYGGVISON.

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THE STORY OF KING OLAF TRYGGVISON.

CHAPTER I. THE BIRTH OF OLAF TRYGGVISON.

ASTRID was the name of the woman whom King Tryggvi Olafson had had for wife; she was the daughter of Eric Biodaskalli, who dwelt at Ofrustead, a mighty man. Now after the fall of King Tryggvi, Astrid fled away, and fared privily with such chattels as she might have with her. In her company was her foster-father, Thorolf Louse-beard by name. He never departed from her, but other trusty men of hers went about spying of tidings of her foes, and their comings and goings.

Now Astrid went with child of King Tryggvi, and she let herself be flitted out into a certain water, and lay hidden in a holm thereamidst with but few folk in her company. There she brought forth a child, a man-child, who was sprinkled with water and named Olaf after his father's father. There lay Astrid hidden through the summer-tide; but when the nights grew dark and the days grew short, and the weather waxed cold, then Astrid gat her gone thence with Thorolf and few other folk,

but they went into peopled parts only when they might be hidden by the night, and met no men.

So on a day in the even they came to Ofrustead, to Eric, the father of Astrid, and fared privily. There Astrid sent men to the house to tell Eric, who let bring them to a certain out-bower, and spread a table for them with the best of cheer. And when Astrid had been there a little while her folk gat them gone, and she abode behind with two serving-women of hers, her son Olaf, and Thorolf Louse-beard, with his son Thorgils, of six winters old; and there they dwelt through the winter.

CHAPTER II. OF GUNNHILD'S SONS.

HARALD GREYCLOAK and Gudrod his brother after the slaying of Tryggvi Olafson fared to the steads he had owned; but Astrid was gone, and they might hear no tidings of her. But the rumour reached them that she was with child of King Tryggvi. So in autumn-tide they went into the North-country, as is aforewrit; and when they saw Gunnhild their mother, they told her all matters concerning what had betid them in their journey; and she asked closely of all that had to do with Astrid, and they told her such babble as they had heard thereof. But now whereas that autumn Gunnhild's sons had strife with Earl Hakon, yea and the winter thereafter, as is writ afore, withal there was no search made after Astrid and her son that winter.

CHAPTER III. THE JOURNEYING OF ASTRID.

THE next spring Gunnhild sent spies to the Uplands, and all the way to the Wick, to spy what Astrid would be doing; who, when they came back, had chiefly to tell Gunnhild that Astrid would be with her father Eric; and they said that it was more like than not that she would be nourishing there the son of her and King Tryggvi.

Then Gunnhild sped messengers, and arrayed them well with weapons and horses; and they were thirty men in company, and their leader was a man of might, a friend of Gunnhild's, Hakon by name. She bade them fare to Eric at Ofrustead, and have thenceaway this son of King Tryggvi's, and bring him to her. So the messengers go all the way, and when they were come but a little way from Ofrustead, the friends of Eric were ware of them, and bare him tidings of the goings of them at eve of the day. So straightway at night-tide Eric arrayed Astrid for departure, and gave her good guides, and sent her east-away into Sweden to Hakon the Old, a friend of his, and a man of might; so they departed while the night was yet young, and came by eve of the next day into a country called Skaun, and saw there a great stead, and went thereto, and craved a night's lodging. They had disguised them, and their raiment was but sorry. The bonder thereat was called Biorn Poison-sore, a wealthy man but a churlish; he drave them away. So they went that

eve to another thorp hard by, which was called Attwood; one Thorstein was the bonder there, who lodged them and gave them good entertainment that night, and so they slept there well cared for.

Now Hakon and the men of Gunnhild came to Ofrustead betimes in the morning, and asked after Astrid and her son; but Eric says she is not there. So Hakon and his men ransacked all the stead, and abode there far on into the day, and had some inkling of Astrid's goings. So they ride away the selfsame road that she had gone, and come late in the evening to Biorn Poison-sore in Skaun, and there take lodging. Then Hakon asks of Biorn if he had aught to tell him of Astrid. Biorn says that certain folk had come there that day craving lodging: "But I drave them away, and they will be lodged somewhere or other in the township."

Now a workman of Thorstein's went that eve from the wood, and came to Biorn's because it lay on his road. So he found that guests were come there, and learned their errand, and so goes and tells Master Thorstein. And so when the night had yet one third to endure, Thorstein waked his guests, and bade them get them gone, speaking roughly to them; but when they were come their ways out from the garth, Thorstein told them that Gunnhild's messengers were at Biorn's, and were about seeking them. They prayed him to help them somewhat, and he gave them guides and some victual, and their guide brought them forth away into the wood

where was a certain water, and a holm therein grown about with reeds; thither to the holm might they wade, and there they lay hid in the reeds.

Betimes on the morrow rode Hakon from Biorn's into the country-side, asking after Astrid wheresoever he came; and when he came to Thorstein's he asked if they were there. Thorstein says that certain folk had come thither, but had gone away against daybreak east into the wood. So Hakon bade Thorstein go with them, seeing that he knew the wood, both way and thicket; so he went with them, but when he came into the wood he brought them right away from where Astrid lay, and they went about seeking all day long, and found them nowhere. So they went back and told Gunnhild how their errand had sped.

But Astrid and her fellows went their ways, and came forth into Sweden to Hakon the Old; and there abode Astrid and Olaf her son in all welcome a long while.

CHAPTER IV. HAKON SENT INTO SWEDEN.

NOW Gunnhild the Kings' Mother hears that Astrid and Olaf her son are in the Swede-realm; so she sent Hakon yet again, and a goodly company with him, east to Eric the Swede-king, with good gifts and fair words and friendly. There had the messengers good welcome, and abode there in good entertainment. Then Hakon laid his errand before the king, saying that Gunnhild sent this word,

that the king should be to Hakon of such avail that he might have Olaf Tryggvison back with him to Norway, where Gunnhild would foster him.

So the king gave him men, and they ride unto Hakon the Old. There Hakon craved for Olaf to fare with him with many friendly words. Hakon the Old answered him well, but said that Olaf's mother should order his going; but Astrid will in no wise suffer the boy to go. So the messengers go their ways, and tell King Eric how matters stand. Then they array them for their journey home, but crave somewhat of force of the king to have the lad away whether Hakon the Old will or not. So the king gave them again a company of men, and the messengers go therewith to Hakon the Old, and crave once more for the lad to fare with them; but whereas the message was taken coldly, they fall to big words and threats, and grow right wroth. Then sprang forth a thrall named Bristle, and would smite Hakon, and scarce may they get away unbeaten of the thrall. Then home they fare to Norway, and tell Gunnhild of their journey, and how they have seen Olaf Tryggvison.

CHAPTER V. OF SIGURD ERICSON.

SIGURD, son of Eric Biodaskalli, was the brother of Astrid; he had been a long while away from the land east in Garth-realm with King Valdimar, where he dwelt in great honour. Now Astrid would fain go thither to Sigurd her brother; so Hakon the Old gave her a

goodly fellowship, and all fair array, and she went with certain chapmen. She had now been two winters with Hakon the Old, and Olaf was three winters old.

But now as they made into the Eastern sea, vikings fell on them, Estlanders, who took both men and money; and some they slew, and some they shared between them for bond-slaves. There was Olaf parted from his mother, and an Estlander called Klerkon gat him along with Thorolf and Thorgils. Klerkon deemed Thorolf over old for a thrall, and could not see any work in him, so he slew him, but had the lads away with him, and sold them to a man named Klerk for a right good he-goat. A third man bought Olaf, and gave therefor a good coat or cloak; he was called Reas, and his wife Rekon, and their son Rekon. There abode Olaf long, and was well served, and the bonder loved him much. He was six winters exiled thus in Estland.

CHAPTER VI. THE FREEING OF OLAF FROM ESTLAND.

SIGURD ERICSON came into Estland on a message of King Valdimar of Holmgarth, to wit, the claiming of the king's scat in that land. He fared like a mighty man with many men and plenteous wealth.

Now he saw in a certain market-place a lad full fair, and knew him for an outlander, and asked him of his name and kin. He named himself Olaf, and called his father Tryggvi Olafson, and his

mother Astrid, daughter of Eric Biodaskalli. So Sigurd knew that the lad was his sister's son ; so he asked the lad what made him there, and Olaf told him all that had befallen in his matter. So Sigurd bade him show the way to the goodman Reas ; and when he came there he bought both the lads, Olaf and Thorgils, and had them with him to Holmgarth, but gave out nought about the kinship of Olaf, though he did well to him.

CHAPTER VII. THE SLAYING OF KLERKON.

OLAF TRYGGVISON was standing one day in the gate, and there were many men about, amongst whom he saw Klerkon, who had slain his fosterer, Thorolf Lousebeard. Olaf had a little axe in his hand, which same he drave into Klerkon's head, so that it stood right down in the brain of him ; then he fell to running home to the house, and told Sigurd his kinsman thereof. So Sigurd straightway brought Olaf into the queen's house, and told her these tidings. She was called Allogia. Her Sigurd prayed help the lad. She answered, looking on the lad, that they should not slay so fair a child, and bade call to her men all armed.

Now in Holmgarth was the peace so hallowed, that, according to the law thereof, whoso slew a man doomed should himself be slain. And now all the people made a rush together, according to their custom and law, and sought after the lad, where he were ; and it was told that he was in the

queen's garth, and that there was an host of men all armed.

Hereof was the king told, and he went thereto with his folk, and would not that they fought, and so brought about truce and peace thereafter; and the king adjudged the weregild, and the queen paid the fine.

Thereafter abode Olaf with the queen, and was right dear to her.

It was law at that time in Garth-realm that kingly-born men might not abide there, save by the king's counsel. So Sigurd told the queen of what kin Olaf was, and for why he was come thither, and how he might not abide in his own land because of his foes, and prayed her deal with the king concerning this. She did so, praying him to help this king's son so hardly dealt with, and she did so much by her words, that the king assented hereto, and took Olaf under his power, and did well and worthily to him, as was meet for a king's son to be served.

Olaf was nine winters old when he came into Garth-realm, and he abode with King Valdimar other nine winters.

Olaf was the fairest and tallest and strongest of all men, and in prowess surpassing all men told of among the Northmen.

CHAPTER VIII. OF EARL HAKON.

EARL HAKON SIGURDSON abode with Harald Gormson the Dane-king the winter after he had fled from Norway before the sons of Gunnhild. So great imagining had Hakon through the winter season, that he lay in his bed, and waked long, and ate and drank not save to sustain his might. Then he sent men of his privily north into Thrandheim to his friends there, and gave them counsel to slay King Erling if they might compass it; and said withal that he would come back to his realm when summer was again. That winter they of Thrandheim slew Erling as is aforewrit.

Now betwixt Hakon and Gold Harald was dear friendship, and Harald showed all his mind to Hakon, saying that he would fain settle in the land, and lie out no more in war-ships; and he asked Hakon what he thought of it, whether King Harald would be willing to share the realm with him if he craved it.

“Meseemeth,” said Hakon, “that the Dane-king would not deny thee any rights; but thou wilt know the uttermost of the matter if thou lay it before the king; and I ween thou wilt not get the realm if thou crave it not.”

So a little after this talk Gold Harald fell to talk hereover with King Harald, whenas there were standing by many mighty men, friends of either of them. There craved Gold Harald of the king to share the realm in half with him, even as his birth warranted, and his kin there in the Dane-realm.

At this asking grew King Harald exceeding wroth, saying that no man had craved it of King Gorm, his father, that he should become half-king over the Dane-realm ; nay, nor of his father Hordaknut, nor of Sigurd Worm-in-eye, nor of Ragnar Lodbrok ; and therewith he waxed so wood-wroth that none might speak to him.

CHAPTER IX. OF GOLD HARALD.

NOW was Gold Harald worse content than afore, whereas he had gotten the king's wrath, and of realm no whit more than erst. So he came to Hakon his friend, and bewailed his trouble to him, and prayed him for wholesome rede, if such could be, how he might get the realm to him ; and said withal, that it had come uppermost in his mind to seek his realm with might and weapons. Hakon bade him not speak that word before any, lest it become known. Said he : " Thy life lieth on it. See thou to it, of what avail thou art herein. Needs must he who dealeth with such big deeds be high-hearted and dauntless, and spare neither for good nor ill in bringing to pass what he hath set his hand to ; but it is unworthy to take up high counsels and then lay them down with dishonour." Gold Harald answers : " In such wise shall I take up this claim of mine, that I will not spare to slay the king himself with mine own hand, if occasion serve, since he must needs gainsay me this realm which I ought of right to have." Therewith they left talking.

Now King Harald went to Hakon, and they

fall a-talking, and the king tells the earl what claim Gold Harald had made on him for the realm, and how he had answered it, saying withal that for nought would he diminish his realm: "Yea, if Gold Harald will yet hold by this claim, I shall deem it but a little matter to let slay him, for I trust him ill, if he will not give this up."

The earl answers: "Meseemeth that Harald hath put this matter forth then only when he will by no means let it fall; and I must needs deem that if he raise war in the land he will not lack for folk, chiefly for the dear remembrance of his father. Yet is it most unmeet for thee to slay thy kinsman, when, as the matter now is, all folk shall call him sackless. Nevertheless I would not have thee think that I counsel thee to become less of a king than was Gorm thy father, who indeed brought increase to his realm, and minished it in no wise."

Then said the king: "What is thy rede then, Hakon? Must I needs neither share the realm then, nor have this bugbear off my hands?"

"We shall be meeting a few days hence," said Hakon, "and I will turn my mind before that to this trouble, and clear it up in some wise."

Then the king went his ways with all his men.

CHAPTER X. THE COUNSEL OF KING HARALD AND EARL HAKON.

EARL HAKON now fell again to the greatest brooding and plotting; and let few men be in the house with him. But a few days thereafter came King Harald to the

earl, and they fell a-talking, and the king asked if the earl had bethought him on that matter they were on the other day.

Says the earl: "I have waked day and night ever since, and the best rede meseemeth is that thou hold and rule all the realm which thou hadst from thy father, but get for Harald thy kinsman another kingdom, whereof he shall be a man well honoured."

"What realm is that," said the king, "that I may lightly give to Harald, keeping the Dane-
realm whole the while?"

The earl says: "Norway is it. Such kings as are there, are ill-beloved of all the folk of the land; and every man wishes them ill, as is but meet."

The king says: "Norway is a great land and a hardy folk, an ill land to fall on with an out-land host. Such hap we had when King Hakon defended the land, that we lost much folk, and won no victory; and Harald Ericson is my foster-son, and hath sat on my knee."

Then saith the earl: "I knew this long while that thou hadst oft given help to the sons of Gunnhild; yet have they rewarded thee with nought but ill; but we shall come far lightlier by Norway than by fighting for it with all the host of the Danes. Send thou for thy foster-son Harald, bidding him take from thee the lands and fiefs which they had aforetime here in Denmark, and summon him to meet thee; and then may Gold Harald in that little while win him a kingdom in Norway from Harald Greycloak."

The king says that it will be called an evil deed to betray his foster-son.

Saith the earl: "The Danes will account it a good exchange, the slaying a Norse viking rather than a brother's son, a Dane."

So they talk the matter over a long while till it was accorded between them.

CHAPTER XI. THE MESSAGE OF HARALD GORMSON TO NORWAY.

YET again came Gold Harald to talk with Earl Hakon; and the earl tells him that he has been so busy in his matter that most like a kingdom would be ready at hand for him in Norway. "And now," saith he, "let us hold by our fellowship, and I will be a trusty and great help to thee in Norway. Get thou first that realm; but then moreover is King Harald very old, and hath but one son, a bastard, whom he loveth but little."

So the earl talks hereof to Gold Harald till he says he is well content therewith. Thereafter they all talk the thing over together full often, the king to wit, the earl, and Gold Harald.

Then the Dane-king sent his men north into Norway to Harald Greycloak. Right gloriously was that journey arrayed, and good welcome had they, when they came to Harald the king. There they tell the tidings that Earl Hakon is in Denmark, lying hard at death's door, and well-nigh witless; and these other tidings withal, that Harald the Dane-king biddeth Harald Greycloak, his

foster-son to him, to take such fiefs from him as the brethren had aforetime in Denmark, and biddeth Harald come and meet him in Jutland.

Harald Greycloak laid this message before Gunnhild his mother and other of his friends; and men's minds were not at one thereon; to some the journey seemed nought to be trusted in, such men as were awaiting them yonder; yet were the others more who were fain to fare, whereas there was so great famine in Norway, that the kings might scarce feed their own household; wherefrom gat the firth wherein the kings abode ofttest that name of Hardanger; but in Denmark was the year's increase of some avail. So men deemed that there would be something to be got thence if King Harald had fief and dominion there.

So it was settled before the messengers went their ways, that King Harald should come to Denmark in the summer-tide to meet the Dane-king, and take of him the fortune he offered.

CHAPTER XII. THE TREASON OF KING HARALD AND EARL HAKON AGAINST GOLD HARALD.

HARALD GREYCLOAK fared in the summer-tide to Denmark with three long-ships; Arinbiorn the Hersir of the Firths sailed one of them.

So King Harald sailed out from the Wick to the Limbfirth and put in there at the Neck; and it was told him that the Dane-king would speedily come thither. But when Gold Harald heard thereof he

made thither with nine long-ships, for he had afore-time arrayed his host for war-sailing. Earl Hakon also had arrayed his folk for war, and had twelve ships, all great.

But when Gold Harald was gone, then spake Earl Hakon to the king : " Now see I nought but that we are both pressed to row, and paying fine. Gold Harald will slay Harald Greycloak, and take the kingdom in Norway ; and deemest thou then that thou mayst trust him, when thou hast put such might into his hands, whereas he spake this before me last winter, that he would slay thee, might but time and place serve ? Now will I win Norway for thee and slay Gold Harald, if thou wilt promise me easy atonement at thy hands for the deed. Then will I be thine earl, and bind myself by oath to win Norway for thee with thy might to aid, and to hold the land thereafter under thy dominion and pay thee scat. Then art thou a greater king than thy father, when thou rulest over two great peoples." So this was accorded betwixt the king and the earl, and Hakon fared with his host a-seeking Gold Harald.

CHAPTER XIII. THE FALL OF HARALD GREYCLOAK AT THE NECK.

GOLD HARALD came to the Neck in the Limbforth, and straightway bade battle to Harald Greycloak. Then, though King Harald had the fewer folk, he went aland straightway, and made him ready for battle, and arrayed his folk. Then before the battle was joined Harald

Greycloak cheered on his folk full hard, and bade them draw sword, and so ran forth before the vanward battle and smote on either hand. So sayeth Glum Geirason in Greycloak's Drapa :

The god of hilts made meetly,
E'en he who durst to redden
The green fields for the people,
A doughty word hath spoken.
There Harald the wide-landed
Gave bidding to his king's-men
To swing the sword for slaughter ;
That word his men deemed noble.

There fell King Harald Greycloak, as sayeth Glum Geirason :

The heeder of the garth-wall
Of Glammi's steeds, the ship-wont,
Alow he needs must lay him
On the wide board of Limbfirth.
The scatterer of the sea's flame
Fell on Neck's sandy stretches ;
He, the word-happy kings' friend
It was who wrought this slaughter.

There fell the more part of King Harald's men with him ; Arinbiorn the Hersir fell there.

Now was worn away fifteen winters from the fall of Hakon Athelstane's Foster-son, and thirteen winters from the fall of Sigurd, the Earl of Ladir. So sayeth Ari Thorgilson the priest, that Earl Hakon had ruled for thirteen winters over his heritage in Thrandheim before Harald Greycloak was slain ; but the last six winters of Harald Greycloak's life, saith Ari, Gunnhild's sons and Hakon were at war together, and in turn fled away from the land.

CHAPTER XIV. THE DEATH OF GOLD HARALD.

EARL HAKON and Gold Harald met a little after Harald Greycloak was fallen; and straightway Earl Hakon joined battle with Gold Harald. There gat Hakon the victory, and Harald was taken, whom Hakon let straightway hang up on a gallows. Thereafter fared Earl Hakon to meet the Dane-king, and had easy atonement from him for the slaying of Gold Harald, his kinsman.

CHAPTER XV. THE SHARING OF NORWAY.

THEN King Harald called out an host from all his realm, and sailed with six hundred ships; and in his fellowship was Earl Hakon Sigurdson, and Harald the Grenlander, son of King Gudrod, and many other mighty men who had fled their free lands in Norway before the sons of Gunnhild.

The Dane-king turned his host from the south into the Wick, and all the folk of the land submitted them to him; but when he came to Tunsberg drew much folk to him, and all the host that came to him in Norway King Harald gave into the hands of Earl Hakon, and made him ruler over Rogaland and Hordland, Sogn, the Firth-country, South-mere, North-mere, and Raumsdale. These seven counties gave King Harald unto Earl Hakon to rule over, with such-like investiture as

had King Harald Hairfair to his sons ; with this to boot, that Earl Hakon should have there and in Thrandheim also all kingly manors and land-dues, and have of the king's goods what he needed if war were in the land.

To Harald the Grenlander gave King Harald Vingul-mark, Westfold, and Agdir out to Lidandisness, and the name of king withal ; and gave him dominion therein with all such things as his kin had had aforetime, and as Harald Hairfair gave to his sons. Harald the Grenlander was as then eighteen winters old, and was a famed man thereafter. So home again fared Harald the Daneking with all the host of the Danes.

CHAPTER XVI. GUNNHILD'S SONS FLEE THE LAND.

EARL HAKON fared with his host north along the land ; and when Gunnhild and her sons heard these tidings they gathered an host, yet sped but ill with the gathering. So they took the same rede as erst, to sail West-over-sea with such folk as will follow them ; and first they fared to the Orkneys and abode there a while, wherein were ere this the sons of Thorfinn Skull-cleaver earls, Lodver to wit, and Arnvid, Liot, and Skuli.

So Earl Hakon laid all the land under him, and sat that winter in Thrandheim. Hereof telleth Einar Jingle-scale in the Gold-lack :

Evil-shunning heeder
Of eyebrow's field's silk-fillet,

Seven counties now hath conquered ;
To all the land good tidings.

Now Earl Hakon, when he went north along the land that summer, and all folk came under him, had bidden sustain the temples and blood-offerings throughout all his dominions ; and so was it done. So sayeth Gold-lack :

The wise one let Thor's shrine-lands
Once harried, and all steads truly
Unto the gods a-hallowed,
Lie free for all men's usage.
Ere Hlorrid of the spear-garth,
He whom the gods are guiding,
The wolf of the death of the giant
Over the sea-waves ferried.

Fight-worthy folk of Hlokks' staff
To offering-mote now turn them,
And the mighty red-board's wielder,
Thereby a fair fame winneth.
Now as afore earth groweth,
Since once again gold-waster
Lets spear-bridge wielders wend them
Gladheart to the Holy Places.

Now from the Wick all northward
Under Earl Hakon lieth.
Wide stands the rule of Hakon,
Who swells the storm of fight-board.

The first winter that Hakon ruled over the land, the herring came up everywhere high into the land, and in the autumn before had the corn grown well wheresoever it had been sown ; but the next spring men gat them seed-corn, so that the more part of the bonders sowed their lands, and speedily the year was of good promise.

CHAPTER XVII. BATTLE BETWIXT
EARL HAKON AND RAGNFROD, SON
OF GUNNHILD.

KING RAGNFROD, son of Gunnhild, and Gudrod, another son of hers, these were now the only two left of the sons of Eric and Gunnhild. So sayeth Glum Geirason in Greycloak's Drapa :

Half of wealth's hope fell from me,
Then when the spear-drift ended
The king's life. For no good hap
To me was Harald's death-day.
Yet nathless both his brethren
Behote me somewhat goodly,
For all the host of manfolk
For good luck looketh thither.

Now Ragnfrod gat him ready in spring-tide, when he had been one winter in the Orkneys; then he made east for Norway with a chosen company and big ships. And when he came to Norway he heard that Earl Hakon was in Thrandheim. So he made north about the Stad, and harried in South-mere. There some men came under him, as oft befalleth when warring bands come on the land, that they whom they fall in with seek help for themselves whereso it seems likeliest to be gotten.

Earl Hakon hears these tidings, how there was war south in Mere. So he dight his ships and sheared up the war-arrow, and arrayed him at his speediest, and sailed down the firth, and sped well with his gathering of folk.

So they met, Ragnfrod and Earl Hakon, by the northern parts of South-mere, and Hakon straight-way joined battle. He had the more folk, but the smaller ships. Hard was the battle, and the brunt was heaviest on Hakon. They fought from the forecastles, as was the wont of those days. The tide set in up the sound, and drave all the ships landward together. So the earl bade back-water toward shore, where it looked handiest to go aland; and so when the ships took ground the earl and all his host went from their ships, and drew them up, so that their foes might not drag them out. Then the earl arrayed his battles on the mead, and cried on Ragnfrod to come ashore. Ragnfrod and his folk stood close in, and they shot at each other a long while; yet would he not go up aland, but departed at this pass, and stood with his host south about the Stad, for he dreaded the land-host if folk should perchance flock to Earl Hakon.

But the earl would not join battle again, because he deemed the odds of ship-boards over-great. So he fared north to Thrandheim in the autumn, and there abode winter-long. But King Ragnfrod held in those days all south of the Stad; Firthland, to wit, Sogn, Hordland, and Rogaland. He had a great multitude about him that winter, and when spring came, he bade to the muster, and gat a mighty host. Then fared he through all those parts aforenamed to gather men and ships and other gettings, such as he needed to have.

CHAPTER XVIII. ANOTHER BATTLE
BETWEEN EARL HAKON AND KING
RAGNFROD IN SOGN.

EARL HAKON called out folk in the spring-tide from all the North-country. He had much folk from Halogaland and Naumdale. Right away, moreover, from Byrda to the Stad had he folk from the seaboard lands; and a multitude flocked to him from all Thrandheim and from Raumsdale. So tells the tale that he had an host drawn from four folk-lands, and that seven earls followed him, each and all with a very great company. So sayeth it in Gold-lack :

Further the tale now tell I,
How the Mere-folks' war-fain warder,
Now let his folk be faring
From the Northland forth to Sogn.
The Frey of Hedin's breezes
From four lands manfolk levied.
Soothly the war-brands' Uller
Therein saw goodly helping.

Seven lords of land came sweeping
On hurdles smooth of Meiti,
Unto the mote of gladdener
Of the sparrow of the shield-swarf.
All Norway clattered round them,
When the god of the wall of Hedin
Rushed on to meet in edge-thing.
Dead men by the nesses floated.

Earl Hakon brought all this host south about the Stad. There he heard that King Ragnfrod was gone with his host into the Sogn-firth. So he turned thither with his folk, and there was the

meeting of him and Ragnfrod. The earl brought to his ships by the land, and pitched a hazelled field for King Ragnfrod, and chose there a battle-stand. So saith Gold-lack :

The Wend-slayer on King Ragnfrod
 Came once again in battle,
 Sithence betid a man-fall
 Far-famèd in that meeting.
 The Narvi of the screaming
 Of shield-witch bade turn landward ;
 The need of Ialk of snow-shoes
 He laid by the sea-ward folk-land.

There befell a full hard battle ; but Earl Hakon had many more folk, and he won the day. At Thing-ness this was, where Sogn meeteth Hord-land.

So King Ragnfrod fled away to his ships, and there fell of his folk three hundred men. As saith Gold-lack :

Strong fight ere the fight-groves' queller,
 That fierce one, there brought under
 The claws of the carrion vulture
 Three hundred fallen foemen.
 The king, the victory-snatcher,
 Who giveth growth to battle,
 O'er the heads of the host of the ocean,
 Strode thence. 'Twas a deed right gainful.

After this battle King Ragnfrod fled away from Norway ; but Earl Hakon gave peace to the land, and let fare back northward that great host that had followed him through the summer ; but he himself abode there the autumn, yea, and the winter-tide withal.

CHAPTER XIX. THE WEDDING OF EARL HAKON.

EARL HAKON wedded a woman called Thora, the daughter of Skagi Skoptison, a wealthy man, and Thora was the fairest of all women. Their sons were Svein and Heming, and Bergliot was their daughter, who was wedded thereafter to Einar Thambarskelfir.

Earl Hakon was much given to women, and had a many children. Ragnfrid was a daughter of his, whom he gave in marriage to Skopti Skagison, brother of Thora. The earl loved Thora so well, that he held her kin dearer than other men, and Skopti his son-in-law was more accounted of than any other of them. The earl gave him great fiefs in Mere; and whensoever the earl's fleet was abroad, Skopti was to lay his ship alongside the earl's ship; neither would it do for any to lay ship betwixt them.

CHAPTER XX. THE FALL OF SKOPTI OF THE TIDINGS.

ON a summer Earl Hakon had out his fleet, and Thorleif the Sage was master of a ship therein. Of that company also was Eric, the earl's son, who was as then ten or eleven winters old. So whenever they brought-to in havens at night-tide, nought seemed good to Eric but to moor his ship next to the earl's ship.

But when they were come south to Mere, thither came Skopti, the earl's brother-in-law, with a long-

ship all manned; but as they rowed up to the fleet, Skopti called out to Thorleif to clear the haven for him, and shift his berth. Eric answered speedily, bidding Skopti take another berth. That heard Earl Hakon, how Eric his son now deemed himself so mighty that he would not give place to Skopti. So the earl called out straightway, and bade them leave their berth, saying that somewhat worser lay in store for them else, to wit, to be speedily beaten. So when Thorleif heard that, he cried out to his men to slip their cables; and even so was it done. And Skopti lay in the berth whereas he was wont, next the earl's ship to wit.

Now Skopti was ever to tell all tidings to the earl when they two were together; or the earl would tell tidings to Skopti, if so be he wotted first of them. So Skopti was called Skopti of the Tidings.

The next winter was Eric with Thorleif his foster-father, but early in spring-tide he drew to him a company of men; and Thorleif gave him a fifteen-benched cutter with all gear, tents, and victuals. And Eric sailed therewith down the firth, and so south to Mere; but Skopti of the Tidings was a-rowing from one manor of his to another in a fifteen-benched craft, and Eric turned to meet him, and joined battle with him. There fell Skopti, and Eric gave quarter to all those who yet stood upon their feet. So sayeth Eyjolf Dada-skald in *Banda-drapa* :

Yet very young he gat him,
One eve on Meiti's sea-skate,
Well followed, 'gainst the hersir
High-hearted of the sea-marge.

Whenas the one that shaketh
 The flickering flame of targe-field
 Made Skopti fall, wolf-gladdener
 Gave meat enow to blood-hawks.

Wealth-swayer, fiercely mighty,
 Made fall Sand-Kiar in battle.
 Yea there the life thou changedst
 Of the land's belt's-fire's giver.
 So strode off the steel-awer
 Away from the dead din-bidder
 Of the storm of stem-plain's ravens.
The land at gods' will draweth. . . .

Then sailed Eric south along the land, and came right forth to Denmark, and so fared to meet King Harald Gormson, and abode with him the winter ; but the spring thereafter the Dane-king sent Eric north into Norway, and gave him an earldom with Vingul-mark and Raum-realm to rule over, on such terms as the scat-paying kings had aforetime had there. So sayeth Eyjolf :

Few winters old, folk-steerer
 Bode south there at the ale-skiff
 Of the sea-worm, one while ownèd
 By the Finn of serpent's seat-berg,
 Ere the wealth-scatterers willed it
 To set adown the helm-coifed,
 The whetter of the Hild-storm,
 Beside the bride of Odin.

Earl Eric became a mighty chieftain in after days.

CHAPTER XXI. THE JOURNEY OF
OLAF TRYGGVISON FROM GARTH-
REALM.

ALL this while was Olaf Tryggvison in Garth-realm, amid all honour from King Valdimar, and loving-kindness from the queen. King Valdimar made him captain of the host which he sent forth to defend the land. So sayeth Hallstone :

The speech-clear foe of the flame-flash
Of the Yew-seat had twelve winters,
When he, stout friend of Hord-folk,
Dight warships out of Garth-realm.
The king's men, there they laded
Prow-beasts with weed of Hamdir,
With the clouds of the clash of sword-edge,
And with the helms moreover.

There had Olaf certain battles, and the leading of the host throve in his hands. Then sustained he himself a great company of men-at-arms at his own costs from the wealth that the king gave to him. Olaf was open-handed to his men, whereof was he well beloved. Yet it befell, as oft it doth when outland men have dominion, or win fame more abundant than they of the land, that many envied him the great love he had of the king, and of the queen no less. So men bade the king beware lest he make Olaf over-great : " For there is the greatest risk of such a man, lest he lend himself to doing thee or the realm some hurt, he being so fulfilled of prowess and might and the love of men ; nor forsooth wot we whereof he and the queen are evermore talking."

Now it was much the wont of mighty kings in those days, that the queen should have half the court, and sustain it at her own costs, and have thereto of the scat and dues what she needed. And thus was it at King Valdimar's, and the queen had no less court than the king; and somewhat would they strive about men of fame, and either of them would have such for themselves.

Now so it befell that the king trowed those redes aforesaid which folk spake before him, and became somewhat cold to Olaf, and rough. And when Olaf found that, he told the queen thereof, and said withal that he was minded to fare into the Northlands, where, said he, his kin had dominion aforetime, and where he deemed it like that he should have the most furtherance.

So the queen biddeth him farewell, and sayeth that he shall be deemed a noble man whithersoever he cometh.

So thereafter Olaf dight him for departure, and went a-shipboard and stood out to sea in the East-salt-sea.

But when he came from the east he made Borgund-holm, and fell on there and harried. Then came down the landsmen on him, and joined battle with him; and Olaf won the victory, and a great prey.

CHAPTER XXII. THE WEDDING OF KING OLAF TRYGGVISON.

OLAF lay by Borgund-holm, but there gat they bitter wind and a storm at sea, so that they might no longer lie there, but sailed south under Wendland, and gat there good haven, and, faring full peacefully, abode there awhile.

Burislaf was the name of the king in Wendland, whose daughters were Geira, Gunnhild, and Astrid. Now Geira, the king's daughter, had rule and dominion there, whereas Olaf and his folk came to the land, and Dixin was the name of him who had most authority under Queen Geira. And so when they heard that alien folk were come to the land, even such as were noble of mien, and held them ever in peaceful wise, then fared Dixin to meet them, with this message, that she bade those new-come men to guest with her that winter-tide; for the summer was now far spent, and the weather hard, and storms great. So when Dixin was come there, he saw speedily that the captain of these men is a noble man both of kin and aspect. Dixin told them that the queen bade them to her in friendly wise. So Olaf took her bidding, and fared that autumn-tide unto Queen Geira, and either of them was wondrous well seen of the other; so that Olaf fell a-wooing, and craved Queen Geira to wife. And it was brought to pass that he wedded her that winter, and became ruler of that realm with her. Hallfred the

Troublous-skald telleth of this in the Drapa he made upon Olaf the king :

The king, he made the hardened
Corpse-banes in blood be reddened
At Holme and east in Garth-realm.
Yea, why should the people hide it?

CHAPTER XXIII. EARL HAKON
PAYETH NO SCAT TO THE DANE-
KING.

EARL HAKON ruled over Norway, and paid no scat, because the Dane-king had granted him all the scat which the king owned in Norway for the labour and costs that the earl was put to in defending the land against the sons of Gunnhild.

CHAPTER XXIV. THE KEISAR OTTO
HARRIETH IN DENMARK.

KEISAR OTTO was lord of Saxland in those days, who sent bidding to Harald the Dane-king to take christening and the right troth, both he and the folk he ruled over, or else, said the Keisar, he would fall upon them with an host.

So the Dane-king let array his land-wards and sustain the Dane-work, and dight his war-ships ; and therewith he sent bidding to Earl Hakon in Norway to come to him early in spring with all the host he might get. So Earl Hakon called out his host from all his realm in the spring-tide,

and gat a great following, and sailed with that folk to Denmark to meet the Dane-king, and goodly welcome the king gave him.

Many other lords were come to the help of the Dane-king at that tide, and a full mighty host he had.

CHAPTER XXV. THE WARRING OF OLAF TRYGGVISON.

OLAF TRYGGVISON had abided that winter in Wendland, as is afore writ; and that same winter he fared into those lands of Wendland that had been under Queen Geira, but now were clean turned away from her service and tribute.

There harried Olaf, and slew many men, and burned some out of house and home, and took much wealth, and, having laid under him all those realms, turned back again to his own stronghold. Early in spring-tide Olaf dight his ships and sailed into the sea; he sailed to Skaney, and went aland there. The folk of the land gathered together and gave him battle, but Olaf had the victory, and gat a great prey.

Then sailed he east to Gothland and took a cheaping-ship of the Iamtlanders. They made a stout defence forsooth, but in the end Olaf cleared the ship and slew many men, and took all the wealth of them.

A third battle he had in Gothland, and won the victory and gat a great prey. So sayeth Hallfred the Troublous-skald:

The great king, the shrine's foeman,
 There felled the Iamtland dwellers
 And Wendland folk in fight-stour.
 So in young days his wont was.
 Sword-hardy lord of hersirs
 To Gothland lives was baneful ;
 I heard it of gold-shearer,
 That he raised spear-gale on Skaney.

CHAPTER XXVI. BATTLE AT THE DANE-WORK.

KEISAR OTTO drew together a mighty host ; he had folk from Saxland, and Frankland, from Frisland and Wendland. King Burislaf followed him with a great company, and thereof was Olaf Tryggvison his son-in-law. The Keisar had a mighty host of riders, and yet more of footmen ; from Holtsetaland also had he much folk.

King Harald sent Earl Hakon with the host of Northmen that followed him to the Dane-work to ward the land there, as it saith in Gold-lack :

It fell, too, that the yoke-beasts
 Of the ere-boards ran from the Northland
 Neath the deft grove of battle,
 Down south to look on Denmark.
 The lord of the folk of Dofrar,
 The ruler of the Hord-men,
 Becoifed with the helm of aweing,
 Now sought the lords of Denmark.

The bounteous king would try him,
 Amidst the frost of murder,
 That elf of the land of mirkwoods,
 New-come from out the Northland.

When bade the king the doughty
 Heeder of storm of war-sark
 Hold walls against the fight-Niords
 Of Hagbard's hurdles' rollers.

Keisar Otto came from the south with his host against the Dane-work ; and Earl Hakon warded the burg-wall with his company. Now such is the fashion of the Dane-work that two firths go up into the land on either side thereof, and from end to end of these firths had the Danes made a great burg-wall of stones and turf and timber, and dug a deep and broad ditch on the outer side thereof ; and castles are there before each burg-gate.

So there befell a great battle ; as is told in Gold-lack :

'Twas not an easy matter
 To go against their war-host,
 Though Ragnir of garth of spear-flight
 Wrought there a stour full hardy,
 Whenas fight-Vidur wended
 From the south with the Frisian barons
 And the lords of the Franks and Wend-folk,
 Egged on the sea-horse rider.

Earl Hakon set companies all over the burg-gates ; but the more part of his folk he let wend up and down the wall, and withstand the foe where-soever the onset was hottest. Fell many of the Keisar's host, and they gat nought won of the burg-wall. So the Keisar turned away, and tried it no longer. So saith it in Gold-lack :

Rose din of the flame of Thridi
 When the dealers in the point-play
 Laid shield to shield. Fight-hardy
 Was the stirrer of ernes' craving.

The fray-Thrott of the sound steed
 Turned Saxons unto fleeing ;
 The king, he and his goodmen,
 The Work from the aliens warded.

After the battle fared Earl Hakon back to his ships, and was minded to sail back north to Norway; but the wind was foul for him, and he lay out in the Limbfirth.

CHAPTER XXVII. THE CHRISTENING OF KING HARALD GORMSON AND EARL HAKON.

KEISAR OTTO wended back with his host to Sleswick, and there drew a fleet together, and so flitteth his host over the firth to Jutland. But when Harald Gormson the Dane-king heard thereof, he went against him with his host, and there was a great battle, wherein the Keisar prevailed at the last; so the Dane-king fled away to the Limbfirth and out into Mars-isle.

Then went men betwixt the King and the Keisar, and truce was brought about, and a meeting appointed. So Keisar Otto and the Dane-king met in Mars-isle, and there Bishop Poppo preached the holy faith before King Harald, and bare glowing iron in his hand, and showed King Harald his hand unburnt thereafter.

So King Harald let himself be christened with all the host of the Danes.

King Harald had sent word afore to Earl Hakon, whenas the king was abiding in Mars-isle, to come and help him; but Earl Hakon came to the isle

when the king had already got christened, who sent word to the earl to come and meet him; and when they met the King let christen Earl Hakon will he nill he. So the earl was christened, and all the men who followed him; and the king gave him priests and other learned men, and bade the earl to do christen all folk in Norway.

Therewith they sundered, and Earl Hakon fared down to the sea and abode a wind there.

CHAPTER XXVIII. EARL HAKON CASTETH ASIDE HIS FAITH, OFFERETH BLOOD-OFFERING, AND HARRYETH IN GAUTLAND.

NOW when the wind came and he deemed he might stand out to sea, he cast up aland all those learned men, and so sailed out to sea; but the wind veered round to the south-west and west, and the earl sailed east through Ere-sound, harrying on either land; then he sailed east-away by Skaney-side, and harried there, yea, and wheresoever he made land; but when he came east off the Gaut-skerries he made for land and made there a great sacrifice. Then came flying thither two ravens and croaked with a high voice; whereby the earl deemed surely that Odin had taken his blood-offering, and that he would have a happy day of fight. So thereon the earl burnt all his ships, and went up aland with his host, and wended the war-shield alway. Then came to meet him Earl Ottar, who ruled over Gautland, and they had a great battle together, and

Hakon won the day, but Earl Ottar fell, and a many of his folk with him. Then fared Earl Hakon through either Gautland, and all with the war-shield aloft, till he came to Norway; then he went by the land-road north-away to Thrandheim.

Hereof is said in Gold-lack :

The feller of the fleeing
 For the god's rede forth on mead went ;
 The bole of the gear of Hedin
 Gat happy day for battle.
 And the bidder of war-waging
 Had sight of corpse-fowl mighty ;
 The Tyr of pine-rod's hollow
 Longed for the lives of Gautfolk.

The earl there held a folk-mote
 Of the wild-fire of the sword-vale
 Where none erst came to harry,
 With Sorli's roof above him.
 None bare the shield bedizened
 With the sleeping-loft of ling-fish,
 So far up from the sea-shore
 The lord o'erran all Gautland.

The god of the gale of Frodi
 The fields with dead men loaded ;
 Gain might the gods' son boast of,
 Gat Odin many chosen.
 What doubt but gods be ruling
 The lessener of kings' kindred ?
 I say that gods strong-waxen
 Make great the sway of Hakon.

CHAPTER XXIX. KEISAR OTTO
GOETH HOME AGAIN.

KEISAR OTTO fared back to his own realm of Saxland, and he and the Dane-king parted in friendly wise. So say men that Keisar Otto became gossip of Svein, the son of King Harald, and gave him his name, so that he was christened Otto Svein.

King Harald held the Christian faith well unto his death-day.

So fared King Burislaf back to Wendland, and Olaf his son-in-law with him.

Of this battle telleth Hallfred the Troublous-skald in the Olaf's Drapa :

The speeding-stem of the horses
Of rollers there was hewing
The birch of fight-sark barkless
In Denmark south of Heathby.

CHAPTER XXX. DEPARTURE OF OLAF
TRYGGVISON FROM WENDLAND.

OLAF TRYGGVISON was three winters in Wendland ; and then Geira his wife fell sick, and that sickness brought her to her bane. Such great scathe did Olaf deem this, that he had no love for Wendland ever after. So he betook him to his war-ships, and fared yet again a-warring ; and first he harried in Friesland, and then about Saxland, and so right away to Flanders. So sayeth Hallfred the Troublous-skald :

The king the son of Tryggvi
 At last let fast be hewen
 To troll-wife's steed ill-waxen
 The bodies of the Saxons.
 The king the well-befriended
 Gave drink to the dusky stallion,
 Whereon Night-rider fareth,
 Brown blood of many a Frisian.

Fierce feller of fight's people
 Drew from its skin the corpse-awl ;
 Let host-lord flesh of Flemings
 Be yolden unto ravens.

CHAPTER XXXI. THE WARRING OF OLAF TRYGGVISON.

THEN sailed Olaf Tryggvison to England, and harried wide about the land ; he sailed north all up to Northumberland, and harried there, and thence north-away yet to Scotland, and harried wide about. Thence sailed he to the South-isles, and had certain battles there ; and then south to Man, and fought there, and harried also wide about the parts of Ireland. Then made he for Bretland, and that land also he wasted wide about, and also the land which is called of the Kymry ; and again thence sailed he west to Valland ; and harried there, and thence sailed back east again, being minded for England, and so came to the isles called Scillies in the western parts of the English main. So sayeth Hallfred the Troublous-skald :

The young king all unsparing
 Fell unto fight with English ;
 The nourisher of spear-shower
 Made murder for Northumbria.

The war-glad wolf-greed's feeder,
Wide then the Scot-folk wasted ;
Gold-slayer wrought the sword-play
In Man with sword uplifted.

The bow-tree's dread let perish
The Isle-host and the Irish ;
The Tyr of swords be-worshipped
Of fame was sorely yearning.
The king smote Bretland's biders,
And hewed adown the Kymry.
There then the greed departed
From the choughs of the storm of spear-cast.

Olaf Tryggvison was four winters about this warfare, from the time he fared from Wendland till when he came to Scilly.

CHAPTER XXXII. THE CHRISTEN- ING OF OLAF TRYGGVISON IN SCILLY.

NOW when Olaf Tryggvison lay at Scilly he heard tell that in the isle there was a certain soothsayer, who told of things not yet come to pass; and many men deemed that things fell out as he foretold. So Olaf fell a-longing to try the spaeing of this man; and he sent to the wise man him who was fairest and biggest of his men, arrayed in the most glorious wise, bidding him say that he was the king; for hereof was Olaf by then become famed in all lands, that he was fairer and nobler than all other men. But since he fared from Garth-realm, he had used no more of his name than to call him Oli, and a Garth-realm. Now when the messenger came to the soothsayer and said he

was the king, then gat he this answer : “ King art thou not ; but my counsel to thee is, that thou be true to thy king.”

Nor said he more to the man, who fared back and told Olaf hereof ; whereby he longed the more to meet this man, after hearing of such answer given ; and all doubt fell from him that the man was verily a soothsayer. So Olaf went to him, and had speech of him, asking him what he would say as to how he should speed coming by his kingdom, or any other good-hap.

Then answered that lone-abider with holy spaedom : “ A glorious king shalt thou be, and do glorious deeds ; many men shalt thou bring to troth and christening, helping thereby both thyself and many others ; but to the end that thou doubt not of this mine answer, take this for a token : Hard by thy ship shalt thou fall into a snare of an host of men, and battle will spring thence, and thou wilt both lose certain of thy company, and thyself be hurt ; and of this wound shalt thou look to die, and be borne to ship on shield ; yet shalt thou be whole of thy hurt within seven nights, and speedily be christened thereafter.”

So Olaf went down to his ship, and met unpeaceful men on the way, who would slay him and his folk ; and it fared with their dealings as that lone-biding man had foretold him, that Olaf was borne wounded on a shield out to his ship, and was whole again within seven nights' space.

Then deemed Olaf surely that the man had told him a true matter, and that he would be a soothfast soothsayer, whencesoever he had his spaedom. So

he went a second time to see this soothsayer, and talked much with him, and asked him closely whence he had the wisdom to foretell things to come. The lone-dweller told him that the very God of christened men let him know all things that he would, and therewithal he told Olaf many great works of Almighty God; from all which words Olaf yeasaid the taking on him of christening; and so was he christened with all his fellows. He abode there long, and learned the right troth, and had away with him thence priests and other learned men.

CHAPTER XXXIII. OLAF WEDDETH GYDA.

IN the autumn-tide sailed Olaf from the Scillies to England. He lay in a certain haven there, and fared peacefully, for England was christened, as he was now become christened.

Now went through the land a bidding to a certain Thing, and all men should go thither; and when the Thing was set on foot, thither came a queen hight Gyda, sister of Olaf Kuaran, who was King of Dublin in Ireland; she had been wedded in England to a mighty earl, who was now dead, and she held his realm after him. Now there was a man in her realm named Alfwin, a great champion and fighter at holmgangs. This man wooed Gyda, who answered that she would make choice of one to wed her from out the men of her realm; and for this cause was the Thing aforesaid assembled, and there was Gyda to choose herself a

husband. Thither was come Alfwin decked out with the best of raiment, and many other well attired were there. Thither also was come Olaf, clad in his wet-weather gear, and a shag-cloak over all, and he stood with his company outward from other folk.

Now went Gyda, here and there looking at everyone who seemed to her of the mould of a man; but when she came whereas Olaf stood, and looked up into the face of him, she asked what man he was. He named himself Oli: "I am an outland man here," said he.

Gyda said: "Wilt thou have me? then will I choose thee."

"I will not gainsay that," said he. And therewith he asked her of her name, and what was her kin, and the house of her.

"Gyda am I called," said she, "a king's daughter of Ireland, but I was wedded here in the land to an earl who had dominion here. But now since he is dead have I ruled the realm, and men have wooed me; neither have I seen any to whom I list to be wedded."

She was a young woman, and full fair; so they talked the matter over, and were of one mind on that. So now Olaf betrothed him to Gyda.

CHAPTER XXXIV. HOLMGANG BETWIXT ALFWIN AND KING OLAF.

BUT now is Alfwin full ill content. And it was the custom of those days in England that if any two contended about a matter, they should meet on the Island; wherefore Alfwin biddeth Olaf Tryggvison to the Island on this matter. So time and place were appointed for the battle; and they were to be twelve on either side. So when they met, Olaf gave the word to his men to do as he did. He had a great axe, and when Alfwin would drive his sword at the king, he smote the sword from the hand of him, and then a stroke on the man himself; so that Alfwin fell, and therewith Olaf bound him fast. In like wise fared all Alfwin's men, and they were beaten and bound, and so led home to Olaf's lodging. Then Olaf bade Alfwin depart from the land, and never come back again, and Olaf took all his wealth.

Then Olaf wedded Gyda and abode in England, or whiles in Ireland.

CHAPTER XXXV. KING OLAF TRYGGVISON GETTETH THE HOUND VIGI.

NOW when Olaf was in Ireland, he was warring on a time; and a-shipboard they fared, and needed a strand-slaughtering. When the men go up aland, and drive down a many beasts, then came to them a certain goodman, who prayed Olaf give him back his own cows. Olaf bade him take them if he might find them, "But let him

not delay the journey!" Now the goodman had there a great herd-dog, to which dog he showed the herd of neat, whereof were being driven many hundreds. Then the hound ran all about the herd, and drave away just so many neat as the goodman had claimed for his, and they were all marked in one wise; wherefore men deemed belike that the hound verily knew them aright, and they thought him wondrous wise. Then asked Olaf of the goodman if he would sell his hound. "With a good will," said the goodman.

But the king gave him a gold ring there and then, and promised to be his friend.

That dog was called *Vigi*, and was the best of all dogs. Olaf had him for long afterward.

CHAPTER XXXVI. OF KING HARALD GORMSON, AND HIS WARRING IN NORWAY.

NOW Harald Gormson the Dane-king heard how Earl Hakon had cast aside his christening, and harried wide in the realm of the Dane-king. So he called out an host, and fared away for Norway. And when he came to the realm of Earl Hakon he harried there, and laid waste all the land, and then brought-to by the isles called *Solunds*. But five steads only were left standing unburned by him in *Læradale* of *Sogn*, and all folk fled to the fells and woods with such of their chattels as they might bear away. And now was the Dane-king minded to sail with

that mighty host to Iceland, and avenge him of the shame which the Icelanders, one and all, had laid upon him. For it had been made a law in Iceland that for every nose in the land should a scurvy rime be made on the Dane-king. And this was the cause thereof, that a ship owned of Icelandmen had been cast away in Denmark, and the Danes took all the goods for lawful drift, and one Birgir, a bailiff of the king's, had been chief dealer in this matter. And the scurvy rimes were done on both of them. This is in the said rimes :

When strode fight-wonted Harald
 From the south to the mew of Mornir,
 The Wend's-bane then as wax was
 In no shape but a stallion's.
 But unrich Birgir out cast
 By the powers of the Hall of Mountains,
 In the land in mare's shape met him ;
 And that beheld the people.

CHAPTER XXXVII. WIZARDRY WROUGHT AGAINST ICELAND.

NOW King Harald bade a wizard shape for a skin-changing journey to Iceland, and see what tidings he might bring him thereof. So he fared in the likeness of a whale. And whenas he came to the land he went west round about the north country ; and he saw all the fells and hills full of land-spirits both great and small. But when he came off Weapon-firth he went into the firth, and would go up aland ; but lo, there came down from the dale a mighty drake, followed of many worms and paddocks and adders, and blew venom at him.

So he gat him gone, and went west along the land till he came to Eyjafirth. Then he fared up into the firth. But there came against him a fowl so great that his wings lay on the fells on either side, and many other fowl were with him, both great and small. So he fared away thence, and west along the land, and so south to Broadfirth, and there stood in up the firth. But there met him a great bull that waded out to sea and fell a-bellowing awfully, and many land-spirits followed him. Thenceaway he gat him, and south about Reekness, and would take land on the Vikars-Skeid. But there came against him a mountain-giant, with an iron staff in his hand, and who bore his head higher than the fells, and with him were many other giants. So thenceaway fared the wizard east endlong of the south country. "And there," says he, "was nought but sands, and land haven-less, and a huge surf breaking round about without them; and so great is the main betwixt the lands," said he, "that all unmeet it is for long-ships."

Now in those days was Brodd-Helgi abiding in Weapon-firth; Eyjolf Valgerdson in Eyjafirth; Thord the Yeller in Broadfirth; and Thorod the Priest in Olfus.

So the Dane-king stood south along the land with his host, and so went south to Denmark. But Earl Hakon let build all the land again, and none the more ever paid scat to the Dane-king.

CHAPTER XXXVIII. THE FALL OF KING HARALD GORMSON.

SVEIN, the son of King Harald, who was afterwards called Twibeard, craved dominion of King Harald his father; but it was as afore that King Harald would not share the Dane-realm, nor give his son dominion. Then Svein gathers war-ships to him, and says that he will go a-warring; but when they were all come together, and Palnatoki, to wit, of the Jomsburg vikings was come to help him, then Svein stood toward Sealand and in up Icefirth, where lay King Harald his father with his ships, all ready to fare to the wars. So straightway Svein fell on him, and there was a great battle. But so much folk drew to King Harald that Svein was overborne by odds, and fled away.

Notwithstanding, there gat King Harald the hurts which brought him to his bane.

So thereafter was Svein taken for king in Denmark.

In those days was Earl Sigvaldi captain over Jomsburg in Wendland. He was son of King Strut-Harald, sometime King of Skaney. The brethren of Earl Sigvaldi were Heming and Thorkel the High.

Then also was a lord among the Jomsburg vikings Bui the Thick of Borgund-holm, and Sigurd his brother. Vagn also, the son of Aki and Thorgunna, and sister's-son of Bui.

Now Earl Sigvaldi and his brother had laid hands on King Svein, and brought him to Joms-

burg in Wendland, and driven him perforce to make peace with Burislaf the Wend-king, in such wise that Sigvaldi was to make peace between them—Earl Sigvaldi had then to wife Astrid, daughter of King Burislaf—“either else would the earl,” said he, “deliver King Svein to the Wends.” Now King Svein knew full well that then would the Wends torment him to death, so he assented to this peace-making of the earl.

So Earl Sigvaldi laid down that King Svein should wed Gunnhild, daughter of King Burislaf; and King Burislaf, Thyri, Harald’s daughter, sister of King Svein; and either king to hold his dominion, and peace to be between the lands of them.

So King Svein fared home to Denmark with Gunnhild his wife, and their sons were Harald and Knut the Mighty.

In those days did the Danes make great threats of sailing with an host to Norway against Earl Hakon.

CHAPTER XXXIX. THE AVOWING OF THE JOMSBURG VIKINGS.

KING SVEIN held a famous feast, and bade to him all lords of his realm, for he would hold his grave-ale after King Harald his father; and a little before had died Strut-Harald in Skaney, and Veseti of Borgundholm, the father of Bui and Sigurd. So King Svein sent word to the Jomsburgers bidding Earl Sigvaldi and Bui, and the brethren of each, come hold the grave-ale of their fathers at this same

feast which the king was arraying. So to the feast fared the Jomsburgers with all the valiantest of their folk; eleven ships from Jomsburg had they, and twenty from Skaney. So thither was come together a full great company. The first day of the feast, before King Svein stepped into the high-seat of his father, he drank the cup of memory to him, swearing therewith that before three winters were outworn he would bring an host to England, and slay King Æthelred, or drive him from his realm. And that cup of memory must all drink who were at the feast.

Thereupon was poured forth to those lords of Jomsburg; and ever was borne to them brimming and of the strongest. But when this cup was drunk off, then must all men drink a cup to Christ. And then were borne to the Jomsburgers the biggest horns of mightiest drink that was there. The third cup was Michael's memory, and that also must all drink. But thereafter drank Earl Sigvaldi the memory of his father, swearing oath therewith that before three winters were worn away he would come into Norway, and slay Earl Hakon, or else drive him from the land.

Then swore Thorkel the High, the brother of Sigvaldi, that he would follow his brother to Norway, nor ever flee from battle leaving Sigvaldi fighting.

Then swore Bui the Thick that he would fare to Norway with them, and in no battle flee before Earl Hakon.

Then swore Sigurd his brother that he would fare to Norway, and not flee while the more part of the Jomsburgers fought.

Then swore Vagn Akison that he would fare with them to Norway, and not come back till he had slain Thorkel Leira, and lain a-bed by his daughter Ingibiorg without the leave of her kin.

Many other lords also swore oath on sundry matters. So that day men drunk the heirship-feast.

But the morrow's morn, when men were no more drunken, the Jomsburgers thought they had spoken big words enough ; so they met together and took counsel how they should bring this journey about, and the end of it was that they determined to set about it as speedily as may be. So they arrayed their ships and their company ; and wide about the lands went the fame of this.

CHAPTER XL. THE WAR-GATHERING OF ERIC AND EARL HAKON.

NOW Earl Eric, son of Hakon, heard these tidings as he abode in Raum-realm. So he straightway gathered folk to him, and fared to the Uplands, and so north over the fells to Thrandheim to meet Earl Hakon, his father. Hereof telleth Thord Kolbeinson in Eric's Drapa :

Now fared great soothfast war-tales
 Of the steel-stems wide around there
 Out from the south, and therewith
 Good bonders woe foreboded.
 The stem of the steed of the meadow
 Of Sveidi heard how the boardlong
 Dane-ships o'er the well-worn rollers
 In the south were run out seaward.

So Earl Hakon and Earl Eric let shear up the war-arrow all about the Thrandheim parts ; bid-

ding also they sent to either Mere, and to Raumsdale, north also into Naumdale and Halogaland; therewith they called out their whole muster both of ships and men. So saith it in Eric's Drapa :

Shield-maple set his cutters,
 Round-ships and great keels many
 Into the surf a-rushing
 (Grows the skald's song praise-bounteous).
 Off shore were ships a-many,
 When the point-hardener mighty
 Seaward drew garth about it,
 His father's land, with war-shields.

Earl Hakon went straightway into Mere to hold espial there, and gather folk; but Earl Eric drew his host together, and led it from the north.

CHAPTER XLI. THE JOURNEY OF THE JOMSBURGERS INTO NORWAY.

THE Jomsburgers brought their host into the Limbfirth, and sailed out thence into the main with sixty ships, and came in to Agdir; thence they brought their host to Rogaland, and fell a-harrying so soon as they came into the dominion of Earl Hakon; and so fare they toward the North-country doing all deeds of war.

Now there was a man named Geirmund, who was sailing in a skiff, and certain men with him, and he came on north to Mere, and there fell in with Earl Hakon, and went in before the board and told the earl the tidings of an host in the South-country come from Denmark.

The earl asked if he had any soothfast token hereof to show. So Geirmund drew forth his

other arm with the hand smitten off at the wrist, and saith that by that token was an host in the land. Then asked the earl closely concerning this host, and Geirmund saith they were the vikings of Jomsburg, and had slain many men, and robbed far and wide: "Swift fare they though, and full eagerly, and belike no long time will wear by or they are come upon thee here."

So thereon the earl rowed through all the firths in along one shore and out along the other; night and day he fared, and had espial holden inland about the Eid-reaches right away south to the Firths on one side, and north away on the other, whereas Eric went with his host. This is told of in Eric's Drapa:

The war-wise earl who driveth
 The fifth-board steeds far seaward,
 Now set his prows high-fashioned
 Against Sigvaldi's coming.
 There shook the oars a-many,
 But the solacers of wound-fowl
 Who rent the sea with oar-blade,
 They feared the bane in nowise.

Earl Eric meanwhile fared south with his host at his swiftest.

CHAPTER XLII. OF THE JOMSBURGERS AND THEIR WARFARE.

EARL SIGVALDI led his host north about the Stad, and brought-to first at Her-isles. Here, though the vikings fell in with the folk of the land, these told them never the truth of what the earl was about. The Jomsburgers harried wheresoever they came; they brought-up

west of Hod-isle, and went ashore there and harried, driving down to their ships both thrall and beast, but slew all carles fit for fight.

But now as they came down to their ships there came to meet them a certain bonder afoot, and this was hard by where went the company of Bui. Spake the bonder: "Nought like men-at-arms fare ye, driving to the strand cow and calf; better prey to take the bear, now nigh come to the bear's den."

"What says the carle?" said they. "Canst thou tell us aught of Earl Hakon?"

Said the bonder: "He fared yesterday in to Hiorund-firth. One ship or two he had, or at the most not more than three; nor had he heard aught of you."

Then straightway Bui and his folk fell a-running to the ships and let loose all their booty; and Bui said: "Make we the most of it that we have espied on the earl, and so be we the nighest to the victory."

So when they come to their ships, straightway they row out; and Earl Sigvaldi called out to them, asking what tidings; and they said that Earl Hakon was there in the firth. So Earl Sigvaldi weighed, and rowed out north of the isle of Hod, and so in about the isle.

CHAPTER XLIII. THE BEGINNING OF THE JOMSBURGERS' BATTLE.

BUT Earl Hakon and Eric his son lay in Halkell's-wick, with all their host now come together, being an hundred and eighty ships, and they had tidings how the Joms-

burgers had stood from the west in to Hod. So the earls rowed from the south to seek them.

But when they came to Hiorung-wick they met, and either side arrayed them for the battle. In the midst of the array of the Jomsburgers was set forth the banner of Earl Sigvaldi; and over against him was arrayed the battle of Earl Hakon. Earl Sigvaldi had twenty ships and Earl Hakon sixty. In Earl Hakon's battle were these two captains, Thorir Hart of Halogaland and Styrkar of Gimsar.

On the one wing of the Jomsburgers was Bui the Thick and Sigurd his brother, and over against him fell on Earl Eric Hakonson with sixty ships, and these lords to aid, Gudbrand the White of the Uplands, to wit, and Thorkel Leira, a man of the Wick.

Again, on the other wing of the Jomsburgers was arrayed Vagn Akison with twenty ships, and against him was Svein Hakonson, and with him Skeggi from Uphowe in Yriar, and Rognvald of Ærwick in Stad, with sixty ships. So is it told in Eric's Drapa :

Far down along the coast-land
Sped the sea-host, but the sea-mews
Of the glow-home fight-ways glided
To meet the keels of Denmark.
Them most in Mere the earl cleared ;
Neath the seekers of gold's plenty
The steed of the sea-brim drifted
Deep laden with warm slain-heap.

And thus saith Eyvind Skald-spiller in the Halogaland Tale :

To the hurt-wreakers
Of Yngvi Frey
Least of all things
Was that day's dawning
A joyous meeting,
When the land-rulers
Sped their fleet
Against the wasters.
Whereas the sword-elf
Thrust the sea-steeds
Forth from the southland
Against their war-host.

So then they brought the fleets together, and there befell the grimmest of battles, and many fell on either side, but many the more of Hakon's folk, for hardily, hard, and handily fought the vikings of Jomsburg, and clean through shields they shot, and so great was the brunt of weapons about Earl Hakon that his byrny was all rent and perished, so that he cast it from him. Thereof telleth Tind Hallkelson :

The sewing, that the flame-Gerd
Wrought for the earl with bent-boughs
Of the shoulder, grew ungainly.
Waxed din of Fiolnir's fires,
Whereas the byrny's Vidur
Must shed the ring-bright, clattering
War-sark of Hangi. Cleared were
The weltering steeds of sea-stream.

Where the ring-weaved shirt of Sorli
From the earl was blown to tatters
On the sound ; whereof a token
That friend of warriors showeth.

CHAPTER XLIV. THE FLIGHT OF EARL SIGVALDI.

NOW the Jomsburgers had the bigger ships and the higher of bulwark; but either side fought most fiercely. Vagn Akison lay so hard on the ship of Svein Hakonson that Svein let back-water and was on the point of fleeing. Then thither turned Earl Eric, and thrust into the battle against Vagn; and Vagn gave back and the ships lay where they had been at the first. So Earl Eric gat him back to his own battle, where his men now were giving aback, and Bui having cut himself adrift from the lashings, was about driving them to flight. So Earl Eric lay Bui's ship aboard, and a battle of handy-strokes betid of the sharpest, and two of Eric's ships or three were on Bui's ship alone. And therewithal came down foul weather with so great hail, that a hailstone weighed an ounce. Even therewith Earl Sigvaldi cut his lashings and turned his ship about with the mind to flee. Vagn Akison cried out at him bidding him not to flee away; but Earl Sigvaldi gave no heed thereto, whatsoever he might say. Then Vagn shot a spear at him, and it smote the man who sat by the tiller. So rowed away Earl Sigvaldi with five-and-thirty ships, and but five-and-twenty were left lying behind.

CHAPTER XLV. BUI THE THICK LEAPETH OVERBOARD.

THEN laid Earl Hakon his ship on the other board of Bui, and many strokes in short space befell Bui's men. Vigfus, son of Slaying Glum, took up a snout-anvil that lay on the forecastle of Earl Hakon's ship, whereon some man had been a-driving home the rivet of his sword-hilt. A strong man was Vigfus; and he cast the anvil with both hands and smote it on the head of Aslak Holm-pill-pate, so that the spike drave into his brain. By no weapon had Aslak been bitten afore, as he fought on smiting with either hand; he was foster-son of Bui, and his forecastle-man. There was another of them, hight Howard the Hewer, the strongest and valiantest of men. Now in this stour Eric's men gat up aboard Bui's ship, and made aft to the poop toward Bui. Then Thorstein Midlang smote Bui right athwart the nose through the nose-guard, and a very great wound was that; but Bui smote Thorstein round-handed on the flank, so that the man fell asunder in the midst.

Then caught up Bui two chests full of gold, and called on high, "Overboard all folk of Bui!" and himself leapt overboard with those chests. And therewith many men of his leapt overboard, and others fell on the ship, for as to peace it availed not to pray it. So was Bui's ship cleared from stem to stern, and then the rest of them one after other.

CHAPTER XLVI. THE JOMSBURGERS
BOUNDED IN A STRING.

THEN fell Earl Eric on Vagn's ship, and was met full valiantly ; but in the end was the ship cleared, and Vagn laid hands on, and thirty men with him, and they were brought aland bound. Now Thorkel Leira went up to them and said : " Vagn, thou swarest oath to slay me, but now meseemeth I am more like to slay thee."

Now Vagn and his folk sat all together on a tree-trunk ; and Thorkel had a great axe, where-with he smote down him who sat outermost on the trunk. Vagn and his fellows were so bound that a rope was done about the feet of them all, but their hands were loose. Now spake one of them : " Lo here my cloak-clasp in my hand, and I will thrust it into the earth if I wot of aught after my head is off." So the head was smitten from him, and down fell the clasp from his hand.

Hard by sat a very fair man with goodly hair. He swept his hair up over his head, and stretched forth his neck saying : " Make not my hair bloody !" So a certain man took his hair in his hand and held it fast. Thorkel hove up his axe, but the viking snatched his head sharply, and he who held his hair lowted forward with him, and the axe came down on both his hands, and took them off, so that it struck into the earth. There-with came Earl Eric thither and asked : " Who is this goodly man ? " " Sigurd the lads call me,"

saith he ; " I am a bastard son of Bui ; not yet are all the vikings of Jomsburg dead."

Eric saith : " Verily wilt thou be a son of Bui. Wilt thou have peace ?" says he.

" That hangs on who biddeth it," said Sigurd.

" He biddeth," said the earl, " who hath might thereto ; Earl Eric to wit."

" Then will I take it," says he. So he was loosed from the tether.

Then spake Thorkel Leira : " Though thou, earl, will give peace to all these men, yet never shall Vagn Akison depart hence alive !"

And he ran at him with brandished axe ; but the viking Skardi let himself fall in the tether and lay before Thorkel's feet, and Thorkel fell flatling over him. Then Vagn caught up the axe, and smote Thorkel his death-blow.

Spake the earl then : " Wilt thou have peace, Vagn ?" " Yea will I," saith he, " so be we all have it."

" Loose them from the tether then," saith the earl. And so was it done ; eighteen were slain, but twelve had peace.

CHAPTER XLVII. THE SLAYING OF GIZUR OF VALDRES.

NOW sat Earl Hakon with many men on a tree-bole, and there twanged a bowstring from Bui's ship, and therewith came an arrow and smote Gizur of Valdres, a lord of land, who sat next to the earl clad in brave raiment. Then went men out to the ship and found there Howard

the Hewer, standing on his knees out by the bulwark, for the legs had been smitten from him; and in his hand he had a bow. So when they came out to the ship Howard asked, "Who fell from the log?" "Gizur," they said. "Then was my luck lesser than I would," said he.

"Ill luck enough," said they, "but thou shalt win no more." And they slew him. Then were the slain searched, and all wealth brought together for sharing.

So was it said that twenty and five ships of the Jomsburg vikings were cleared. Thus Tind sayeth :

He, Hugin's fellows' feeder,
 Now laid the sword-edge foot-prints
 Upon the host of Wend-folk.
 There bit the dog of thong-sun
 Or ever the wight spear-stems
 Might clear a five-and-twenty
 Of the long-ships of their war-host.
 That was a deed of peril.

Then departed the host this way and that; and Earl Hakon went to Thrandheim, and was exceeding ill-content that Eric had given peace to Vagn Akison.

The talk of men it is that in this battle Earl Hakon offered up his son Erling to Odin for victory, and thereafter came down that hail-storm, and fall of men therewith betid to the Jomsburgers.

Earl Eric fared up to the Uplands, and thence to his own realm; and Vagn Akison fared with him. And Eric wedded Vagn to Ingibiorg, daughter of Thorkel Leira, and gave him a goodly long-ship well found in all things, and gat a crew

for him. In all friendship they parted, and Vagn fared home south to Denmark. He grew of great fame afterwards, and many great men are come of him.

CHAPTER XLVIII. THE DEATH OF KING HARALD THE GRENLANDER.

HARALD the Grenlander was king in Westfold, as is aforewrit. He had to wife Asta, daughter of Gudbrand Kula. Now on a summer whenas Harald the Grenlander was a-warring in the East-lands to get him goods, he came into Sweden. Olaf the Swede was king there in those days, the son of Eric the Victorious and Sigrid, daughter of Skogul-Tosti. Sigrid was now a widow, and had many and great manors in Sweden. So when she heard that Harald the Grenlander, her foster-brother, was come off the land, she sent men to him, bidding him come guest with her. And he slept not over his journey, but went thither with a great company of men. Goodly welcome abode him, and the king and queen sat in the high-seat and drank together through the evening, and in noble wise were all his men treated. At night-tide also, when the king went to his bed-chamber, the bed was all hung with pall and arrayed with dear-bought cloths. In that lodging were but few men; and when the king was unclad and gotten into bed, then came thither the queen to him, and poured out to him herself and pressed the drink on him hard, and was exceeding kind unto him. The king was full

merry with drink ; yea, and she too. Then fell the king asleep, and she also went her ways to bed.

Now Sigrid was the wisest of women, and fore-seeing about many matters.

The next morning was the feast still most noble. But it befell, as oft it doth, that whereas men are exceeding drunk, on the morrow they are for the more part wary of the drink. Yet was the queen joyous, and she and the king talked together ; and she fell a-saying how she deemed her land and dominion in Sweden there to be no less worth than his kingdom in Norway and his lands. Amidst this talk waxed the king heavy of mood and short of speech, and so got him ready to depart with a heart full sick ; but ever was the queen most merry of mood, and brought him on his way with great gifts. So Harald fared back to Norway in the autumn, and abode at home that winter in joyance little enough.

But the next summer he fared toward the East-lands with his host, and made for Sweden. Then he sent word to Queen Sigrid that he would see her, and she rode down to meet him, and they fell to speech together. Speedily his words came to this, whether she would wed with him ; but she said that were a fool's wedding for him, he being so well wedded already, as better might not be.

Harald saith that Asta is a good woman and of noble blood ; "yet is she not so high-born as I be."

Sigrid answereth : "Maybe thou art come of higher kin than she ; yet none the less meseemeth with her lieth the good-hap of you both."

And there were but few more words spoken between them ere Sigrid rode away.

Then waxed King Harald heavy-hearted, and he arrayed him to ride up into the land and meet Queen Sigrid yet again. Many of his men would have stayed him, but he went his way none the less with a great company of men, and came to the manor-house where the queen was lady.

Now the self-same evening came east-away from Garth-realm another king, hight Vissavald, and he also was about wooing Queen Sigrid.

So both the kings were lodged in a great chamber, and all their company. Old was the chamber, and all the array of it in like wise; but there was no lack that night of drink, so mighty that all men were drunken, and the head-guard and the out-guard were all asleep.

Then amidst the night let Queen Sigrid fall on them with fire and sword, and the hall burned up there, and they who were therein; but they who won out were slain.

Said Sigrid hereat that she would weary these small kings of coming from other lands to woo her. So she was called Sigrid the Haughty thereafter.

CHAPTER XLIX. THE BIRTH OF KING OLAF HARALDSON.

THE winter before these things, was foughten the battle with the vikings of Jomsburg in Hiorung-wick.

Now one Hrani had been left behind with the

ships when Harald had gone up aland, and he was captain of those folk that were left behind.

But when they heard that Harald had lost his life, they gat them away at their swiftest and back to Norway, where they told these tidings. Hrani went to Asta and told her what had betid, and therewith on what errand King Harald had gone to Queen Sigrid. So straightway Asta fared into the Uplands to her father, so soon as she had heard these tidings; and he gave her good welcome. And full wroth were they both at the guiles that had been toward in Sweden, and that Harald had been minded to put her away.

So Asta Gudbrand's daughter brought forth a man-child there that summer, who was named Olaf when he was sprinkled with water; but Hrani sprinkled the water on him. And at the first was the lad nourished with Gudbrand and with Asta his mother.

CHAPTER L. OF EARL HAKON.

EARL HAKON ruled all the outer parts of Norway along the sea, and had sixteen folk-lands under his dominion. But since Harald Hairfair had ordained an earl to be over every county, that order endured for long, and Earl Hakon had sixteen earls under him, as is said in Gold-lack :

Where tell the folk of such like,
A land where earls are lying
Sixteen neath one land-ruler,
Hereof should all folk ponder.

The sea limes' urger's folk-play
 Of the fire of head of Hedin
 Goes forth on high bepraisèd
 Unto the heavens' four corners.

Whiles Earl Hakon ruled in Norway was the year's increase good in the land. And good peace there was betwixt man and man among the bonders.

Well beloved of the bonders was the earl the more part of his life ; but as his years wore, it was much noted of the earl that he was mannerless in dealing with women ; and to such a pitch this came, that the earl let take the daughters of mighty men and bring them home to him, and would lie by them for a week or twain, and then send them home. Whereof he won great hatred from the kin of such women, and the bonders fell a-murmuring sore against it, even as they of Thrandheim are wont to do when aught goeth against their pleasure.

CHAPTER LI. THE JOURNEY OF THORIR KLAJKA TO SEEK OLAF TRYGGVISON.

NOW Earl Hakon heard some rumour to this end, that there would be a man West-over-sea who called himself Oli, and that they held him for king there. And the earl had a deeming from the talk of certain folk that this man would be come of the blood of the Norse kings. Now he was told that Oli called himself of the kin of Garth-realm, and the earl had heard how Tryggvi Olafson had had a son who had

fared east into Garth-*realm* and been nourished there at King *Valdimar's*, and that he was called *Olaf*. The earl had sought far and wide for this man, and now he misdoubted he would be this man come there into the *Westlands*.

Now there was a man called *Thorir Klakka*, a great friend of *Earl Hakon*, who was long whiles at viking work, but whiles would go cheaping voyages, and was of good knowledge of lands. Him *Earl Hakon* sent *West-over-sea*, bidding him go a cheaping voyage to *Dublin*, as many folk were wont, and look into it closely what this man *Oli* was; and if he found that he verily was *Olaf Tryggvison*, or any other offspring of the kingly stem of the *North*, then was *Thorir* to entangle him with guile if he might bring it to pass.

CHAPTER LII. OLAF TRYGGVISON COMETH INTO NORWAY.

SO thereon gat *Thorir* west unto *Ireland* to *Dublin*, and learned that *Oli* was there, who was as then with *King Olaf Kuaran*, his brother-in-law. Speedily then gat *Thorir* speech with *Oli*, and a man wise of speech was *Thorir*.

Now when they had talked oft and right long together, *Oli* fell to asking concerning *Norway*, and first of the *Upland kings*, and who of them were yet alive, and what dominion they had. Of *Earl Hakon* also he asked, and how well beloved he might be in the land. *Thorir* answered: "The earl is so mighty a man that none durst to speak but as he will. Yet this somewhat bringeth it

about, that there is none to seek to elsewhere. And yet, to say thee sooth, I know the mind of many mighty men, yea, of all the people, that they would be most fain and eager to have a king for the land come of the blood of Harald Hairfair; but none such have we to turn to, and chiefly for this cause, that it is now well proven how little it availeth to contend with Earl Hakon."

Now when they had oft talked in this wise, Olaf bringeth to light before Thorir his name and kin, and asked his rede, what he thought of it, if Olaf should fare to Norway, whether the bonders would take him for king. But Thorir egged him on full fast to the journey, and praised him much and his prowess. So Olaf fell a-longing sorely to fare to the land of his fathers; and he saileth from the west with five ships, first to the South-isles, and Thorir was in company with him. Thence he sailed to the Orkneys, and there lay as then Earl Sigurd Hlodverson by Rognvaldsey in Asmunds-wick with one long-ship, being minded to fare over to Caithness. Even therewith King Olaf sailed his folk from the west to the islands, and brought to there, whereas he might not win as then through the Pentland Firth. And when he knew that the earl lay there already, he let summon him to talk with him. But when the earl came to speech with the king, few words were spoken before the king sayeth this, that the earl must let himself be christened, and all the folk of his land, or die there and then. And the king said that he would fare through the isles with fire and sword,

and lay waste the whole land, but if the folk would be christened. So the earl, being thus bestead, chose to take christening, and he was christened and all the folk that were with him. Then swore the earl oath to the king, and became his man, and gave him his son for hostage, who was called Whelp or Hound, and Olaf had him home to Norway with him.

Then sailed Olaf east into the sea, and came from out the main to Most-isle, and there first he went aland in Norway, and let sing mass in his land-tent, and in the aftertime was a church built in that same place.

Now Thorir Klakka told the king that there was nought for him to do but to keep it hidden who he was, and let no espial go forth of him, but to fare with all diligence to meet the earl, in such wise that he shall come on him unawares.

Even so did King Olaf, and fared north day and night as weather served, nor let the folk of the land wot of his ways, whether he was bound.

But when he came north to Agdaness he heard that Earl Hakon was in the firth, and withal that he was at strife with the bonders. And when Thorir heard tell of these things, then were matters gone a far other way than he had been deeming; for after the battle with the Jomsburg vikings were all men of Norway utterly friendly to Earl Hakon for the victory he had gotten, and the deliverance of all the land from war; but now so ill had things turned out that here was the earl at strife with the bonders, and a great lord come into the land.

CHAPTER LIII. THE FLIGHT OF
EARL HAKON

NOW Earl Hakon was a-guesting at Middlehouse in Gauldale, but his ships lay out off Vig. There was a man named Worm Lyrgia, a wealthy bonder, who dwelt at Bunes and had to wife one named Gudrun, daughter of Bergthor of Lund ; she was called the Sun of Lund, and was the fairest of women. Now the earl sent his thralls to Worm on this errand, to wit, to have away to him Gudrun Worm's wife. So the thralls showed him their errand, but Worm bade them first go to supper ; and then or ever they had done their meat, came many men to Worm from the township, whom he had sent for, nor would Worm in any wise suffer Gudrun to go with the thralls. Gudrun moreover spake, and bade the thralls tell the earl that she would not come to him but if he sent Thora of Rimul after her ; a wealthy dame, and one of the earl's best-beloved.

So the thralls say that in such wise shall they come another time that both master and mistress shall repent them of their scurvy treatment, and therewithal gat them gone with many threats.

Then Worm let the war-arrow fare four ways through the country-side with this bidding withal, that all men should fall with weapons on Earl Hakon to slay him. He sent moreover to Haldor of Skerding-Stithy, and straightway Haldor let wend the war-arrow.

A little before the earl had taken the wife of a

man named Bryniolf, and had gotten great hatred for the deed, and war had been at point to arise thence.

So at this message of the war-arrow sprang up much people, and made for Middlehouse; but the earl had espial of them, and went his ways from the stead with his folk into a deep dale which is now called the Earl's-dale, and there they lay hid.

The next day the earl espied all the host of the bonders. The bonders took all the ways, but were most of mind that the earl would have gotten to his ships, whereof was Erland his son captain, the most hopeful of men.

But at nightfall the earl scattered his men, bidding them fare by the woodland ways out to Orkdale :

“No man will do you hurt, if I be nowhere anigh; but send word to Erland to fare out down the firth, and let us meet in Mere, and meanwhile I will hide me well from the bonders.”

Then departed the earl, and a thrall of his named Kark was with him.

Now the water of Gaul was under ice, and the earl thrust his horse into it, and let his cloak lie behind there, and then went they into the cave which has been called the Earl's-cave thereafter; and there they fell asleep. But when Kark awoke he told a dream of his : how a man, black and evil to look on, passed by the cave's mouth so that he was afraid of his coming in, and this man told him that Ulli was dead. Then said the earl that it was Erland would be slain.

Yet again slept Kark the thrall, and was

troubled in his sleep, and when he woke he told his dream: how he had seen that same man coming down back again, who bade him tell the earl that now were all the sounds locked. So told Kark his dream to the earl, who misdoubted now that this betokened him a short life.

Then he arose, and they went to the stead of Rimul, and the earl sent Kark to Thora, bidding her come privily to him. So did she, and welcomed the earl kindly, and he prayed her to hide him for certain nights till the gathering of the bonders went to pieces. Said she: "They will be seeking thee here about my stead both within and without; for many wot that I would fain help thee all I may, but one place there is about my stead where I deem that I would not think of seeking for such a man as thou, a certain swine-sty to wit."

So they went thither; and the earl said: "Make we ready here; for we must take heed to our lives first of all." Then dug the thrall a deep hole therein, and bore away the mould, and then laid wood over it. Thora told the earl the tidings how Olaf Tryggvison was come into the mouth of the firth, and had slain Erland his son.

Then went the earl into the hole, and Kark with him, and Thora did it over with wood, and strawed over it mould and muck, and drave the swine thereover. And this swine-sty was under a certain big stone.

CHAPTER LIV. THE DEATH OF ER-LAND.

OLAF TRYGGVISON stood in up the mouth of the firth with five long-ships, and there rowed out to meet him Erland, the son of Earl Hakon, with three ships. But as the ships drew nigh one to the other, Erland misdoubted him that this would be war, and turned about toward the land. But when King Olaf saw the long-ships come rowing down the firth to meet him, he thought that Earl Hakon would be going there, and bade row after them in all haste. But when Erland and his folk were come to the land they ran the ships aground, and leapt overboard straightway and made for the shore. Then drave thither Olaf's ships ; and Olaf saw a man striking out for shore who was exceeding fair ; so he caught up the tiller and cast it at that man, and it smote the head of Erland the earl's son, and beat out his brains ; and there Erland lost his life.

Olaf and his folk slew many men ; some fled away, and some they laid hands on and took to peace, from whom they heard the tidings. So it was told to Olaf that the bonders had driven Earl Hakon away, and that he was fleeing before them, and that all his folk were scattered.

CHAPTER LV. THE DEATH OF EARL HAKON.

THEREWITHAL came the bonders to meet Olaf, and either side were fain of other, and they fall straightway into good friendship.

So the bonders take him to be king over them, and all with one accord go about to seek for Earl Hakon, and so fare up into Gauldale, deeming it most like that the earl will be at Rimul, if at any habited stead he be, because Thora was his dearest friend of all the dale folk. So thither fare they, and seek the earl within and without, and find him not. Then held Olaf a house-thing out in the garth, and himself stood up on that same big stone that was beside the swine-sty.

There spake Olaf to his men, and some deal of his speaking was that he would with wealth and worth further him who should bring Earl Hakon to harm.

Now this talk heard the earl and Kark, and they had a light there with them; and the earl said: "Why art thou so pale, or whiles as black as earth? is it not so that thou wilt bewray me?"

"Nay," said Kark.

"We were born both on one and the same night," said the earl, "nor shall we be far apart in our deaths."

Then fared King Olaf away as the eve came on, but in the night the earl kept himself waking, but Kark slept and went on evilly in his sleep. Then the earl waked him and asked what he dreamed; and he said: "I was e'en now at

Ladir, and King Olaf laid a gold necklace on the neck of me."

The earl answered : " A blood-red necklace shall Olaf do about thy neck whenso ye meet. See thou to it ; but from me shalt thou have but good even as hath been aforetime ; so betray me not."

So thereafter they both waked, as men waking one over the other.

But against the daybreak the earl fell asleep, and speedily his sleep waxed troubled, till to such a pitch it came that he drew under him his heels and his head as if he would rise up, and cried out high and awfully. Then waxed Kark adrad and full of horror, and gripped a big knife from out his belt and thrust it through the earl's throat and sheared it right out. That was the bane of Earl Hakon.

Then Kark cut the head from the earl, and ran away thence with it ; and he came the next day to Ladir, and brought the earl's head to King Olaf, and told him all these things that had befallen in the goings of him and Earl Hakon, even as is here written.

Then let King Olaf lead him away thence, and smite the head from him.

CHAPTER LVI. THE STONING OF EARL HAKON'S HEAD.

THEN fared King Olaf, and a many of the bonders with him, out to Nid-holm, and had with him the heads of Earl Hakon and Kark.

Now this holm was kept in those days for the

slaying of thieves and evil men, and a gallows stood there; and so thereto the king let be borne the head of Earl Hakon, and of Kark withal.

Then thereto went the whole host of them, and set up a whooping, and stoned the heads, crying out, that there they fared meetly together, rascal by rascal.

Then they let fare up into Gauldale and take the corpse of him and drag it away.

And now so great was the might of that enmity of the Thrandheimers against Earl Hakon, that no man durst name him otherwise than the Evil Earl; and for long after was this name laid on him. Yet sooth to say of Earl Hakon, for many things was he worthy to be lord; first, for the great stock he was come of, and then also for the wisdom and insight wherewith he dealt with his dominion; for his high heart in battle and his good hap withal, for the winning of victory and slaying of his foemen. And thus saith Thorleif Redfelson:

Of no earl ever heard we
 Neath the moon's highway, Hakon,
 More famed than thou; Ran's fight-stem
 Gat fame from out the battle.
 Nine mighty chiefs to Odin
 Thou sentest; eats the raven
 The gotten corpses. Therefore
 Mightst thou be king wide-landed.

Most bountiful also was Earl Hakon. But most evil hap had such a lord in his death-day. And this brought it most about, that so it was that the day was come, when foredoomed was blood-offering and the men of blood-offerings, and the holy faith come in their stead, and the true worship.

CHAPTER LVII. OLAF TRYGGVISON
TAKETH THE KINGDOM IN NORWAY.

NOW was Olaf Tryggvison taken for king at a Thing of all the people in Thrandheim over the land even as Harald Hairfair had held it. There rose up all the people thronging, and would hear nought else but that Olaf Tryggvison should be king.

Then King Olaf fared through all the land and laid it under him, and all men of Norway turned to his obedience ; yea, all the lords of the Uplands or the Wick, who had aforetime held their lands of the Dane-king, these became King Olaf's men and held their lands of him. In such wise he fared through the land the first winter and the summer after. Earl Eric Hakonson and Svein his brother, and others, friends and kin of theirs, fled the land, and went east to Sweden to King Olaf the Swede, and had good welcome of him, as sayeth Thord Kolbeinson :

Short while, O scathe-wolves' scatterer,
Wore ere the land-folk's treason
Ended the life of Hakon—
Weird wendeth things a-many !
When the host fared from the Westland,
Methinks the son of Tryggvi
Came to the land that erewhile
The staff of sword-fields conquered.

And again :

More in his heart had Eric
Against the great wealth-waster
Than spoken word laid open,
As from him might be looked for.

The wrathful Earl of Thrandheim
Sought rede of the King of Sweden ;
Therefrom was no man running,
But stiff-necked grew the Thrandfolk.

CHAPTER LVIII. THE WEDDING OF LODIN.

THERE was one named Lodin, a wealthy man of the Wick and of good kin ; he was oft on cheaping voyages, though whiles he went a-warring.

Now on a summer Lodin was on a cheaping voyage aboard a ship which he owned himself, and had plenteous merchandise therein. He made for Estland, and was busied with his chaffer through the summer. Now amidst the market there were brought thither many kind of wares, and many thralls were brought for sale. So there saw Lodin a certain woman who had been sold for a thrall, and as he beheld her he knew that she was Astrid, Eric's daughter, who had been wedded to King Tryggvi Olafson, howsoever she were unlike what he had seen her aforetime, being pale now, and lean, and ill-clad ; so he went up to her, and asked her how it fared with her. She said : " It is a heavy tale to tell ; I am sold at thrall-cheapings, and am brought hither to be sold." Then they gat known to each other, and Astrid knew Lodin and prayed him therewith to buy her and have her home with him to her kin.

" I will give thee a choice over that," said he ; " I will bring thee back to Norway if thou wilt wed me."

Now whereas Astrid was hard bestead, and that she knew withal that Lodin was a doughty man and of good kin, she promised him so much for her freeing. So Lodin bought Astrid and brought her to Norway, and wedded her with her kindred's goodwill, and their children were Thorkel Nefia, Ingirid, and Ingigerd; but the daughters of Astrid by King Tryggvi were Ingibiorg and Astrid. The sons of Eric Biodaskalli were Sigurd Carlshead, Jostein, and Thorkel Dydrill; these were all noble men and wealthy, and had manors in the East-country. Two brethren who dwelt east in the Wick, one named Thorgeir and the other Hyrning, wealthy men and of good kin, wedded the daughters of Astrid and Lodin, Ingirid to wit, and Ingigerd.

CHAPTER LIX. KING OLAF CHRIS- TENETH THE WICK.

KING HARALD GORMSON the Dane-king when he took christening sent bidding over all his realm that all men should let themselves be christened and turn to the right troth. He himself followed on the heels of that bidding, and used might and mishandling if otherwise men yielded not; he sent two earls into Norway with a great host, Urguthriot and Brimilskiar by name, in order to bid christening there, and folk yielded readily enough in the Wick, where had been Harald's rule, and there were christened many folk of the land. But after the death of Harald, Svein Twibeard his son gat

speedily into wars in Saxland and Friesland, and at last in England. Then those men in Norway who had taken christening turned back again to blood-offering, as they had done afore, and after the fashion of them of the North-country.

But when Olaf Tryggvison was become king in Norway he abode a long while of summer in the Wick. Many of his kin came to him there, and some who were allied to him; and many there were who had been great friends of his father; and there was he welcomed with very great love.

So then Olaf called to speech with him his mother's brethren, Lodin his stepfather, and the sons-in-law of him, Thorgeir and Hyrning. Then he laid this matter most earnestly before them, craving that they should undertake it with him, and afterwards back it with all their might, to wit, that he will have the Christian faith set forth throughout all his realm. He saith that he will bring about the christening of all Norway, or die else: "But I will make you all great men and mighty, because I trust in you best of all, for kinship sake, and other ties."

So they all accorded to this, to do whatso he bade them, and to follow him herein whither he would, and all those men who would do after their rede.

So straightway King Olaf lay bare before all the people that he would bid all men throughout his realm be christened. They first assented to these commands who had afore pledged themselves, who were all the mightiest of those men who dwelt thereabout, and all others did according to

their example. So then east in the Wick were all men christened.

Then fared the king into the north parts of the Wick, and bade all men take christening; but those who gainsaid him he mishandled sorely. Some he slew, some he maimed, some he drave away from the land.

So it came to pass that all through the realm of Tryggvi his father, and the realm that Harald the Grenlander, his kinsman, had held, folk gave themselves up to be christened according to the bidding of King Olaf; and that summer and the winter after was all the Wick christened.

CHAPTER LX. OF THE HORDLANDERS.

EARLY in spring-tide was Olaf stirring in the Wick with a great host, and so fared north into Agdir; and wheresoever he came he called a Thing of the bonders and bade all men be christened. So men come under the faith of Christ, for there was none of the bonders might rise up against the king, and the folk were christened wheresoever he came.

Men there were in Hordland, many and noble, come of the kin of Horda Kari. He had had four sons: first, Thorleif the Sage; then Ogmund, father of Thorolf Skialg, who was the father of Erling of Soli; thirdly, Thord, the father of Klypp the Hersir, who slew Sigurd Slaver, the son of Gunnhild; fourthly, Olmod, the father of Askel, the father of Aslak Pate a-Fitiar. And this

stock was the most and the noblest of Hordland.

Now when these kinsmen heard of these troublous tidings, how the king was coming from the east along the land with a great host, and was bringing to nought the ancient laws of the people, and that all who gainsaid him must abide penalties and torments, then gathered these kinsmen together among themselves, that they might look to it, for they wotted well that the king would soon be upon them. So it seemed good to them to meet all together well accompanied at the Gula-Thing, and have there a summoning to meet King Olaf Tryggvison.

CHAPTER LXI. ROGALAND CHRIS- TENED.

KING OLAF summoned a Thing so soon as he came into Rogaland; and when the bidding thereto came to the bonders they gathered all together, a many people, and all armed. And when they were met they fell to talking the matter over, and appointed three men, the fairest of speech in their company, to answer King Olaf at the Thing, and speak against him, and say that they would not submit themselves to any lawless ways howsoever the king might bid them. But when the bonders came to the Thing, and the Thing was established, then stood up King Olaf and spake to the bonders in kindly wise at the first; albeit it might be seen in his words that he would have them take christening. This with fair words he bade them; but in the end was this

added against such as gainsaid him, and would not obey his bidding, that they shall abye his wrath, and punishment from him, and heavy ruin, wheresoever he might bring it about.

But when he had made an end of his speaking, then stood up he of the bonders who was the fairest spoken of them all, and at the outset had been chosen for that end that he might answer King Olaf; but lo, now when he would speak he fell a-coughing and choking so that no word would out of him, and down he sat again. Then arose the second bonder, and will nowise let his answer fall dead, howsoever ill the first hath sped; but when he began his talk such stammering fell on him that not a word would win out; and all fell a-laughing who heard, and down sat the bonder.

Yet arose the third and would say his say against King Olaf; but when he fell to speech he was so hoarse and husky that no man heard what he was a-saying, and down he sat again.

And so there was none left of the bonders to speak against the king; and whereas the bonders might get none to answer the king, none uprose to withstand him, and so it came about that they all accorded to the king's command, and the whole Thing-folk was christened or ever the king went his ways thence.

CHAPTER LXII. THE WOOING OF ERLING SKIALGSON.

NOW King Olaf made with his folk to the Gula-Thing, because the bonders had sent him word that they would give answer to his matter thereat. But when either side was come to the Thing, then would the king first of all have speech with the lords of the land. But when they were all come together, the king set forth his errand, bidding them take christening according to his command.

Then spake Olmod the Old : "We kinsmen have taken counsel together about this matter, and will be all of one consent herein. For if thou, king, art minded to drive us kinsfolk into such matters by torments, and wilt break down our laws, and wilt break down us beneath thee by mastery, then will we withstand thee to the uttermost of our might, and let him prevail who is fated thereto. But if, on the other hand, king, thou wilt speed us kinsfolk somewhat, then mayst thou bring it so well about, that we shall all turn to thee with hearty obedience."

The king saith : "What will ye ask of me to the end that the peace betwixt us be of the best?"

Answereth Olmod : "First of all, whether wilt thou wed Astrid thy sister to Erling Skialgson our kinsman, whom we now account the likeliest of all young men of Norway?"

King Olaf saith that himseemeth the wedding would be good, whereas Erling is of high kin, and the goodliest of men to look on ; yet saith he that

Astrid must have a word in the matter. So the king laid the matter before his sister.

"Little avails it me," said she, "that I am a king's daughter and a king's sister, if I am to be given to a man without title of dignity. Liefer were I to abide a few winters for another wooing."

And therewith they left talking for that while.

CHAPTER LXIII. THE CHRISTENING OF HORDLAND.

BUT the king let take a hawk of Astrid's and pluck off all the feathers of it, and then sent it to her.

Said Astrid: "Wroth is my brother now."

And she arose and went to the king, and he gave her good welcome. Then spake Astrid and said that she would have the king deal with her matter according to his will.

"I was a-thinking," said the king, "that I had so much power in the land as to make what man I would a man of dignity."

Then let the king call Olmod and Erling and all the kin of them to talk with him; and the wooing was talked over, with such end that Astrid was betrothed to Erling.

Then let the king set a Thing on foot, and bade the bonders be christened; and now were Olmod and Erling leaders in pushing forward this matter for the king, and all their kindred to boot; nor had any boldness to gainsay it, and all that folk was christened.

CHAPTER LXIV. THE WEDDING OF ERLING SKIALGSON.

SO Erling Skialgson arrayed his wedding in the summer-tide, and thereat was a full many folk, and there was Olaf the King.

Then offered the king an earldom to Erling, but Erling spake thus : "Hersirs have all my kin been, nor will I have a higher name than they ; but this will I take of thee, king, that thou make me the highest of that name here in the land."

The king said yea thereto, and at their parting King Olaf gave Erling his brother-in-law dominion south-away from Sogn-sea and east to Lidandisness, in such wise as Harald Hairfair had given land to his sons, whereof is aforewrit.

CHAPTER LXV. THE FIRTHS AND RAUMSDALE CHRISTENED.

THAT same autumn King Olaf summoned a Thing of four counties north at Drags-
eid of Stad ; thither were to come the folk of Sogn and the Firths, of South-mere and Raumsdale. Thither fared King Olaf with a great host of men that he had from the East-country, and the folk withal that had come to him out of Hordland and Rogaland. But when King Olaf came to the Thing, there bade he christening as at other places ; and whereas the king had with him a very great host, men were adrad of him ; and at the end of his speaking the king bade them have one of two choices, either take christening or

make them ready for battle with him. But whereas the bonders saw that there was no might with them to fight with the king, they took such rede that all folk were christened.

Then King Olaf fared with his folk into Northmere, and christened that country. Thence he sailed in to Ladir, and let break down the God-house there, and take all the wealth and adornment from the God-house, and from off the gods. A great gold ring also he took from the door thereof, which Earl Hakon had let make, and thereafter King Olaf let burn the House.

But when the bonders heard thereof, they sent forth the war-arrow over all the country-side, and called out an host and would go against King Olaf. Then King Olaf brought his folk down the firth, and stood north-away along the land, being minded for Halogaland to christen folk there. But when he came north to Bear-eres, then heard he of Halogaland that they had an host out there, and were minded to defend the land against the king. And these were the captains of that host: Harek of Thiotta, Thorir Hart of Vogar, and Eyvind Rent-cheek. So when King Olaf heard thereof, he turned about, and sailed south along the land.

But when he came south of the Stad, he went more at his leisure, but yet came in the beginning of winter right east-away into the Wick.

CHAPTER LXVI. KING OLAF WOOETH
QUEEN SIGRID THE HAUGHTY.

NOW Queen Sigrid of Sweden, who was called the Haughty, sat there on her manors. And that winter fared men betwixt King Olaf and Queen Sigrid, whereby King Olaf set forth his wooing of her; and she took it in hopeful wise, and the matter was bounden with troth-words. Then sent King Olaf unto Queen Sigrid that great gold ring which he had taken from the God-house door at Ladir, deeming that a most noble gift. But the appointed day for settling this matter was to be holden the next spring-tide at the marches of the lands amid the Elf.

Now while the ring which King Olaf had sent to Queen Sigrid was being praised exceedingly of all men, there were with the queen her two smiths, brethren. These handled the ring about, and weighed it in their hands, and then spake a privy word together. So the queen called them to her, and asked why they mocked at the ring; but they naysay that. Then she said that they must needs in all despite tell her what they had found. And they said thereon that there was false metal in the ring. So she let break it asunder, and lo! inwardly it was but brass. Thereat was the queen wroth, and said that Olaf would play her false in more matters than this one only.

That same winter fared King Olaf up into Ring-realm and christened there.

CHAPTER LXVII. THE CHRISTENING OF OLAF HARALDSON.

ASTA, Gudbrand's daughter, was speedily wedded after the death of Harald the Grenlander to a man named Sigurd Syr, who was king in Ring-*realm*. Sigurd was the son of Halfdan, who was the son of Sigurd a-Bush, son of Harald Hairfair.

Now Olaf, the son of Asta by Harald the Grenlander, abode with his mother, and waxed up in his childhood at the house of Sigurd Syr, his stepfather. But when King Olaf Tryggvison came into Ring-*realm* bidding to christening, then Sigurd Syr let himself be christened with Asta his wife and Olaf her son; and Olaf Tryggvison became gossip to Olaf Haraldson, who was then three winters old. Then yet again fared King Olaf south into the Wick, and abode there through the winter. And now had he been three winters king over Norway.

CHAPTER LXVIII. THE TALK OF KING OLAF AND SIGRID THE HAUGHTY.

EARLY in spring-tide went King Olaf east to the King's-rock to the appointed meeting with Queen Sigrid. And when they met they talked over that matter which had been set on foot in the winter-tide, to wit, how they would be wedded together, and things looked hopefully concerning it. Then spake King Olaf,

and bade Sigrid take christening, and the right-wise troth. But she spake thus: "I will not depart from the troth that I have aforetime holden, and all my kin before me; yet will I not account it against thee, though thou trow in what-so God seemeth good to thee." Then waxed King Olaf very wroth, and spake in haste: "What have I to do to wed with thee, a heathen bitch?" and smote her in the face with the glove he was a-holding.

Therewith he arose, and she too; and Sigrid said, "This may well be the bane of thee!"

Then they departed, and the king went north into the Wick, but the queen east into the Swede-
realm.

CHAPTER LXIX. THE BURNING OF WIZARDS.

THEN fared King Olaf to Tunsberg, and again held a Thing there, and gave out thereat that all such as were known and proven to deal with witchcraft and spellwork, and all wizards, should get them gone from the land. Then let the king ransack for those men about the steads that were hard by, and bid them all to him. And when they came there, among them was a man named Eyvind Well-spring, who was the son's son of Rognvald Straight-leg, the son of King Harald Hairfair. Now Eyvind was a spellworker, and wise above all. Now King Olaf let marshal these men in a certain hall, and let array it well, and made them a feast therein, and gave them

strong drink. But when they were drunken the king let lay fire in the hall, and the hall burned up with all them that were therein, save Eyvind Well-spring, who got out by the luffer, and so away thence.

And when he was gotten a long way off, he met men on his road, and bade them tell the king that Eyvind Well-spring was gotten away from the fire, and would never come again into the power of King Olaf, but would fare in the same wise as he had heretofore in all his cunning. So when these men met King Olaf, they told him even as Eyvind had bidden them. And the king was ill content that Eyvind was not dead.

CHAPTER LXX. THE SLAYING OF EYVIND WELL-SPRING.

WHEN spring-tide was come King Olaf fared out along the Wick, and gusted at his great manors, and sent word throughout all the Wick that he would have an host out in the summer-tide to fare into the North-country. Then wended he north to Agdir; but when Lent was well worn, stood north again for Rogaland, and came at Easter-eve to Ogvaldsness in Kormt-isle. And there was his Easter-feast arrayed for him, and he had hard on three hundred men.

That same night made land at the isle Eyvind Well-spring, with a long-ship all manned, and the crew were all spell-singers or other wizard-folk. So Eyvind went up aland with his company, and

they wrought hard at their wizardry, and made wrapping of dimness, and thick darkness so great that the king might not get to see them. But when they were come hard by the stead at Ogvaldsness the day waxed bright there, and all went clean contrary to Eyvind's mind, for the mirk he had made by wizardry fell upon him and his fellows, so that they might see no more with their eyes than with their polls, and kept going all round and round about. But the king's warders saw where they went, and wotted not what folk they were. So the king was told thereof, and he arose and clad himself and all his folk. And when he saw where Eyvind and his folk fared, he bade his men arm them, and go see what manner of men these would be. But when the king's men knew Eyvind, they laid hands on him and the whole company, and brought them to the king. And Eyvind told all that had befallen in his journey.

Then the king let take them all and bring them out into a tide-washed skerry, and bind them there. So there Eyvind and all of them lost their lives; and that skerry is thenceforward called Scratch-skerry.

CHAPTER LXXI. OF KING OLAF AND THE GUILLES OF ODIN.

SO goeth the tale, that as King Olaf was feasting at Ogvaldsness, thither came on an eve an old man very wise of speech, with a wide slouched hat and one-eyed; and that man had

knowledge to tell of all lands. Now he gat into talk with the king, and the king deemed it good game of his talk, and asked him of many matters; but the guest answered clearly to all his questioning, and the king sat long with him that evening. The king asked if he wotted who Ogvald had been, after whom that stead and ness were named. Said the guest that Ogvald was a king and a mighty warrior, who did very great sacrifices to a certain cow, and had her with him wheresoever he went, and deemed it availed him well for his health to drink always of her milk. Now King Ogvald fought with a king called Varin, and in that battle fell King Ogvald, and was laid in howe hard by the stead here, and standing-stones were set up in remembrance of him, even those that yet stand hereby; but in another place a little way hence was the cow laid in howe.

Such things he told of, and many other matters of kings and the tidings of old.

But when the night was far spent, the bishop called to the king's mind that it was time to go to sleep, and the king did after his words. But when he was unclad and laid in his bed, then sat the guest down on the foot-board of his bed and talked yet a long while with the king; and ever when one word was done deemed the king that he lacked another. Then spake the bishop to the king, saying that it was time to sleep; so the king did according to his word, and the guest went out. A little after the king awoke and asked after the guest, and bade call him to him, but nowhere might the guest be found. But the next morning

the king let call to him his cook, and him who had the keeping of his drink, and asked if any strange man had come to them. They said that as they were getting ready the meat there came to them a certain man, and said that wondrous ill flesh-meat were they seething for the king's table, and therewith he gave them two sides of neat both thick and fat, and they seethed them with the other flesh-meat.

Then sayeth the king that all that victual shall be wasted, saying that this will have been no man, but Odin rather, he whom heathen men have long trowed in. "But," said he, "in no wise shall Odin beguile us."

CHAPTER LXXII. A THING IN THRANDHEIM.

KING OLAF drew together much people from the East-country that summer, and brought his host north-away to Thrandheim, and stood up first to Nidaros. Then he let wend the Thing-bidding throughout all the firth, and summoned a Thing of eight folks at Frosta; but the bonders turned this Thing-bidding into a war-arrow, and drew together, both thane and thrall, from out all Thrandheim.

So when the king came to the Thing, thither also was come the bonder-host all armed.

Now when the Thing was established the king spake before his lieges and bade them take christening, but when he had spoken a little while, the bonders cried out at him, bidding him

hold his peace, and saying that they will fall on him else and drive him away: "Thus did we," say they, "with Hakon Athelstane's Foster-son whenas he bade us such-like bidding, nor do we account thee of more worth than him."

So when King Olaf saw the fierce mind of the bonders, and withal how great an host they had, not to be withstood, then he turned his speech aside as being of one accord with the bonders, and said thus: "I will that we make peace and good fellowship together, even as we have done afore-time. I will fare thither whereas ye have your greatest blood-offering, and behold your worship there. And then let us take counsel together concerning the worship, which we shall have, and be all of one accord thereover." So whereas the king spake softly to the bonders, their fierce mind was appeased, and thereafter all the talk went hopefully and peacefully, and at the last it was determined that the midsummer feast of offering should be holden in at Mere, and thither should come all lords and mighty bonders, as the wont was; and King Olaf also should be there.

CHAPTER LXXIII. OF IRON-SKEGGI.

THERE was one Skeggi, a rich bonder, who was called Iron-Skeggi, and dwelt at Uphowe in Yriar. Skeggi was the first to speak against King Olaf at the Thing, and above all the bonders did he speak against Christ's faith.

But on the terms aforesaid came the Thing to an end, and the bonders fared home, but the king to Ladir.

CHAPTER LXXIV. FEAST AT LADIR.

NOW King Olaf laid his ships in the Nid, and thirty ships he had, and a goodly host and great; but the king himself was oftest at Ladir with the company of his court.

But when it wore toward the time whenas the blood-offering should be at Mere, King Olaf made a great feast at Ladir, and sent bidding in to Strind and up into Gauldale, and west into Orkdale, and bade to him lords and other great bonders. But when the feast was arrayed, and the guests were come, the first eve was the feast full fair and the cheer most glorious, and men were very drunk; and that night slept all men in peace there.

But on the morrow morn when the king was clad he let sing mass before him, and when the mass was ended the king let blow up for a House-Thing. And all his men went from the ships therewith and came to the Thing. But when the Thing was established the king stood up and spake in these words: "A Thing we held up at Frosta, and thereat I bade the bonders be christened; and they bade me back again turn me to offering with them, even as King Hakon Athelstane's Foster-son did. Wherefore we accorded together to meet up at Mere, and there make a great blood-offering. But look ye, if I turn me

to offering with you, then will I make the greatest blood-offering that is, and will offer up men; yea, and neither will I choose hereto thralls and evildoers; but rather will I choose gifts for the gods the noblest of men; and hereto I name Worm Lygra of Middlehouse, Styrrkar of Gimsar, Kar of Griting, Asbiorn Thorbergson of Varness, Worm of Lioxa, Haldor of Skerding-stithy."

Other five he named withal, the noblest that were, and saith that these will he offer up for peace and the plenty of the year, and biddeth fall on them forthwith.

But when the bonders saw that they lacked might to meet the king, they craved peace, and gave up the whole matter for the king's might to deal with. So it was agreed on betwixt them that all the bonders who were there come should let themselves be christened, and make oath to the king to hold the true faith, and lay aside all blood-offering. And all these men did the king keep for guests till they gave him hostage, son, or brother, or other near kinsman.

CHAPTER LXXV. OF A THING IN THRANDHEIM.

NOW King Olaf fared with all his host in to Thrandheim, but when he came up to Mere, thither were come all the lords of Thrandheim, such as most withstood christening, and these had with them all the mighty bonders who had aforetime upheld the sacrifices in that place. Great was the concourse of

men even as was wont to be, and after the manner of what had been aforetime at the Frosta-Thing.

So let the king cry the Thing; and thither went both sides all-armed. But when the Thing was set up, then spake the king, and bade men christening.

Then Iron-Skeggi answered the king on behoof of the bonders, and said they would no whit more than aforetime that the king should break down their laws on them. "We will, king," quoth he, "that thou make offering here as other kings have done before thee."

At this his speaking made the bonders great stir, and said that even as Skeggi spake would they have it all. Then answered the king saying that he would fare into the God-house with them, and look at the worship whenas they made offering. The bonders were well pleased thereat, and either side fareth to the God-house.

CHAPTER LXXVI. THRANDHEIM CHRISTENED.

SO now King Olaf went into the God-house, and a certain few of his men with him, and a certain few of the bonders. But when the king came whereas the gods were, there sat Thor the most honoured of all the gods, adorned with gold and silver. Then King Olaf hove up the gold-wrought rod that he had in his hand, and smote Thor that he fell down from the stall; and therewith ran forth all the king's men and tumbled down all the gods from their stalls. But whiles

the king was in the God-house was Iron-Skeggi slain without, even at the very door, and that deed did the king's men.

So when the king was come back to his folk he bade the bonders take one of two things, either all be christened, or else abide the brunt of battle with him. But after the death of Skeggi there was no leader among the folk of the bonders to raise up the banner against King Olaf. So was the choice taken of them to go to the king and obey his bidding. Then let King Olaf christen all folk that were there, and took hostages of the bonders that they would hold to their christening.

Thereafter King Olaf caused men of his wend over all parts of Thrandheim; and now spake no man against the faith of Christ. And so were all folk christened in the country-side of Thrandheim.

CHAPTER LXXVII. THE BUILDING OF A TOWN.

KING OLAF brought his host out to Nidoyce, and there let he raise up a house on the Nid-bank, and so ordered it that there should be a cheaping-stead, and gave men tofts there whereon to build them houses; but he himself let build the king's house up above Ship-crook. Thither let he flit in the autumn-tide all goods that were needed for winter abode, and there had he a full many men.

CHAPTER LXXVIII. THE WEDDING OF KING OLAF.

NOW King Olaf appointed a day of meeting with the kin of Iron-Skeggi, and offered them atonement thereat; and many noble men had the answering thereof. Iron-Skeggi had a daughter named Gudrun; and so it befell at last amid their peace-making that King Olaf should wed Gudrun.

But the very first night they lay together, so soon as the king was fallen asleep, she drew a knife and would thrust him through. But when the king was ware of it he took the knife from her, and leapt up from the bed, and went to his men and told them what had betid. Gudrun also took her raiment and all those men who had followed her thither, and they went on their way, and Gudrun never came again into the same bed with King Olaf.

CHAPTER LXXIX. THE BUILDING OF THE CRANE.

THAT same autumn let King Olaf build a great long-ship on the beach of the Nid. A cutter was this, and many smiths he had at the building of it. But in the beginning of winter, when it was fully done, thirty benches of oars might be told in it; high in the stem it was, but nothing broad of beam. That ship the king called the Crane.

After the slaying of Iron-Skeggi his body was

brought out to Yriar, and he lieth in Skeggi's-howe by Eastairt.

CHAPTER LXXX. THANGBRAND FARETH TO ICELAND.

NOW whenas Olaf Tryggvison had been king over Norway two winters, there was with him a Saxon priest named Thangbrand ; masterful was he and murderous, but a good clerk and a doughty man. Now whereas he was so headstrong a man, the king would not have him with him ; but sent him on this message, to wit, to fare out to Iceland and christen the land there. So a merchant-ship was gotten for him, and the tale telleth about his journey that he made the East-firths of Iceland, Swanfirth the southmost to wit, and the winter after abode with Hall of the Side.

So Thangbrand preached christening in Iceland, and after his words Hall let himself be christened and all his household, and many other chieftains also ; notwithstanding many more there were who gainsaid him.

Thorvald the Guileful and Winterlid the Skald made a scurvy rime about Thangbrand, but he slew them both. Thangbrand abode three winters in Iceland, and was the bane of three men or ever he departed thence.

CHAPTER LXXXI. OF HAWK AND SIGURD.

TWO men there were, one named Sigurd and the other Hawk; Halogalanders of kin were they, and had been much busied in chaffering voyages. On a summer they had fared west to England, and when they came back to Norway they sailed north along the land. But in North-mere they fell in with the fleet of King Olaf; and when the king was told that thither were come certain men, Halogalanders and heathen, he let call the skippers to him, and asked if they would let themselves be christened; but they gain-said it. Then the king would talk them over in many wise, and prevailed nought. So he threatened them with death or maiming; but nought for that would they shift about. So he let set them in irons, and they were with him a certain while holden in fetters; and the king often talked with them, but it was but labour lost. And on a certain night they vanished away so that none heard aught of them, or knew in what wise they had gotten away. But in the autumn-tide they turned up in the North-country with Harek of Thiotta, who gave them good welcome, and they abode the winter with him in good entertainment.

CHAPTER LXXXII. OF HAREK OF THIOTTA.

NOW on a fair day of spring-tide was Harek at home and few men with him at the stead, and the time hung heavy on his hands. So Sigurd spake to him, saying that if he will they will go a-rowing somewhither for their disport. That liked Harek well; so they go down to the strand, and launch a six-oarer, and Sigurd took from the boathouse sail and gear that went with the craft; for such-wise oft they fared to take the sail with them when they rowed for their disport. Then Harek went aboard the boat and shipped the rudder. The brethren Sigurd and Hawk went with all weapons, even as they were ever wont to go with the goodman at home; and they were both men of the strongest.

Now before they went aboard the craft they cast into her a butter-keg and a bread-basket, and bare between them a beer-cask down to the boat. Then they rowed away from land; but when they were come a little way from the isle, then the brethren hoisted sail and Harek steered, and they speedily made way from the isle. Then went the brethren aft to where Harek sat, and Sigurd spake: "Now shalt thou make thy choice of certain things: the first is that thou let us brethren be masters of our voyage, and the course of it; the second, that thou let us bind thee; and the third, forsooth, that we slay thee."

Now Harek saw in what a plight he was, being no more than a match for either of the brethren,

even were he arrayed as well as they ; so he made that choice which seemed to him the best of a bad business, to wit, to let them be masters of the voyage. So he bound himself with oaths thereto, and gave them his troth ; and Sigurd went to the rudder, and they stood south along the land. The brethren took heed that they should meet no man, and the wind was of the fairest. So they made no stay till they came south to Thrandheim, and into Nidoyce, and there met they King Olaf. Then let the king call Harek to talk with him, and bade him be christened ; but Harek gainsaid him.

Hereof spake the king and Harek many days at whiles before many men, at whiles privily, nor might they be at one thereover. So in the end spake King Olaf to Harek : “ Now shalt thou go thy ways home, nor will I be heavy on thee this time, all the more as we are nigh akin, and withal thou mayst say that I have gotten thee by guile. But know of a sooth that my mind it is to come up north there in the summer, and look on you Halogalanders, and then shall ye wot how hard I may be on those that gainsay christening.”

Harek seemed well content to get away at his speediest this time. King Olaf gave him a good cutter rowing ten or twelve oars a-side ; and let array that ship as well as might be with all things needful ; and he gave Harek thirty men, all doughty fellows and well arrayed.

CHAPTER LXXXIII. THE DEATH OF EYVIND RENT-CHEEK.

SO Harek of Thiotta gat him gone from the town at his speediest, but Hawk and Sigurd abode with the king, and let themselves both be christened.

Harek went on his ways till he came home to Thiotta. Thence sent he word to his friend Eyvind Rent-cheek, bidding men tell him that Harek of Thiotta had come face to face with King Olaf, and had not let himself be cowed into christening; and again he bade tell him that King Olaf had it in his heart to come on them with an host next summer; and saith Harek that they must look to it to deal warily therewith, and biddeth Eyvind come to meet him as soon as may be.

But when this errand was set forth before Eyvind, he seeth that the need is instant to look to it that they be not tripped by the king. So Eyvind fared at his speediest in a light skiff, and but few men with him; but when they came to Thiotta, Harek greeted him well, and straightway gat they a-talking, Harek and Eyvind, on the other way out from the stead. Yet but a little while had they talked, ere King Olaf's men, who had followed Harek to the north, come upon them, and lay hands on Eyvind, and lead him down to the ship with them, and so sail away with Eyvind; nor stayed they their journey till they were come to Thrandheim and found King Olaf in Nidoyce. Then was Eyvind brought to speech with King Olaf, and the king bade him take christening like other men;

which thing Eyvind gainsaid. The king bade him with kind words to take christening, showing him many things clearly, he and the bishop also; but none the more would Eyvind shift about. Then the king offered him gifts and great bailifries; but Eyvind would none of them. Then the king threatened him with maiming or death; but it availed nought to turn him.

Then let the king bear in a hand-basin full of glowing coals and set it on Eyvind's belly, and presently his belly burst asunder. Then spake Eyvind: "Take away the basin, and I will speak a word before I die." Said the king: "Wilt thou now trow in Christ, Eyvind?" "Nay," said he, "I may nowise take christening. I am a ghost quickened in a man's body by cunning of the Finns; and my father and mother might have no child before that."

Then died Eyvind, who had been the cunningest of wizards.

CHAPTER LXXXIV. HALOGALAND CHRISTENED.

THE spring after these things, let King Olaf array his ships and folk, and he himself sailed the Crane; a fair host and a mighty had the king. So when he was ready he brought his fleet out of the firth and then north of Byrda, and so north-away to Halogaland. And wheresoever he came aland, there held he a Thing and bade all folk thereat to take christening and the right troth.

No man durst gainsay him, and all the land was christened wheresoever he came.

King Olaf took guesting at Thiotta at Harek's, and there was Harek christened and all his folk. Harek gave the king good gifts at parting, and became his man, and took bailifries of the king and the dues and rights of a lord of the land.

CHAPTER LXXXV. THE FALL OF THORIR HART.

RAUD the Strong was the name of a man who dwelt in a firth called Salpt in God-isle. He was very wealthy, and had many house-carles; a mighty man, and there followed him great plenty of Finns whenso he had need thereof.

Raud was busy in blood-offerings, and full wise in wizardry; he was a great friend of a man named afore, Thorir Hart to wit; and they were both great chieftains.

Now when they heard that King Olaf was faring over Halogaland from the south with an host of men, they gathered men to them and called out ships, and gat a great company.

Raud had a mighty dragon with a head all done with gold, a ship of thirty benches by tale, and great of hull withal for her length. Thorir Hart also had a great ship.

So they stood south with their host to meet King Olaf; and when they met they joined battle with the king. Great was the battle, and men fell thick and fast; but the slaughter began to fall on

the Halogaland host, and their ships to be cleared ; and then fell fear and terror on them. Raud rowed out to sea with his dragon, and so let hoist sail ; for ever had he wind at will whithersoever he would sail, which thing came from his wizardry. But the shortest tale of Raud's journey is that he sailed home to God-isle.

Thorir Hart and his folk fled in toward land, and leapt ashore from his ship ; but King Olaf followed them, he and his, and they also leapt ashore, and chased them and slew them. The king was foremost, as ever when such play was toward, and he saw where Thorir Hart ran, who was the swiftest footed of men. So the king ran after him, and his hound Vigi followed him. Then cried the king, " Vigi, take the hart ! " So Vigi ran forth after Thorir and was on him straightway. Thereon Thorir made stay and the king shot a spear at him. Thorir thrust with his sword at the hound, and gave him a great wound ; but even therewith flew the king's spear under Thorir's arm so that it stood out at the other side. So there Thorir ended his life, but Vigi was borne wounded out to the ship.

But King Olaf gave peace to all who craved it, and would take christening.

CHAPTER LXXXVI. THE JOURNEY OF KING OLAF TO GOD-ISLE.

NOW King Olaf stood north along the land, christening all folk whithersoever he came; but when he came north to Salpt he was minded to sail in up the firth to find Raud, but foul weather and a squally storm raged down the firth. So there lay the king for a week, and ever the same foul weather endured down the firth, though without was the wind blowing fair for sailing north along the land. So the king sailed north-away to Omd, and there came all folk under christening. Then turned the king south again; but when he came south off Salpt, again was there a driving storm with brine spray down the firth; certain nights the king lay there, and still was the weather the same. Then spake the king to Bishop Sigurd, and asked him if he knew of any remedy hereto, and the bishop said he would try it, if God would strengthen his hands to overcome the might of these fiends.

CHAPTER LXXXVII. OF BISHOP SIGURD; AND OF RAUD'S TORMENTING.

SO took Bishop Sigurd all his mass-array, and went forth on to the prow of the king's ship, and let kindle the candles, and bore incense. Then he set up the rood in the prow of the ship, and read out the gospel and many prayers, and sprinkled holy water over all the

ship. Then he bade unship the tilt and row in up the firth.

Then called the king to the other ships, bidding them all row into the firth after him. But so soon as they fell a-rowing of the Crane, she made way up into the firth, and they who rowed that ship felt no wind on them, and quite calm stood there the walled-in track behind in the ship's wake, while on either side thereof whirled the driving spray so free, that because of it the fells might not be seen. But in that calm rowed one ship after other; and so fared they all day, and the night after, and came a little before daybreak to the God-isles. And when they came off Raud's stead, lo, there off the shore lay his great dragon. So King Olaf went straightway up to the house with his folk, and set on the loft wherein Raud slept, and brake open the door; then men ran in, and Raud was laid hand on and bound, but such men as were therein were slain or taken. Then went men to the hall wherein slept Raud's house-carles; and there some were slain, and some bound, and some beaten.

Then let the king bring Raud before him, and he bade him be christened. "Then," said the king, "will I not take thy possessions from thee, but rather be thy friend, if thou wilt be worthy thereof." But Raud cried out at him, saying that he would never trow in Christ, and blasphemed much; and the king waxed wroth, and said that Raud should have the worst of deaths. So he let take him and bind him face up to a beam, and let set a gag between his teeth to open the mouth of him; then let the king take a ling-worm and

set it to his mouth, but nowise would the worm enter his mouth, but shrank away whenas Raud blew upon him. Then let the king take a hollow stalk of angelica, and set it in the mouth of Raud, or, as some men say, it was his horn that he let set in his mouth; but they laid therein the worm, and laid a glowing iron to the outwards thereof, so that the worm crawled into the mouth of Raud, and then into his throat, and dug out a hole in the side of him, and there came Raud to his ending.

But King Olaf took there very great wealth of silver and gold and other chattels, weapons to wit, and divers kinds of dear-bought things; and all those men who had served Raud the king let christen, or if they would not be christened he had them slain or tormented. There took King Olaf that dragon which Raud had had, and he himself steered it, for it was a far greater and goodlier ship than was the Crane. Forward on it was a dragon's head, but afterward a crook fashioned in the end as the tail of a dragon; but either side the neck and all the stem were overlaid with gold. That ship the king called the Worm, because when the sail was aloft, then should that be as the wings of the dragon. The fairest of all Norway was that ship.

Now those isles wherein Raud had dwelt were called Gilling and Hæring, but all the isles together the God-isles, and the stream to the north betwixt them and the mainland was called the God-isles' stream. All that firth King Olaf christened now, and then went his ways south along the land, and in that his journey betid many

tidings told of in tale thereafter, how trolls and evil creatures tempted his men; yea, whiles himself even. Yet will we rather write about the tidings that befell when King Olaf christened Norway, or those other lands he brought unto christening.

So King Olaf brought his host that same autumn to Thrandheim, and stood in for Nidoyce, and there ordered his winter dwelling.

And now will I let write next what is to tell of Iceland men.

CHAPTER LXXXVIII. OF THE ICELAND MEN.

FOR that same harvest came out to Nidaros from Iceland Kiartan, the son of Olaf, the the son of Hoskuld, and the son also of the daughter of Egil Skallagrimson, which Kiartan hath been called nighabout the likeliest and goodliest man ever begotten in Iceland. There was then also Haldor, son of Gudmund of Maddermead, and Kolbein, son of Thord, Frey's priest, the brother of Burning-Flosi; Sverting also, son of Runolf the Priest; these and many others, mighty and unmighty, were all heathen.

Therewith also were come from Iceland noble men who had taken christening from Thangbrand, to wit, Gizur the White, the son of Teit Ketilbiorn's son, whose mother was Alof, daughter of Bodvar the Hersir, son of Viking-Kari; but the brother of Bodvar was Sigurd, father of Eric Biodaskalli, the father of Astrid, mother of King

Olaf. Another Icelander hight Hialti, son of Skeggi; he had to wife Vilborg, daughter of Gizur the White. Hialti was a christened man, and King Olaf gave full kindly welcome to father and son-in-law, Gizur and Hialti, and they abode with him.

Now those Iceland men who were captains of the ships, such of them as were heathen, sought to sail away, when the king was come into the town, for it was told them that the king would christen all men perforce; but the wind was against them, and they were driven back under Nid-holm. These were the captains of ships there: Thorarin Nefiolfson, Hallfred the Skald, son of Ottar, Brand the Bountiful, and Thorleik Brandson. Now it was told King Olaf that there lay certain ships of Icelanders, who were all heathen and would flee away from meeting the king. So he sent men to them forbidding them to stand out to sea, bidding them go lie off the town, and so did they, but unladed not their ships [but they cried a market, and held chaffer by the king's bridges. Thrice in the spring-tide they sought to sail away, but the wind never served, and they lay yet by the bridges.

Now on a fair-weather day many men were a-swimming for their disport; and one man of them far outdid the others in all mastery. Then spake Kiartan with Hallfred the Troublous-skald bidding go try feats of swimming with this man, but he excused himself. Said Kiartan, "Then shall I try;" and cast his clothes from him therewith, and leapt into the water, and struck out for that man, and caught him by the foot and drew him

under. Up they come, and have no word together, but down they go again, and are under water much longer than the first time, and again come up, and hold their peace, and go down again the third time; till Kiartan thought the game all up, but might nowise amend it, and now knew well the odds of strength betwixt them. So they are under water there till Kiartan is well-nigh spent; then up they come and swim to land. Then asked the Northman what might the Icelander's name be, and Kiartan named himself. Said the other, "Thou art deft at swimming; hast thou any mastery in other matters?" Said Kiartan: "Little mastery is this." The Northman said: "Why askest thou me nought again?" Kiartan answereth: "Me-seemeth it is nought to me who thou art, or in what wise thou art named." Answered the other: "I will tell thee then: Here is Olaf Tryggvison." And therewith he asked him many things of the Iceland men, and lightly Kiartan told him all, and therewith was minded to get him away hastily. But the king said: "Here is a cloak which I will give thee, Kiartan." So Kiartan took the cloak, and thanked him wondrous well.]

CHAPTER LXXXIX. THE ICELAND MEN CHRISTENED.

AND now was Michaelmas come, and the king let hold hightide, and sing mass full gloriously; and thither went the Icelanders, and hearken the fair song, and the voice of the bells. And when they came back to their ships,

each man said how the ways of the Christian men liked them, and Kiartan said he was well pleased, but most other mocked at them. And so it went, as saith the saw, *Many are the king's ears*, and the king was told thereof. So forthwith on that same day he sent a man after Kiartan bidding him come to him; and Kiartan went to the king with certain men, and the king greeted him well. Kiartan was the biggest and goodliest of men, and fair-spoken withal. So now when the king and Kiartan had taken and given some few words together, the king bade Kiartan take christening. Kiartan saith that he will not gainsay it, if he shall have the king's friendship therefor; and the king promised him his hearty friendship; and so Kiartan and he strike this bargain between them. The next day was Kiartan christened, and Bolli Thorleikson his kinsman, and all their fellows; and Kiartan and Bolli were guests of the king whiles they wore their white weeds; and the king was full kind to them, and all men accounted them noble men wheresoever they came.

CHAPTER XC. THE CHRISTENING OF HALLFRED THE TROUBLOUS-SKALD.

ON a day went the king a-walking in the street, and certain men met him, and he of them who went first greeted the king; and the king asked him of his name, and he named himself Hallfred.

“Art thou the skald?” said the king.

Said he: “I can make verses.”

Then said the king: "Wilt thou take christening, and become my man thereafter?"

Saith he: "This shall be our bargain: I will let myself be christened, if thou, king, be thyself my gossip, but from no other man will I take it."

The king answereth: "Well, I will do that."

So then was Hallfred christened, and the king himself held him at the font.

Then the king asked of Hallfred: "Wilt thou now become my man?"

Hallfred said: "Erst was I of the body-guard of Earl Hakon; nor will I now be the liege-man of thee nor of any other lord, but if thou give me thy word that for no deed I may happen to do thou wilt drive me away from thee."

"From all that is told me," said the king, "thou art neither so wise nor so meek but it seemeth like enough to me that thou mayest do some deed or other which I may in nowise put up with."

"Slay me then," said Hallfred.

The king said: "Thou art a Troublous-skald; but my man shalt thou be now."

Answereth Hallfred: "What wilt thou give me, king, for a name-gift, if I am to be called Troublous-skald?"

The king gave him a sword, but no scabbard therewith; and said the king: "Make us now a stave about the sword, and let the sword come into every line."

Hallfred sang:

One only sword of all swords
Hath made me now sword-wealthy.
Now then shall things be sword-some

For the Niords of the sweep of sword-edge.
 Nought to the sword were lacking,
 If to that sword were scabbard
 All with the earth-bones coloured.
 Of three swords am I worthy.

Then the king gave him the scabbard and said: "But there is not a sword in every line."

"Yea," answers Hallfred, "but there are three swords in one line."

"Yea, forsooth," saith the king.

Now from Hallfred's songs we take knowledge and sooth witness from what is there told concerning King Olaf.

CHAPTER XCI. THANGBRAND COMETH BACK TO KING OLAF FROM ICELAND.

THAT same harvest came back from Iceland to King Olaf Thangbrand the mass-priest, and told how that his journey had been none of the smoothest; for that the Icelanders had made scurvy rimes on him, yea, and some would slay him. And he said there was no hope that that land would ever be christened. Hereat was King Olaf so wood wroth that he let blow together all the Iceland men that were in the town, saying withal that he would slay them every one. But Kiartan and Gizur and Hialti, and other such as had taken christening, went to him and said: "Thou wilt not, king, draw back from that word of thine, whereby thou saidst that no man might do so much to anger thee, but that thou

wouldst forgive it him if he cast aside heathendom and let himself be christened. Now will all Iceland men that here are let themselves be christened ; and we will devise somewhat whereby the Christian faith shall prevail in Iceland. Here are sons of many mighty men of Iceland, and their fathers will help all they may in the matter. But in sooth Thangbrand fared there as here with thee, dealing ever with masterful ways and manslaying ; and such things men would not bear of him.”

So the king got to hearken to these redes, and all men of Iceland that there were, were christened.

CHAPTER XCII. OF KING OLAF'S MASTERIES.

KING OLAF was of all men told of the most of prowess in Norway in all matters ; stronger was he and nimbler than any, and many are the tales told hereof. One, to wit, how he went up the Smalshorn, and made fast his shield to the topmost of the peak ; and withal how he helped a courtman of his who had clomb up before him on to a sheer rock in such wise that he might neither get up nor down ; but the king went to him and bore him under his arm down unto a level place.

King Olaf also would walk out-board along the oars of the Worm while his men were a-rowing ; and with three hand-saxes would he play so that one was ever aloft, and one hilt ever in his hand. He smote well alike with either hand, and shot with two spears at once.

King Olaf was the gladdest of all men and game-somest. Kind he was and lowly-hearted; exceeding eager in all matters; bountiful of gifts; very glorious of attire; before all men for high heart in battle. The grimmest of all men was he in his wrath, and marvellous pains laid he upon his foes. Some he burnt in the fire; some he let wild hounds tear asunder; some he stoned, or cast down from high rocks. Now for all these things was he well-beloved of his friends and dreaded of his foes. Full great, therefore, was his furtherance, whereas some did his will for love and kindness sake, and othersome for fear.

CHAPTER XCIII. THE CHRISTENING OF LEIF ERICSON.

LEIF, the son of Eric the Red, who first settled Greenland, was come this summer from Greenland to Norway. He went to King Olaf, and took christening, and abode that winter with King Olaf.

CHAPTER XCIV. THE FALL OF KING GUDROD.

NOW Gudrod, son of Eric Blood-axe and Gunnhild, had been a-warring in the West-lands since he fled the land before Earl Hakon; but in this summer afore told of, whenas King Olaf Tryggvison had ruled over Norway four winters, then came Gudrod to Norway with many war-ships, and had newly sailed from Eng-

land ; but when he drew so nigh as to have inkling of Norway, he stood south along the land whereas King Olaf was least to be looked for, and sailed to the Wick. But so soon as he came aland, he fell a-harrying and beating down the people under him, bidding them take him for king. So when the folk of the land saw that a mighty host was come upon them, then sought men for truce and peace, and offered to the king to send the bidding to a Thing throughout the land, and would rather take him to guesting than have to bear the war of him ; and therefore was there tarrying in the matter whiles the call to the Thing was abroad. Then craved the king money for his victual whiles he abode thus ; but the bonders chose rather to give the king quarters for such time as he needed ; which choice the king took and went guesting about the land with some of his folk, while some held ward over his ships.

But when the brethren Hyrning and Thorgeir, King Olaf's brothers-in-law, heard that, they gather folk and go a-shipboard, and so fare north unto the Wick, and come on a night with their company to where Gudrod was a-guesting ; and there they fell on him with fire and the sword. There fell King Gudrod, and the more part of his folk ; but they of them who had been at the ships were slain, some of them, and some escaped and fled away far and wide. And now are all the sons of Eric and Gunnhild dead.

CHAPTER XCV. THE BUILDING OF THE LONG WORM.

NOW the winter that King Olaf came from Halogaland he let build a great ship in under the Ladir-cliffs, and much greater it was than other ships that were then in the land ; and yet are the slips whereon it was built left there for a token : seventy-and-four ells long of grass-lying keel was it. Thorberg Shave-hewer was the master-smith of that ship, but there were many others at the work ; some to join, some to chip, some to smite rivets, some to flit timbers : there were all matters of the choicest. Long was that ship, and broad of beam, high of bulwark, and great in the scantling.

But now when they were gotten to the free-board Thorberg had some needful errand that took him home to his house, and he tarried there very long, and when he came back the bulwark was all done.

Now the king went in the eventide and Thorberg with him to look on the ship, and see how the ship showed, and every man said that never yet had they seen a long-ship so great or so goodly ; and so the king went back to the town.

But early the next morning went the king and Thorberg again to the ship, and the smiths were already come thither, but there they stood doing nothing. The king asked them what they were about then ; and they said that the ship was spoilt, for some man or other must have gone from stem

to stern cutting notches with an axe all along the gunwale one by another. So the king went thereto, and saw that sooth it was ; and he spake therewith, and swore an oath that if he might find the man who for envy's sake had spoilt the ship he should surely die. " And he who will tell me thereof shall have great good of me."

Then spake Thorberg : " I might tell thee, be-like, king, who will have done this deed."

Saith the king : " I might look to thee as much as to any man to have such good hap as to wot hereof and tell me."

" Well, I will tell thee, king, who hath done it ; I have done it."

Answereth the king : " Then shalt thou make it good, so that all be as well as heretofore ; and thy life shall lie on it."

So Thorberg went to the ship, and planed all the notches out of the gunwale ; and thereon said the king and all others that the ship was much fairer on that board where Thorberg had cut it ; and the king bade him fashion it so on either board, and bade him have much thank for it all.

So thereafter was Thorberg master-smith of the ship until it was done.

This ship was a dragon, and was wrought after the fashion of the Worm, that ship which the king had gotten in Halogaland, but bigger it was and more excellent in all wise ; and he called it the Long Worm, but the other the Short Worm.

On this Worm were there thirty-and-four benches of oars. The head and the crooked tail of it were all done over with gold, and the bulwarks

were as high as in a ship built for sailing the main sea. The best wrought and the most costly was that ship of any that have been in Norway.

CHAPTER XCVI. OF EARL ERIC HAKONSON.

NOW Earl Eric Hakonson and his brethren, and many other noble kinsmen of theirs, had fled away from the land after the fall of Earl Hakon. Earl Eric fared east into Sweden to Olaf the Swede-king, and had good welcome of him, he and his; and King Olaf gave the earl a land of peace there, and great grants to sustain himself and his folk. Hereof telleth Thord Kolbeinson :

Short while, O scathe-wolves' scatterer,
 Wore ere the land-folk's treason
 Ended the life of Hakon—
 Weird wendeth things a-many!
 When the host fared from the Westland,
 Methinks the son of Tryggvi
 Came to the land that erewhile
 The staff of sword-fields conquered.

More in his heart had Eric
 Against the great wealth-waster
 Than spoken word laid open,
 As from him might be looked for.
 The wrathful Earl of Thrandheim
 Sought rede of the King of Sweden;
 Therefore no man forsook him.
 Stiff-necked then grew the Thrandfolk.

Much folk resorted from Norway to Earl Eric, who had fled away from the land before King Olaf Tryggvison. So Earl Eric took such rede

that he gat him a-shipboard and went a-warring to gather wealth for him and his men. First he made for Gothland, and lay off there long in the summer season, waylaying ships of chapmen who sailed toward the land, or of the vikings else; and whiles he went aland and harried there wide about the borders of the sea. So it is said in Banda-drapa :

The Lord renowned thereafter
 Won mail-storms more a-many,
 That have we learned aforetime ;
The spear-storm bounteous Eric . . .
 When wrought he Vali's storm-wreath
 Of the hawks of the strand of Virvil
 About wide-harried Gothland.
To him, and fight-gay wages . . .

Then sailed Earl Eric south to Wendland, and fell in there off Staur with certain viking-ships, and joined battle with them. There won Earl Eric the victory and slew the vikings; as is said in Banda-drapa :

The steerer of the stem-steed
 At Staur let heads of men lie,
 The Lord such deed he fashioned.
The earl his wars and swayeth . . .
 So then the scalp of vikings
 The wound-mew tore by sea-beach,
 There at the hard swords' meeting.
The land by gods safe-guarded.

CHAPTER XCVII. OF ERIC'S WARRING
IN THE EASTLANDS.

THEN sailed Earl Eric back to Sweden in harvest-tide and abode there another winter, but in spring-tide he arrayed his ships and sailed for the Eastlands. And when he came into the realm of King Valdimar he fell a-harrying, and slew menfolk, and burnt all before him, and laid waste the land; and he came to Aldeigia-burg, and beset it till he won the stead. There he slew many folk and brake down and burnt all the burg, and thereafter fared wide about Garth-realm doing all deeds of war; as is said in Banda-drapa :

Fared thence the sea-flames' brightener
King Valdimar's land to harry,
All with the brand of point-storm,
Thereat the fray grew greater.
Men's awe, thou brok'st Aldeigia,
And hard indeed the fight waxed,
Betwixt the hosts thou camest
East unto Garths : so knew we.

This warfare waged Earl Eric for five summers in all; but when he came from Garth-realm he went a-warring all about Adalsysla and the Isle-sysla, and there took he four viking-cutters of the Danes, and slew all the folk thereof. So saith it in Banda-drapa :

Heard I where he the hardener
Of the fire of the spear-sea
In Isle-land sound the fray raised.
The spear-storm bounteous Eric . . .
The fight-tree, firch-flame's giver
Cleared four ships of the Dane-folk.

So heard we the true story.

To him, and fight-gay wages . . .

O heedful Niord of the launch-steed,

With Gautland men ye battled

When ran the yeomen townward.

The earl his wars and swayeth . . .

The war's-god wended war-shield

Aloft all o'er the counties,

To men the peace he minished.

The land by gods safe-guarded.

Earl Eric went to Denmark whenas he had been one winter in the Swede-realm; he met Svein Twibeard the Dane-king there, and wooed for himself Gyda his daughter; which wooing came to wedding, and Earl Eric had Gyda to wife, and the next winter they had a son hight Hakon.

Earl Eric abode in Denmark in the winter, or whiles in the Swede-realm; but in summer-tide he went a-warring.

CHAPTER XCVIII. THE WEDDING OF KING SVEIN.

SVEIN TWIBEARD the Dane-king had to wife Gunnhild, the daughter of Burislaf, king of the Wends. But in these days even now told of it befell that Queen Gunnhild fell sick and died, and a little after King Svein wedded Sigrid the Haughty, the daughter of Skogul Tosti, who was the mother of Olaf the Swede, King of Sweden; and with this alliance love also befell between the kings, and well-beloved of them both, and they of him, was Earl Eric Hakonson.

CHAPTER XCIX. THE WEDDING OF KING BURISLAF.

NOW Burislaf the Wend-king laid plaint before Earl Sigvaldi his son-in-law, that the treaty was broken which Earl Sigvaldi had made between King Svein and King Burislaf, to wit, that Burislaf should wed Thyri, Harald's daughter, the sister of King Svein, which wedding had never come to pass, because Thyri had said nay downright to the wedding with a heathen king and an old man. So sayeth Burislaf now that he will claim the treaty's fulfilment, and bade the earl fare to Denmark, and have away with him Queen Thyri for King Burislaf's behoof.

So Earl Sigvaldi slept not over that journey, but fared to meet the Dane-king, and laid the matter before him, and in such way the word of the earl prevailed that King Svein delivered Thyri his sister into his hands; and certain women went with her, and her foster-father, one Ozur Agison, a wealthy man, and certain other men withal. It was covenanted between the king and the earl that those domains in Wendland which Queen Gunnhild had had should be for a dowry to Thyri, and other great possessions should she have for jointure.

Sore greeted Thyri and went all against her will; but when the earl and she came to Wendland, then King Burislaf arrayed the wedding and took to wife Queen Thyri. But now that she was come among heathen men she would neither take meat nor drink of them, and such wise went matters for seven nights.

CHAPTER C. KING OLAF WEDDETH
QUEEN THYRI.

NOW it came to pass on a certain night that Queen Thyri and Ozur fled away to the wood by night and cloud, and, shortly to tell of their journeying, they came to Denmark; but there nowise durst Thyri abide, because she wotted well that if King Svein, her brother, heard of her being there, he would speedily send her back to Wendland. So they fared with heads all hidden until they came into Norway, and Thyri made no stay till she came before King Olaf Tryggvison. But he took them in kindly, and in good welcome they abode there. Thyri told the king all her trouble, and craved helpful counsel of him and a peaceful dwelling in his realm. A smooth-spoken woman was Thyri, and the king thought well of her ways, and beheld her that she was a fair woman; and it came into his mind that this would be a good wedding for him. So thitherwise he turned the talk, and asketh her will she wed him. But whereas her fortune had fared in such wise, and she deemed herself right hard bestead, and saw on the other hand how happy a wedding this was, to be wedded to so noble a king, she bade him deal with her and her matter as he would. And so according to this talk King Olaf wedded Queen Thyri, and their wedding was held in harvest-tide, whenas he was come south from Halogaland. So King Olaf and Queen Thyri abode in Nidoyce that winter.

But the next spring would Queen Thyri be oft

bewailing to King Olaf, and weeping sorely therewith, how, for as great possessions as she had in Wendland, here in the land had she no wealth such as beseemed a queen : and whiles would she pray the king with fair words to go get her her own, saying that King Burislaf was so dear a friend of King Olaf, that so soon as they met he would give over to him all that he craved. Nevertheless, all the friends of the king, when they heard of this talk, letted the king of that journey.

Now so tells the tale, that on a day early in spring-tide the king was a-going down the street, when by the market-place a man met him with many angelica heads, wondrous big for that season of spring ; so the king took a great stem of angelica in his hand, and went home therewith to the lodging of Queen Thyri.

Now Thyri sat a-weeping in her hall when the king came in ; but he spake : “ See here the big angelica I give thee.”

But she thrust it aside with her hand, and spake : “ Harald Gormson was wont to give me greater gifts ; and moreover he feared less than thou dost now, to fare from the land and seek his own ; as was well seen of him when he came hither into Norway and laid waste the more part of this land, and won to him all the scat and dues thereof ; whereas thou durst not wend through the Dane-realm for fear of King Svein my brother.” Then up sprang King Olaf at that word of hers, and spake out on high, and sware an oath, saying : “ Never shall I fare in fear for King Svein thy brother. Nay, and if we meet, he it is shall give aback !”

CHAPTER CI. THE MUSTER OF KING OLAF.

SO a little hereafter King Olaf summoned a Thing there in the town, whereat he set forth before all the people that he would have an host put off the land that summer, and would have a levy from every folk-land, both of men and ships; and therewithal he sayeth how many ships he will have thence from out the firth. Then sendeth he messengers north and south along the land, by the outer and the inner ways, and let call out his folk.

Therewith let King Olaf thrust forth the Long Worm, and all his other ships both great and small; and he himself steered the Long Worm.

But when men were dight to go aboard ship, so well arrayed and chosen was his company, that none should be aboard the Long Worm older than sixty or younger than twenty, and full closely were they chosen both for strength and stoutness of heart; and the first set aside thereto were those of the body-guard of King Olaf, for these were chosen from all that was strongest and stoutest, both of folk of the land and of outlanders.

CHAPTER CII. THE TELLING-UP OF THE WORM'S MANNING.

WOLF THE RED was the man hight who bore King Olaf's banner, and was in the prow of the Worm; and next to him was Kolbiorn the Marshal, Thor-

stein Oxfoot also, and Vikar of Tenthland, the brother of Arnliot Gellin.

These were of the forecastle in the prow : Vagr of the Elf, son of Raumi ; Bersi the Strong ; An the Shooter of Iamtlund ; Thrand the Stout of Thelmark, and Uthyrmir his brother ; these Halogalanders, to wit, Thrand Squint-eye, Ogmund Sandy, Lodvir the Long of Salt-wick, and Harek the Keen. These of Inner Thrandheim : Ketil the High, Thorfin Eisli, Howard, he and his brethren of Orkdale.

These manned the forehold : Biorn of Studla ; Bork of the Firths ; Thorgrim, son of Thiodolf of Hvin ; Asbiorn and Worm ; Thord of Niordlow ; Thorstein the White of Oprustead ; Arnor the Mere-man ; Hallstein and Hawk of the Firths ; Eyvind the Snake ; Bergthor Bestill ; Hallkel of Fialir ; Olaf the Lad ; Arnfinn of Sogn ; Sigurd Bill ; Einar of Hordland and Finn ; Ketil of Rogaland ; Griotgard the Brisk.

These were in the main-hold : Einar Thambar-skelvir, deemed indeed by the others not able-bodied, whereas he was but eighteen winters old ; Thorstein Hlifarson ; Thorolf ; Ivar Smetta ; Worm Shaw-neb, and many other right noble men withal were on the Worm, though nought can we name them. Eight men there were to a half-berth in the Worm, all chosen man by man. Thirty there were in the fore-hold.

The talk of men it was that the crew of the Worm no less bore away the bell from other men for goodliness and might and stout heart, than did the Long Worm from other ships.

Thorkel Nosy, the king's brother, steered the Short Worm, and Thorkel Dydril and Jostein, the mother's brothers of the king, had the Crane; and either ship was full well manned. Eleven great ships had King Olaf from Thrandheim, and twenty-banked ships, moreover, and smaller ships, and victuallers.

CHAPTER CIII. ICELAND CHRIS- TENED.

NOW when King Olaf had wellnigh arrayed his host for sailing from Nidoyce, he appointed men throughout all Thrandheim to the stewardships and bailifries. Then sent he to Iceland Gizur the White and Hialti Skeggison to bid christening therein, and gave them a priest named Thormod, and other hallowed men; but he held as hostages four Iceland men such as he deemed the noblest, to wit, Kiartan Olafson, Haldor Gudmundson, Kolbein Thordson, and Swerting Runolfson. And now it is to be said of the journey of Gizur and Hialti, that they came to Iceland before the Althing and fared to the Thing, at which Thing was Christ's troth taken for law in Iceland; and that same summer was all manfolk christened there.

CHAPTER CIV. GREENLAND CHRIS-
TENED.

THAT same spring also King Olaf sent Leif Ericson to Greenland to bid christening there; so that same summer he went thither. He took up a ship's crew on the sea who had come to nought, and were lying on the wreck of the ship; and in that journey found he Vineland the Good and came back in harvest-tide to Greenland, bearing with him thither a priest and teachers, and so went to guest with Eric his father at Brentlithe. Men called him thereafter Leif the Lucky; but Eric his father said that one thing might be set against another, whereas on the one hand Leif had holpen that wrecked crew, and on the other had brought that juggler to Greenland, to wit, the priest.

CHAPTER CV. EARL ROGNVALD
SENDETH MEN TO KING OLAF.

NOW King Olaf and Queen Thyri abode in Nidoyce that winter wherein the king had christened Halogaland; and the summer before that Queen Thyri brought forth a man-child, begotten of King Olaf. Great was the lad, and of good hope, and was called Harald, after his mother's father. The king and the queen loved the lad much, and set their hearts on his growing up and taking the heritage of his father; but he lived not a full year from the time he was born, and a sore scathe they both deemed it.

That winter were there many Iceland men with King Olaf, as is afore writ, and many other noble men besides ; and in the court also was Ingibiorg, Tryggvi's daughter, the sister of King Olaf. Fair she was to look on, lowly of mien, and kind to all folk ; faithful she was, great-hearted, and full friendly. She loved well the Iceland men such as were there, but Kiartan Olafson was the dearest of them all to her ; for the longest of them had he abided with the king, and often talking to him she deemed a delight, for wise he was and sweet of speech.

King Olaf was ever glad and joyous with his men, and oft he turned him to asking of the ways and the glory of the mighty men of the realms anigh, when men came to him from Sweden or Denmark.

Now Hallfred the Troublous-skald was come that summer from Gautland east-away there, and had been with Earl Rognvald Wolfson, now come to the dominion of West Gautland. Wolf the father of Rognvald was brother of Sigrid the Haughty, and King Olaf the Swede and Earl Rognvald were cousins-germain. Now Hallfred told King Olaf many things of Earl Rognvald, saying how that he was a brave lord and a masterful, bounteous of money, manly-minded, and friendly. Hallfred said withal that the earl would fain fall into friendship with King Olaf, and had talked over how he would be a-wooing Ingibiorg, Tryggvi's daughter. And so that same winter came west from Gautland messengers from Earl Rognvald, who met King Olaf north-away in

Nidoyce. There they set forth the earl's errand before the king, according to the word that Hallfred had spoken, to wit, that the earl was fain to be very friend of King Olaf, and that he would speak of alliance with the king and would wed Ingibiorg his sister. Therewith the messengers brought to the king manifest tokens of the earl to make it plain that they did his errand faithfully. The king took their matter well, but said that Ingibiorg must herself be mistress of her wedding. Then talked the king this matter over with his sister, and asked her what her mind was herein; and she answered thus: "I have abided with thee a while, and thou hast given me brotherly furtherance and loving honour in every place since thou camest into this land. Therefore will I say yea to whatso thou wilt have of me in my wedding; yet indeed I look to it that thou wilt not give me to a heathen man."

The king saith that so indeed it shall be, and therewith he had speech of the messengers; and this was determined before they went their ways, that Earl Rognvald should come to meet King Olaf in the East-country that summer, if he would become his very friend, and then should they themselves talk over the matter when they met.

So the messengers of the earl go back east on this errand; but King Olaf abode that winter in Nidoyce with great glory and many men.

CHAPTER CVI. KING OLAF GOETH
HIS WAYS TO WENDLAND.

THAT summer fared King Olaf with his host south along the land. Now there resorted to him many friends of his, and mighty men, such as were arrayed for faring with the king; and the first man of all was Erling Skialgson, his brother-in-law, who had a great cutter of thirty benches, and full well manned was that ship. There came to him also his brethren-in-law, Hyrning and Thorgeir, either of them steering a big ship; and many other mighty men followed him. Sixty long-ships had he as he fared from the land, and sailed south along Denmark through the Ere-sound, and so to Wendland. There he appointed a day of meeting with King Burislaf, and the kings met, and talked together over those possessions which King Olaf claimed; and all went in likely wise between the kings, and the claims that King Olaf deemed he had there were brought into a fair way to be paid. So King Olaf abode there long that summer, and found there a many of his friends

CHAPTER CVII. THE EGGING ON OF
SIGRID THE HAUGHTY.

NOW King Svein Twibeard had then to wife Sigrid the Haughty, as is afore writ. Sigrid was the greatest foe of King Olaf Tryggvison, for this cause forsooth, that King Olaf had broken their plighted troth and smitten

her in the face even as is afore writ. Now she stirred up King Svein busily to join battle with King Olaf Tryggvison, and said that he had enough against him, in that King Olaf had lain by Thyri his sister without the leave of him : “ And never would thy forefathers have borne such things.”

Such like words had Queen Sigrid for ever in her mouth, whereby at the last she brought it to pass that King Svein was gotten ready to do by her counsel.

So early in the spring King Svein sent men east to Sweden to meet Olaf the Swede-king, his son-in-law, and Earl Eric, and he bade tell them that Olaf, King of Norway, had his fleet abroad, and was minded to fare to Wendland that summer. This word also went with the message of the Dane-king, that the Swede-king and Earl Eric should have out their host and go meet King Svein, and that all they together should go join battle with King Olaf Tryggvison.

Now Olaf the Swede-king and Earl Eric were all ready for this journey ; so they drew together a great host of ships from the Swede-realm, and brought that host south to Denmark, but came thither when King Olaf Tryggvison had already sailed east. Hereof telleth Haldor the Unchristened in the song that he made on Earl Eric :

The kings' o'er-thrower dauntless
 In gale of flame of battle
 Called out much folk from Sweden.
 The king held south to battle.
 Fattener of carrion-hornets !

Then each and every yeoman
 Was fain to follow Eric?
 Drink gat the wound-mew seaward.

So the Swede-king and Earl Eric held on to meet the Dane-king, and now joined all together they had a marvellous great host.

CHAPTER CVIII. THE GUILDES OF EARL SIGVALDI.

NOW King Svein, when he sent for that host, had sent Earl Sigvaldi to Wendland to spy on the host and the ways of King Olaf Tryggvison, and to lay such a trap that King Svein and his fellows might not fail to fall in with him. So Earl Sigvaldi went his ways, and came to Wendland and Iomsburg, and so went to meet Olaf Tryggvison. So there was most friendly converse betwixt them, and the earl grew into the greatest good liking with King Olaf. Astrid, the wife of the earl and daughter of King Burislaf, was a great friend of King Olaf, which came about much from their former ties, whereas King Olaf had wedded Geira her sister.

Now Earl Sigvaldi was a wise man and a shifty, and when he was gotten into the privy of King Olaf's counsel, he ever held him back from sailing from the east, and found hereunto, now one thing, now another. But King Olaf's folk took it marvellous ill, being waxen very homesick as they lay all dight for sailing and the weather boding fair wind.

Meanwhile Earl Sigvaldi had privy tidings from

Denmark that the host of the Swede-king was now come from the east, and that Earl Eric also had arrayed his host, and that these lords would now be coming east under Wendland, and had appointed to waylay King Olaf by an isle called Svoldr; so that it behoved the earl to bring it so about that they might fall in with King Olaf there.

CHAPTER CIX. KING OLAF'S JOURNEY FROM WENDLAND.

AND now it got whispered about in Wendland that Svein the Dane-king had an host abroad, and speedily arose the rumour that King Svein would meet King Olaf; but Earl Sigvaldi saith to the king: "It will be no rede for King Svein to join battle with thee with the Dane-host only, so great an host as thou hast gotten; but if thou misdoubt at all that war besetteth thy way, then will I be of thy company with my folk, and time has been when the following of the Vikings of Iomsburg has been deemed of good avail for a lord: lo, I will get thee eleven ships well manned." The king said yea thereto; the wind blew light and handy for sailing: so the king let weigh anchor and blow for departing. Then men hoisted sail, and all the small ships made the more way, and sailed away right out to sea.

Now the earl sailed hard by the king's ship, and called out to them, bidding the king sail after him. "Full well I know," said he, "where are the deepest of the sounds betwixt the isles, and this will ye need for your big ships."

So the earl sailed on before with his ships; eleven ships he had; and the king sailed after him with his big ships, and he too had eleven there; but all the rest of the host sailed out to sea.

Now when Earl Sigvaldi was come sailing off Svoldr by the west, a skiff rowed off to meet him, and they told him that the host of the Dane-king lay awaiting them in the haven there. Then let the earl strike sail and row in under the isle. So sayeth Haldor the Unchristened:

From the south came the king of the isle-folk
 With ships one more than seventy,
 The meet-stem of the wave-steed,
 He reddened sword in the murder.
 Whenas the earl had ordered
 The sea's knop-crownèd reindeer
 For a war-mote with the Scanings,
 Men's peace it flew asunder.

Herein is it said that King Olaf and Earl Sigvaldi had seventy ships and one whenas they sailed from the south.

CHAPTER CX. THE KINGS TALK TOGETHER AND TAKE COUNSEL.

NOW Svein the Dane-king and Olaf the Swede-king were there with all their host: fair weather it was, and bright shone the sun. So all the lords went up on to the holm with a great company of men, and they saw how a many ships together went sailing out to sea; and now see they where saileth a great ship and a brave. Then spake both the kings and said: "Yonder is a great ship and marvellous fair;

this will be the Long Worm." But Earl Eric answered and said: "Nay, this will not be the Long Worm."

And so it was as he said, for this ship was of Eindrid of Gimsar.

A little thereafter they saw where another ship came sailing much greater than the first. Then spake King Svein: "Now is Olaf Tryggvison afeard, and durst not sail with the head on his ship." Then saith Earl Eric: "This is not the king's ship, for I know it, ship and striped sail. Erling Skialgson owneth it. Let these sail on! for better for us shall be that rent and lacking in King Olaf's fleet than that yonder ship be there, so well arrayed as it is."

But a while after saw they, and knew Earl Sigvaldi's ships that turned them toward the holm.

Then saw they where three ships came sailing, and one was great. Then spake King Svein, and bade go a-shipboard, for that there came the Long Worm. Then said Earl Eric: "Many other great ships and glorious have they, beside the Long Worm; bide we a while!"

Then gat many men a-talking, and said: "Earl Eric will not fight then, and avenge his father. Great shame is this, to be told of through all lands, if we lie here with this so great an host, and King Olaf saileth out to sea, out here past our very eyes."

But when they had talked this wise awhile, saw they where four ships came a-sailing, and one of them was a dragon full great all done about with gold. Then up stood King Svein and spake on

high : " This night shall the Worm bear me, and I will steer her. And many men said withal that the Worm was a wondrous great ship and goodly, and great glory it was to let build such a ship.

But Earl Eric said so that certain men heard him : " If King Olaf had no bigger ship than that one alone, yet should King Svein never get it from him with the Dane-host only."

Then drew the folk toward the ships, and struck the tilts, and were minded to dight them speedily.

But while the lords were so speaking together, they saw where came three full mighty ships a-sailing, and a fourth last of all, and lo! it was the Long Worm.

But those great ships which had sailed by afore, and they deemed had been the Worm, were the first the Crane, and the last the Short Worm.

But now when they saw the Long Worm all knew her, and none had a word to say against it that there was sailing Olaf Tryggvison, and they went to their ships and arrayed them for onset.

This was the privy bargain struck between the chieftains, King Svein, to wit, King Olaf, and Earl Eric, that each should have his own third share of Norway if they laid low Olaf Tryggvison ; but whoso first went up on the Worm should have all the prey to be gotten thereon, and each should have such ships as himself cleared.

Earl Eric had a beaked ship wondrous great, wherewith he was wont to sail a-warring ; and a beard there was on either side the prow thereof, and thick staves of iron down from thence all the breadth of the beard, and going down to the water-line.

CHAPTER CXI. OF KING OLAF'S HOST.

NOW when Earl Sigvaldi and his folk rowed in under the holm, that saw Thorkel Dydril from the Crane and the other captains who went with him, how the earl turned his ships under the holm; so they struck sail and rowed after them, and hailing them, asked why they fared so. The earl said that he would lie-to for King Olaf: "For it looketh like that war awaiteth us."

So they let their ships drift till Thorkel Nosy came up in the Short Worm and the three ships that went with her. The same tale were they told; so they too struck sail and lay-to abiding King Olaf. But now when the king sailed in toward the holm, then rowed the whole host out into the sound to meet them. But when men saw that, they bade the king sail on his way, and not join battle with so great an host. Then the king answered with a high voice, as he stood up in the poop: "Strike sails! let no men of mine think of flight! never have I fled from battle. Let God look to my life! for never will I turn to flight."

And so was it done as the king bade; even as Hallfred sayeth:

Still must the word be told of,
Which, said the men foe-gripping
The king deed-mighty spake there
To his lads at fray of weapons:
The bower-down of Swede-ranks
Forbade his trusty war-host
To think of flight. The stout word
Of the people's leader liveth.

CHAPTER CXII. KING OLAF ORDER-ETH HIS FOLK.

SO King Olaf let blow up for the gathering together of all his ships ; and the king's ship was in the midst of his battle, but on one board lay the Short Worm, and the Crane on the other. But when they set about lashing together the stems of the Long Worm and the Short, and the king saw them at it, he cried out on high, bidding them lay the big ship better forward, and not let it hang aback behind all ships in the host. Then answered Wolf the Red : " If the Worm shall lie as far forward as she is longer than other ships, then there will be windy weather to-day in the bows." Saith the king : " I wotted not that I had a forecastle-man both Red and adrad." Quoth Wolf : " Ward thou the poop with thy back no more than I the bows with mine."

Then the king caught hold of his bow, and laid an arrow on the string and turned it on Wolf.

Said Wolf : " Shoot another way, king, whereas it will avail thee more ; for thee work I that I work."

CHAPTER CXIII. OF KING OLAF.

KING OLAF stood on the poop of the Worm and showed high up aloft: a forged shield he had and a gold-wrought helm, and was easy to know from other men : a short red kirtle had he over his byrny.

Now when King Olaf saw that the hosts were drifting about, and the banners set up before the

captains, he asked : " Who is captain of the host over against us ? " So it was told him that there was King Svein Twibeard with the Dane-host.

Answered the king : " We feare not those blenchers ; in Danes there is no heart. But what captain is behind the banners out there on the right hand ? "

It was told him that there was King Olaf with the Swede-host. Saith King Olaf : " Better were the Swedes to sit at home licking their blood-bowls than setting on the Worm under your weapons. But who is lord of the big ships that lie out there on the larboard of the Danes ? " " There is Earl Eric Hakonson," said they. Then answered King Olaf : " He will deem us well met to-day ; and we may look for full fierce fight from that folk, for they are Northmen as we be."

CHAPTER CXIV. THE BEGINNING OF THE BATTLE.

THEN fell the kings to the onset, and King Svein laid his ship against the Long Worm, and King Olaf the Swede lay outward from him, and grappled from the prow the outermost ship of King Olaf Tryggvison, but on the other side lay Earl Eric. And then befell a hard fight. Earl Sigvaldi let hang aback with his ships, nor thrust into the battle. So saith Skuli Thorsteinson, who was with Earl Eric that day :

The Frisian's foe I followed,
And Sigvaldi ; young gat I
Life-gain, where spears were singing
(Old now do people find me).

Where I bore reddened wound-leek
 To the mote against the meeter
 Of mail-Thing in the helm-din
 Off Svold-mouth in the south-land.

And moreover of these tidings saith Hallfred :

Meseems the king, fight-framer,
 That tide o'ermuch was missing.
 The following of the Thrand-lads
 Much folk to fleeing turned them.
 The mighty folk-lord fought there
 Sole gainst two kings full doughty,
 And an earl for third foe had he.
 Famed wont such things to tell of.

CHAPTER CXV. THE FLIGHT OF KING SVEIN AND OF OLAF THE SWEDE-KING.

THIS battle was of the sharpest, and great was the fall of men. The forecastle-men of the Long Worm and the Short Worm and the Crane cast anchors and grapplings on to the ships of King Svein, and had to bring their weapons to bear right down under their feet. So cleared they all those ships they grappled ; but King Svein and such of his folk as escaped fled into other ships, and therewith drew aback out of shot. So went it with this host as King Olaf Tryggvison had guessed.

Then in the place of them fell on Olaf the Swede-king ; but so soon as they came nigh to the big ships it fared with them as with the others, that they lost much folk and some of their ships, and in such plight drew aback.

But Earl Eric laid Iron-beak aboard the outer-

most ship of King Olaf, and cleared it, and cut it adrift from its lashings, and then laid aboard that one which was next, and fought till that too was cleared. Then fell the folk a-fleeing from the lesser ships up on to the bigger; but Earl Eric cut each one adrift from her lashings as he cleared it.

Then drew the Danes and Swedes into bowshot again, and beset King Olaf's ships all round about; but ever Earl Eric laid aboard the ships and dealt in fight of handy-strokes; and ever as men fell aboard his ships came other in the stead of them, Swedes and Danes. So sayeth Haldor:

Brunt of sharp swords betided
 All round about the Long Worm,
 Lads sheared peace long asunder
 Where golden spears were singing.
 'Tis told that men of Sweden,
 And Dane-groves of bright leg-biters
 Him followed forth in the Southland
 At war-tide of his foemen.

Then waxed the battle of the sharpest, and much folk fell; but in the end it came about that all the ships of King Olaf Tryggvison were cleared, saving the Long Worm, and all the folk were come aboard it who were yet fit for fight of his men. Then Earl Eric laid Iron-beak aboard the Long Worm, and there befell fight of handy-strokes. So sayeth Haldor:

Midst a hard firth was gotten
 The Long Worm. There were cloven
 The moons of the galley's prow-fork
 Where blood-reeds clashed together.

Where the byrny-witchwife's Regin
Laid the board-mighty Beardling
Gainst Fafnir's side ; and the earl wrought
The helm-gale off the island.

CHAPTER CXVI. OF EARL ERIC.

EARL ERIC was in the forehold of his ship, and a shield-burg was arrayed about him.

There was both handy-stroke and thrusting of spears, and all things cast that might make a weapon, while some shot with the bow or cast with the hand. But such brunt of weapons was borne against the Worm that scarce might any shield him, so thick flew spears and arrows ; for the warships lay on the Worm all round about.

But now were King Olaf's men waxen so wood, that they leapt up on the bulwark to the end that they might get stroke of sword to smite folk ; but many lay not the Worm so nigh aboard that they would come to handy-strokes ; and Olaf's men went most of them overboard, and took no more heed than if they fought on the plain mead, and so sunk they down with their weapons. So sayeth Hallfred :

Smiters of ring-wrought war-sark
Sank wounded down from the Adder
In the fray of arrows' peril ;
And nowise there they spared them.
The Worm shall long be lacking
Such lads as these, though glorious
The king may be who steers her
As 'neath war-host she glideth.

CHAPTER CXVII. OF EINAR THAM-
BARSKELVIR.

NOW Einar Thambarskelvir was aboard the Worm aft in the main-hold ; and he shot with the bow and was the hardest shooting of all men. Einar shot at Earl Eric, and the arrow smote the tiller-head above the head of the earl, and went in up to the shaft binding. The earl looked thereon and asked if they wist who shot ; and even therewith came another arrow so nigh that it flew betwixt the earl's side and his arm, and so on into the staying board of the steersman, and the point stood out far beyond. Then spake the earl to a man whom some name Finn, but othersome say that he was of Finnish kin, and he was the greatest of bowmen ; and he said, " Shoot me yonder big man in the strait hold."

So Finn shot, and the arrow came on Einar's bow even as he drew the third time, and the bow burst asunder in the midst. Then spake King Olaf : " What brake there so loud ?"

Answereth Einar : " Norway, king, from thine hands."

" No such crash as that," said the king ; " take my bow and shoot therewith." And he cast the bow to him. So Einar took the bow and drew it straightway right over the arrow-head, and said : " Too weak, too weak, All-wielder's bow !" and cast the bow back. Then took he his shield and sword, and fought manfully.

CHAPTER CXVIII. KING OLAF BRINGETH HIS MEN SHARP SWORDS.

KING OLAF TRYGGVISON stood on the poop of the Worm, and shot full oft that day, whiles with the bow and whiles with javelins, and ever twain at once. Now looked he forward on the ship, and saw his men heave up sword and smite full fast, but saw withal that they bit but ill ; so he cried out aloud : “ Is it because ye raise your swords so dully, that I see that none of ye bite ? ”

So a man answered : “ Our swords are dull and all to-sharded.”

Then went the king down into the forehold, and unlocked the chest of the high-seat ; and took thence many sharp swords and gave them to his men.

But as he stretched down his right hand men saw that the blood ran down from under his byrny sleeve ; but none wist where he was wounded.

CHAPTER CXIX. THEY GO UP ON TO THE LONG WORM.

NOW the most defence on the Worm and the most murderous to men was of those of the forehold and the forecastle, for in either place was the most chosen folk and the bulwark highest ; but the folk began to fall first amidships. But now whenas but few men were on their feet about the mast, Earl Eric fell to boarding, and came up on to the Worm with fourteen men. Then came against him Hyrning,

brother-in-law of King Olaf, with a company of men, and there befell the hardest battle ; but such was the end of it that the earl drew aback on to Iron-beak, and of those men who followed him, some fell and some were wounded. Hereof telleth Thord Kolbeinson :

There was upraised the war-din
 Around the gory Hropt's walls
 Of the king's host : and there Hyrning,
 Who turned the blue swords' edges,
 Gat good word. Ere it dieth
 Shall the high fells' hall be fallen.

And yet again was the battle of the sharpest, and many men fell aboard the Worm. But when the crew of the Worm waxed thin for the warding, then Earl Eric fell on again to come up on to her ; and yet again was his meeting hard. But when the forecastle men of the Worm saw this, they went aft and turned against the earl to defend them, and dealt him a hard meeting. Nevertheless, whereas there was so much folk fallen aboard the Worm that the bulwarks were widely waste of men, the earl's men came aboard on every side, and all the folk that yet stood upon their feet for the warding of the Worm fell aback aft whereas the king was. So saith Haldor the Unchristened, telling how Earl Eric cheered on his men :

Back shrank the folk with Olaf
 Across the thwarts, when glad-heart
 The earl cheered on his war-lads,
 The doughty in the battle,
 When they had locked the ship-boards
 Around the King of Halland,
 Bounteous of sea-flame. Tided
 Sword-oath round that Wend-slayer.

CHAPTER CXX. THE CLEARING OF THE LONG WORM.

NOW Kolbiorn the Marshal went up on to the poop to the king, and much alike were they in raiment and weapons, and Kolbiorn also was the fairest and biggest of men. And now once more in the forehold was the battle full fierce ; but, because so much folk of the earl was gotten aboard the Worm as the ship might well hold, and his ships also lay close all round about the Worm, and but a few folk were left for warding her against so great an host, now albeit those men were both strong and stout of heart, yet there in short space fell the more part of them. But King Olaf himself and Kolbiorn leapt overboard, either on his own board ; but the earl's men had put forth small boats and slew such as leapt into the deep. So when the king himself leapt into the sea they would have laid hands on him and brought him to Earl Eric ; but King Olaf threw up his shield over him, and sank down into the deep sea. But Kolbiorn the Marshal thrust his shield under him to guard him from the weapons thrust up at him from the boats that lay below, and in such wise he came into the sea that his shield was under him, so that he sank not so speedily, but that they laid hand on him and drew him up into a boat ; and they deemed of him that he was the king. So he was led before the earl ; and when the earl was ware that it was Kolbiorn and not King Olaf, then was peace given to Kolbiorn.

But even at this point of time leapt overboard

from the Worm all King Olaf's men that were yet alive; and Hallfred sayeth that Thorkel Nosy the king's brother leapt overboard the last of all:

The waster of the arm-stone
Saw the Crane floating empty,
And either Adder: gladsome
He reddened spear in the battle
Ere the fight-daring, bold-heart
Thorketil deft at swimming
Fled from huge brunt of battle
Offboard the wolf of tackle.

CHAPTER CXXI. OF THE WENDLAND CUTTER.

NOW as is aforewrit Earl Sigvaldi had fallen into fellowship with King Olaf in Wendland, and had ten ships with him; but an eleventh there was whereon were the men of Astrid the king's daughter, wife of Earl Sigvaldi. But whenas King Olaf leaped overboard, then all the host cried the cry of victory, and therewith Earl Sigvaldi and his men dashed their oars into the water and rowed into the battle. Hereof telleth Haldor the Unchristened:

From wide away the Wend-ships
Drew o'er the sea together,
And Thridi's land's lean monsters
On the folk yawned iron-throated.
Swords'-din at sea betided,
Wolf's fare the erne was tearing,
There fought the lads' dear leader,
And fled full many a war-host.

But the Wendland cutter whereon were Astrid's men rowed away and back under Wendland; and

the talk of many it was then and there that King Olaf will have done off his byrny under water, and so dived out under the long-ships and swum for the Wendland cutter, and that Astrid's men brought him to land. And many are the tales told thereafter by some men about King Olaf's farings. Nevertheless in this wise sayeth Hallfred :

I wot not one or the other,
To call him dead or living,
The soother of mewes of clatter
Of the sheen of Leyfi's sea-deer.
Since either tale folk tell me
For true, and this is certain
That wounded must the king be,
And tidings of him fail us.

And howsoever it may have been, nevermore thenceforward came Olaf Tryggvison back to his realm of Norway.

But thus sayeth Hallfred the Troublous-skald :

The man who said that living
Was the folk's king, all his life long
Was the point-shaking servant
Of the guile-shy son of Tryggvi.
And so folk say that Olaf
Gat him from out the steel-storm—
Ah, wide from truth their words are ;
Woe worth that all is worser !

And again :

When thanes fell on with folk-host,
On the king the hardy-hearted,
E'en as I learn, then would not
Such luck befall his land's folk,
As that the swayer of hand's ice,
Of worth so manifolded,
From such an host should get him,
And yet folk deem it likely.

Still will some tell the wealth-wise
 Of the king in battle wounded,
 Or of his coming safely
 Forth from the clash of metal.
 But sooth from the Southland cometh
 Of the Great Play and his slaying,
 Nor many things now may I
 With the wavering word of men-folk.

CHAPTER CXXII. OF EARL ERIC.

SO had Earl Eric gotten the Long Worm,
 and the victory, and a great prey; as
 sayeth Haldor :

Thither the Long Worm bore him,
 The lord with helm becoifed,
 To the Thing of swords full mighty,
 And the folk adorned their shipboard.
 Right glad the earl took over
 The Adder south in the war-din,
 But Heming's high-born brother
 Ere that must redden edges.

Now Svein, the son of Earl Hakon, had wedded Holmfrid, the daughter of Olaf the Swede-king. But when they shared the realm of Norway between them, the Dane-king, the Swede-king, and Earl Eric, then had Olaf the Swede-king four folklands in Thrandheim, both the Meres and Raumsdale, and Ran-realm from the Gaut-elf to Swine-sound. This dominion King Olaf delivered into the hands of Earl Svein on such covenant as the scat-paying kings or earls had held it aforetime of the over-kings.

But Earl Eric had four counties in Thrandheim, Halogaland and Naumdale, the Firths and Fialir,

Sogn and Hordland and Rogaland, and North Agdir out to Lidandisness. So sayeth Thord Kolbeinson :

Wot I that, save for Erling,
Most Hersirs erst were friendly
Unto the Earls. Here sing I
The Tyr of the flame of ship-land.
Fight done, and all the land lay
At peace north all from Veiga
To Agdir south, or further
Maybe. I chose words rightly.

Now folk well-pleased of their ruler,
To love their lot well liked them ;
And he gave out he was bounden
To hold hand over Norway.
But Svein the king, the tale goes,
Is dead now in the Southland,
And his towns withal are wasted.
But few of folk woe failleth.

Svein the Dane-king had still the Wick even as he had aforetime ; but he gave Earl Eric Raum-realm and Heathmark.

Svein Hakonson took earldom from Olaf the Swede. Earl Svein was the goodliest man ever seen. Earl Eric and Earl Svein both let themselves be christened and took the right troth ; but whiles they ruled over Norway they let every man do as he would about the holding of the faith ; but the ancient laws they held well and all customs of the land, and were men of upright rule and well beloved. Earl Eric was by far the foremost of the brethren in all authority.