

of plunder; now however, "great sea-cast floods of foreigners" landed in every harbour, and began to form settlements in various parts of the island. Dublin was first occupied in 836, and four years later the Norsemen strengthened their position there considerably by the erection of a *longphort* or fortress. From their *longphort* at Linn Duachail (between Drogheda and Dundalk) built in the same year, they made their way to the West and plundered Clonmacnois, while settlers from Cael-uisce, near Newry, went south and laid waste County Kildare.¹

The power of Turgeis was not confined to the north of Ireland. His fleets were stationed on Loch Ree, the centre from which Meath and Connacht were devastated. His wife, Ota (O.N. Authr), desecrated the monastery of Clonmacnois by giving her oracular responses (*a frecartha*) from the high altar.² The tyranny of Turgeis came to an end in 845, when he was captured by Maelsechnaill, who afterwards became *drá-rí*, and was drowned in Lough Owel.³

After his death the tide of battle turned in favour of the Irish, and the Norsemen were defeated in several battles. Weakened by warfare, they had to contend in 849 with an enemy from without—the Dubh-Gaill⁴ or Danes who had

Irish and was killed. (*Heimskringla: Haralds saga hins hárfagra*, ch. 35.)

This account of Thorgils certainly bears a resemblance to that of Turgeis contained in the Irish chronicles and Giraldus Cambrensis (cf. Todd: Introduction to *War of the Gaedhil with the Gaill*, I., ii.), but it is of course incorrect to say that Turgeis was a son of Harold Fairhair.

¹ *Annals of Ulster*, A.D. 841.

² *War of the Gaedhil with the Gaill*, p. 13.

³ *Ib.*, p. 15.

⁴ The Irish chroniclers use a variety of names for the Scandinavians: *Díbearccai* (outlaws), *Gaill* (foreigners), *Genni* (Gentiles), and *Pagánaigh* (Pagans). They also distinguish between Danes and Norsemen. The Danes were known as *Danaiv*, *Danmarcaigh*, *Dubh*