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## Scandinavian Relations with Ireland during the Viking Period

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sailed round the south coast of England and landed in Ireland "to exercise authority over the foreigners who were there before them." Two years after their arrival the newcomers plundered the fortresses at Dublin and Dundalk, but were attacked in the following year on Carlingford Loch by the Norsemen. In this great naval battle, which lasted three days and three nights, the Danes were finally victorious.<sup>1</sup>

"Amhlaoihb Conung, son of the King of Lochlann," known in Icelandic sources as Olaf the White, came to Ireland about 852 to rule over his countrymen, and to exact tribute from the Irish.<sup>2</sup> According to the *Fragments of Annals*, he left suddenly and returned a few years later accompanied by his "younger brother, Imhar," who may be identified with Ívarr Beinlausi (*i.e.*, "the Boneless") son of Ragnarr Lothbrók. Both kings ruled from Dublin, which town now gained a new importance as the seat of the Scandinavian Kings in Ireland. In 865 the Vikings extended their activities to Scotland, whence they carried off much plunder and many captives. An expedition on a larger scale was made by Olaf and Ivarr in 869, when Dumbarton, after a four months' siege, fell into their hands. They returned in triumph to Ireland in the following year with a large number of English, British, and Pictish prisoners

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*Genti* (Black Gentiles), and *Dubh-Gaill*. The word *Dubh-Gaill* (Black Foreigners) still survives in the personal names *Doyle* and *MacDowell* and in the place-name *Baldoyle*. The Norsemen were called *Finn-Gaill* (Fair Foreigners), *Finn-Genti*, *Nortmannai* (Lat. Northmanni) and *Lochlannaigh* (*i.e.*, men of Lochlann or Norway).

<sup>1</sup> *Annals of Ulster*, A.D. 851 (= 852).

<sup>2</sup> *Three Fragments of Annals*, p. 127.

Vogt (*Dublin som Norsk By*, p. 66) suggests that Olaf was related to Turgeis, the first Norse King of Ireland, and to Earl Tomrair (O.N. Thórrar), "tanist of the King of Lochlann," who fell in the battle of Scaith Neachtain (847). On the other hand it may be noted here that the Annalist errs in making Olaf a brother of Ivarr the Boneless.