

and ended their victorious march by the capture of Dunseverick (Co. Antrim).¹

Olaf returned to Norway some time after this to take part in the wars there,² and we hear no more of him in the Irish Annals. "Imhar, King of the Norsemen of all Ireland and Britain," did not long survive him; his death is recorded under the year 873.³

During the years which followed Ivarr's death the country was comparatively peaceful, and the Irish began to enjoy a rest from fresh invasions, which lasted about forty years.⁴ The Danes and the Norsemen again began to quarrel among themselves, and once more their opposing fleets met on Carlingford Lough;⁵ in this battle Albann (O.N. Halfdaur), brother of Ivarr, a well-known leader of the Vikings in England, was slain. Disensions also spread among the ranks of the Dublin Norsemen, dividing them into two hostile parties, one siding with Sitriucc, son of Ivarr, the other with a certain Sighfrith.⁶ This internal strife so

¹ *Annals of Ulster*, A.D. 870.

² *Three Fragments of Annals*, p. 195. The *Landnámabók*, II., ch. 15 says that "Olaf fell in battle in Ireland," but this is surely a mistake.

³ *Annals of Ulster*, sub anno, 872 (= 873).

⁴ Cf. *War of the Gaedhil with the Gaill*, p. 27. Cf. also the entries in the *Annals of Ulster*:

"Ruaidhri, son of Muirmenn King of the Britons came to Ireland, fleeing before the Black Foreigners" (an. 876).

"The shrine of Colum-Cille and all his relics were brought to Ireland to escape the Foreigners" (an. 877).

⁵ The *War of the Gaedhil with the Gaill* (p. 27) mentions another battle between Fair and Black Gentiles, in which many of the latter were killed.

⁶ It is extremely difficult to identify these two princes owing to the similarity between their names. It has been suggested that Sighfrith is the Siefredus or Sievert who ruled jointly with Guthred-Cnut (d.c. 894) as King of Northumbria, while Sitriucc son of Ivarr is probably the "Sitric comes" whose name appears on a coin dating from this period. (See A. Mawer: *The Scandinavian Kingdom of Northumbria*, pp. 11-13. Saga-book of the Viking Club, VII. Part I.)