

by Sihtric Gale, who had been expelled from Dublin in the preceding year,<sup>1</sup> probably by his brother, Guthfrith. After Sihtric's death in 927 Guthfrith, King of Dublin (d. 934), with the Vikings of Dundalk, left Ireland in order to secure his own succession in York, but he would seem to have been driven out by Aethelstan, for the Irish Annals mention his return to Dublin after an absence of six months.<sup>2</sup>

Guthfrith's son, Olaf, came forward about this time. Supported by the Norsemen of Strangford Lough he plundered Armagh, but his subsequent attacks on Ulster were checked by Muirchertach MacNeill, son of Niall Glundubh. Olaf fought in alliance with Constantine in the battle of Brunanburh (937), and after the defeat inflicted on them by Aethelstan's forces he fled to Dublin.<sup>3</sup> He is probably the "Anlaf of Ireland" who was chosen King by the Northumbrians in 941,<sup>4</sup> but he died about a year later.<sup>5</sup>

Another Olaf, the famous Olaf Cuaran, also called Sihtricsson to distinguish between them, also played an important part in campaigns in Ireland and England. He went to York about 941, and was elected king by the Northumbrians, but was expelled after a few years along with Raegenald, son of Guthfrith.<sup>6</sup> He then took the Dublin Kingdom under his rule, and in the following year was defeated in battle by the Irish at Slaine (Co. Meath). Leaving his brother Guthfrith to govern in his stead, he departed to York, where he became king a second time; but the Northumbrians drove him out after three years and placed

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<sup>1</sup> *Annals of Ulster*, A.D. 919.

<sup>2</sup> *Ib.*, A.D. 927.

<sup>3</sup> *Ib.*, A.D. 937. *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, A. Annal, 937.

<sup>4</sup> *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, D. Annal 941.

<sup>5</sup> *Ib.*, E. Annal 942; *Annals of Clonmacnoise*, A.D. 934.

<sup>6</sup> *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, A. Annal 944.