

After the Battle of Clontarf the Norsemen became gradually absorbed in the general population except in a few coast towns, where they continued to live more or less distinct and governed by petty kings until the English Invasion (1169). In the chronicles of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries they are generally alluded to as "Ostmen" (corruptly *Houstmanni*, *Nosmani*, etc.),<sup>1</sup> and it would seem that when Dublin, Limerick, and Waterford were captured by the English the "Ostmen" had to withdraw to certain districts outside the walls of these towns. Thus, near Dublin, north of the River Liffey, we hear of Ostmaneby<sup>2</sup> (i.e., *Austmannabyr*) afterwards called Ostmanstonry, and now known as Oxmanstown. Mention is also made (c. 1200) of a "cantred" of the Ostmen and holy isle," near Limerick and (c. 1282) of a "vill of the Ostmen"<sup>3</sup> near Waterford.<sup>4</sup> In the records of the fourteenth century, however, there is an almost total absence of references to the "Ostmen" in Ireland.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Calendar of the Ancient Records of Dublin* (ed. by J. T. Gilbert), II. 81; *Chartularies of St. Mary's Abbey, Dublin* (ed. by Gilbert), I. 258; II. 251; Giraldus Cambrensis: *Topographia Hibernica*, V. 187.

The name "Ostmen" is generally supposed to have been first given to them by the English, but the word is Norse (i.e., *Austmenn*, plural of *Austmathr*, "a man living in the East") and therefore must have been current in Ireland before the English invasion. It may be suggested that the name was applied to the original Scandinavian settlers in Ireland, to merchants and other later comers from Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. Cf. the nickname *Austmathr*, given to a certain Eyvindr by the Scandinavian settlers in the Hebrides because he had come there from Sweden.

<sup>2</sup> *Chartularies of St. Mary's Abbey*, I. 267; *ib.*, I. 227, 234, etc.; *Calendar of the Ancient Records of Dublin*, I. 55; II. 96.

<sup>3</sup> *A Calendar of Documents Relating to Ireland* (ed. by H. S. Sweetman), I. 24.

<sup>4</sup> *Ib.*, II. p. 426.

<sup>5</sup> For interesting articles on the Ostmen in Ireland see A. Bugge: *Sidste Afsnit af Nordboernes Historie i Irland*, pp. 248-315 (Aarbog for nord. Oldk. 1900); and E. Curtis: *The English and the Ostmen in Ireland* (*English Historical Review*, XXIII., p. 209 ff.).