

treasures which they found there. After the great naval battle between Danes and Norsemen in Carlingford Lough (A.D. 852) Danes and Irish frequently united forces against the common enemy, and on one occasion—after the two armies had won a victory over the Norsemen in Tipperary—the Danish chieftain Horm and his men were escorted in triumph to Tara where they were received with great honour by the *ard-ri*.<sup>1</sup> Even after the arrival of Olaf the White, who brought about a temporary reconciliation between the two parties of "Foreigners," a detachment of Danes remained on in the service of Cearbhall, King of Ossory.<sup>2</sup>

The Irish chronicler, in alluding to the Norse practice of billeting their soldiers in the Irish farmhouses, lays stress on the feelings of hostility entertained by the Irish towards this "wrathful, foreign, purely Pagan people." Yet, we not infrequently find instances of friendly intercourse, as in the well-known story of Olaf-Trygvason and the peasant.<sup>3</sup> It appears that after Olaf's marriage to Gyda, sister of Olaf Cuaran, he occasionally visited Ireland. Once he sailed there with a large naval force, and being short of provisions went on land with his men on a foraging expedition. They

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the plundering of Kerry by Baraid (O.N. Barthr) and Olaf the White's son "who left not a cave there underground that they did not explore."

Several references to this practice of the Vikings occur also in Icelandic literature. It is interesting to compare the Irish accounts with the following passage from *Landnámabók* (I., ch. 5): "Leifr (one of the earliest settlers in Iceland) went on a Viking raid to the West. He plundered Ireland and found there a large underground house (Icel. *javth-hus*). It was dark within until he made his way to a place where he saw a light shining from a sword which a man held in his hand. Leifr slew the man and took the sword and much treasure besides."

<sup>1</sup> *Three Fragments of Annals*, p. 135.

<sup>2</sup> *Ib.*, p. 137.

<sup>3</sup> *Heimskringla: Ólafs Saga Tryggvasonar*, ch. 35.