

seized a large number of cows, and were driving them towards the shore when a peasant ran after them and begged Olaf to give him back his cows. Olaf told him to take them, if he could separate them from the rest without delaying their journey. The peasant had with him a large sheep-dog, which he sent in among the herd, and the dog ran up and down and drove off as many cows as the peasant claimed. As they were all marked in the same way it was evident that the dog knew all his master's cows. Then Olaf asked if the peasant would give him the dog. "Willingly," was the reply. So Olaf gave him in return a gold ring, and assured him of his friendship. The dog was called Vígi, "the best of all dogs," and Olaf had it for a long time. Years later, after the great naval battle in which Olaf lost his life, "Vígi lay on a mound and would take no food from anyone, although he drove away other dogs and beasts and birds from what was brought to him. . . . Thus he lay till he died."<sup>1</sup>

Moreover, the evidence of both Norse and Irish sources goes to show that all through the ninth and tenth centuries there was extensive intermarriage between the two peoples. Marriages of the invaders with the women whom they had carried off as captives must have taken place from an early period,<sup>2</sup> and we know definitely that the kings and chieftains on both sides frequently strengthened their alliances by unions between members of the royal families. According to the *Landnámabók* many distinguished Icelanders traced their descent to Kjarval, *i.e.*, Cearbhall,

<sup>1</sup> Cf. The story of Samr, (*i.e.*, probably Ir. sam, "happy" or "peaceful") the Irish hound which Olaf Pai gave to Gunnarr. Samr was killed while defending his master's homestead. (*Njáls Saga*, chs. 69, 75.)

<sup>2</sup> *Annals of the Four Masters*, A.D. 820; *Fragments of Annals*, p. 166; *War of the Gaedhil with the Gaill*, p. 79; *The Victorious Career of Callachan of Cashel*, p. 9.