

resistance to Norse rule in the first half of the tenth century.¹ Donnflaith, another of his daughters and mother of the *drá-rí*, Maelsechnaill II., married Olaf Cuaran. Their son, Gluniarainn, reigned in Dublin after his father's retirement to Iona, and appears to have been on friendly terms with Maelsechnaill.² The relationship between these two families becomes more complicated owing to the fact that Maelsechnaill's own wife, Maelmuire (d. 1021), was a daughter of Olaf.³

But perhaps no figure stands out so prominently in the Irish and Norse chronicles⁴ of the second half of the tenth century as Gormflaith (O.N. Kormlöth) who first married Olaf Cuaran, then his enemy Maelsechnaill II., and finally Brian Borumha, from whom she also separated.

The interchange of family and personal names which took place to such an extent during the Viking period also points to the close connection between the foreigners and the Irish. As early as 835 mention is made of one Gofraidh (O.N. Guthröthr), son of Fergus, who went to Scotland from Ireland in order to strengthen the Dal Riada and died some time after as King of the Hebrides.⁵ The Dublin Viking who led an attack on Armagh in 895 had an Irish name, Glun-iarainn, obviously a translation of O.N. *Jarn-kné*. He was in all probability a relative of Ierne or Jargna (corrupt forms of *Jarn-kné*) who ruled in conjunction with

¹ The *Annals of the Four Masters* record his death under the year 941: "Muirchertach of the Leather Cloaks, lord of Aileach, the Hector of the West of Europe in his time, was slain at Ardee by Blacaire, son of Godfrey, lord of the Foreigners."

Muirchertach's grandson was killed by Olaf Cuaran. (*Ib.*, A.D. 975).

² *Ib.*, A.D. 981.

³ *Ib.*, A.D. 1021.

⁴ *War of the Gaedhil with the Gaill*, p. 142 ff.; *Njáls Saga*, chs. 153, 154.

⁵ *Annals of the Four Masters*, A.D. 851.