

but the latter town never recovered its former prestige as the capital of Ireland.¹

That Dublin owes its importance, if not its origin, to the Norsemen may be inferred from the almost total silence of the historians and annalists regarding it in the years preceding the Scandinavian inroads. It is probable that there was a fort to guard the hurdle-ford where the great road from Tara to Wicklow, Arklow and Wexford crossed the Liffey, but it seems to have played no great part in history before the Norsemen fortified it in 840. Between Church Lane and Suffolk Street they had their *Thing*² or meeting-place, which was still to be seen in the seventeenth century; while all along College Green, called *Le Hogges*³ and later Hoggen Green by the English, lay their barrows (O.N. *haugar*). During the ninth and tenth centuries the Kingdom of Dublin—known to the Scandinavians as *Dyflinarski*—became one of the most powerful in the west. Its sway extended north to its colonies⁴ at the Strangford and

¹ Armagh is the only place in Ireland which is marked on a tenth century map of the world preserved in the British Museum. See R. A. S. Macalister: *Muiredach: Abbot of Monasterboice*, p. 13.

² It is called *Tengmonth* and *Teggemuta* in medieval documents (*Chartularies of St. Mary's Abbey*, I., 15, 461, 463, 465) and from it the surrounding parish of St. Andrew—"Parochia Sancti Andreae de Thengmote"—took its name. In 1647 it is referred to as "the fortified hill near the College," but about thirty years later it was levelled to the ground and the earth was used for building Nassau Street (J. T. Gilbert *History of Dublin*, II, p. 258).

³ The name survived until the 18th century in *Hog Hill*, but it was afterwards changed to St. Andrew's Street.

⁴ *Annals of Ulster*, A.D. 839, 840, 925, 928, 934.

These colonies were governed by earls, not kings, and their dependency on the kingdom of Dublin is clearly shown by certain entries in the Annals. In 926 a Viking fleet at Linn Duachaill (on the coast of Louth) was commanded by Albdarn (O.N. *Halfdarr*), son of Guthfrith (King of Dublin, 920-933). Later, when part of Albdann's army was besieged at Ath Cruithne (near Newry),