

Carlingford Loughs, west to Leixlip, south to Wicklow, Wexford¹ and even as far as Waterford. The Dublin kings intermarried with royal families in Ireland, England and Scotland, and between the years 919 and 950 ruled, though in somewhat broken succession, as Kings of York.

Limerick (O.N. Hlymrek)², the great stronghold on the west coast, had no existence as a city before the ninth century. It was first occupied during the reign of Turgeis by Vikings, who used the harbour as a base for their ships.³ The only chieftains mentioned in connection with this kingdom during the ninth century are Hona and Tomrir Torra (O.N. Thórrar Thórri), who were slain about the year 860 in attempting to capture Waterford.⁴ A few years later Barith (O.N. Barthr) and Haimar (O.N. Heimarr) when marching through Connacht on their way to Limerick, were attacked by the Connachtmen and forced to retreat.⁵ The real importance of Limerick, however, dates from the early part of the tenth century when it was colonised by Vikings under Tomar (Thórir) son of Elgi (O.N. Helgi). To secure the fort against attack an earthen mound was built all round, and gates were placed at certain distances

Guthfrith went with his forces to relieve it. In 927 the "foreigners of Linn Duachaill" accompanied Guthfrith when he marched on York. See Steenstrup, *op. cit.*, III., p. 115.

¹Wexford was also governed by earls. One of them, Accolb, is mentioned in the *Annals of the Four Masters*, A.D. 928.

²The Irish name *Luimnech* (hence O.N. *Hlymrek*) was originally applied to the estuary of the Shannon, but was afterwards confined to the town itself when it had risen to importance under Scandinavian rule.

³*Annals of the Four Masters*, A.D. 843; *War of the Gaedhil with the Gaill*, p. 8.

⁴*Three Fragments of Annals*, pp. 167, 144-6. *War of the Gaedhil with the Gaill*, ch. 23.

⁵*Three Fragments of Annals*, pp. 173-175; *Chronicon Scotorum*, A.D. 887.