

leading into the streets and the houses.¹ As a kingdom it was independent, having subject colonies at Cashel, Thurles, Lough Ree and Lough Corrib.² It had no connection with Dublin during the tenth century; in fact, there is evidence to show that both royal houses were bitterly hostile towards each another. On one occasion Guthfrith, King of Dublin, led an army to Limerick, but was repulsed with heavy losses by the Vikings there.³ A few years later (A.D. 929) he expelled Tomar's successor, King Ivarr of Limerick, and his followers from Magh Roighne (a plain in Ossory), where they had encamped for a whole year. Olaf Godfreyson was equally active. After defeating Olaf Cenncairech and the Limerick Vikings at Lough Ree in 937, he carried them off to Dublin,⁴ and that same year probably forced them to fight on his side in the battle of Brunnanburh.

This hostility would seem to have been due to rivalry between two powerful kingdoms, rather than, as has been suggested,⁵ to difference of nationality. It is not at all certain that the Limerick Vikings were purely Danes. One Irish chronicler speaks of the Scandinavians in Munster as *Gaill* and *Danair* and calls their fleets *loingeas Danmarcach ocus allmurach* ("fleets of Danes and foreigners").⁶ Elsewhere⁷ we find the word *Lochlannaigh* (i.e., Norsemen) used with reference to the Limerick settlers;

¹*The Victorious Career of Cellachan of Cashel*, pp. 9, 66; *War of the Gaedhil with the Gaill*, p. 56.

²*Annals of Ulster*, A.D. 845, 922, 929; *The Victorious Career of Cellachan of Cashel*, p. 10; *War of the Gaedhil with the Gaill*, p. 10; *Three Fragments of Annals*, p. 197.

³*Annals of Ulster*, A.D. 924.

⁴*Annals of the Four Masters*, A.D. 935; *Chronicon Scotorum*, A.D. 936.

⁵A. Bugge: *Sidste Afsnit af Nordboernes Historie i Island*, pp 254, 255.

⁶*War of the Gaedhil with the Gaill*, p. 41.

⁷*The Victorious Career of Cellachan of Cashel*, p. 64.