

Cork, the seat of a famous school founded by St. Finbar, fell an easy prey to the Vikings in the first half of the ninth century. They built forts there and at Youghal,<sup>1</sup> but in endeavouring to push their way inland to Fermoy were checked by the Irish (866), and their chief, Gnimcinniolla (or Gnimbeolu)<sup>2</sup> was slain. We hear no more of Scandinavians here until early in the tenth century when new invaders, part of the large army which came to Waterford with Ragnall and Earl Ottarr in 919, gained possession of the town. The new settlers seem to have been chiefly, if not entirely, Danes (*Danair* and *Duibhgeimnti*),<sup>3</sup> and it would seem that with the Danish colonies at Thurles and Cashel they subsequently came under the authority of Ivarr of Limerick, "the high-king of the foreigners of Munster."

Traces of the Scandinavian occupation still remain in the place-names on the coast, especially in the districts surrounding the seaport towns. Near Dublin we find Howth (O.N. *höfuth*, 'a head') and Skerries (O.N. *skjær*, 'a rock'; also Lambey, Dalkey and Ireland's Eye, all three containing the O.N. form *ey*, an 'island.' The name Leixlip is probably a form of O.N. *laxhleypa*<sup>4</sup> ('salmon-leap') not, as is generally supposed, of O.N. *lax-hlaup*. The O.N. *fjörthr* occurs in Wexford, Strangford and Carlingford

<sup>1</sup> *Annals of the Four Masters*, A.D. 846, 864.

<sup>2</sup> *Ib.*, 865. *Fragments of Annals*, p. 169.

*Gnimbeolu* is the O.N. *Grímr Bióla*. The Irish "Cinniolla" (Nom. Cenn Selach) is probably a translation of O.N. *Selshofuth*, a word which does not occur as a nickname in Old Norse literature. It was, however, known in Ireland as may be seen from the runic inscription—*domnal Selshofoth a soerth (th) eta*—on a bronze sword-plate found in Greenmount (Co. Louth). Cf. Marstrander, *op. cit.* p. 49.

<sup>3</sup> *The Victorious Career of Cellachan of Cashel*, pp. 10, 67.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. Marstrander, *op. cit.*, p. 149.