

Eyrbyggja Saga tells¹ of both Thórodd, the owner of a large ship of burden, and Guthleif,² who went with other traders on voyages "west to Dublin." Still more interesting is the account in the same saga of a merchant-ship that came from Dublin in the year 1000 to Snaefellsness in Iceland and anchored there for the summer. There were on board some Irishmen and men from the Sudreyar (Hebrides) but only a few Norsemen. One of the passengers, a woman named Thorgunna, had a large chest containing "bed-clothes beautifully embroidered, English sheets, a silken quilt, and other valuable wares, the like of which were rare in Iceland."³

Limerick is heard of only once in Icelandic sources; a trader named Hrafn was surnamed "the Limerick-farer" (Hlymreks fari)⁴ because he had lived for a long time there. *The War of the Gaedhil with the Gaill* gives a detailed description of the spoils gained by the Irish after the battle of Sulcoit (968) whence it would seem that the Limerick Vikings had been engaged in trade with France, Spain and the East.

"They carried away their (*i.e.*, 'The Vikings') jewels and their best property, their saddles, beautiful and foreign, their gold and their silver; their beautifully woven cloth of all colours and of all kinds; their satins and their silken cloths, pleasing and variegated, both scarlet and green, and all sorts of cloth in like manner."⁵

Reference has already been made to the numbers of Irish women captured by Viking raiders; many of these captives were afterwards sold as slaves in Norway and Iceland. In *Laxdaela Saga* we hear of Melkorka, an Irish princess, who

¹*Eyrbyggja Saga*, ch. 29.

²*Ib.*, ch. 64.

³*Ib.*, ch. 50.

⁴*Landnámabók*, II., ch. 21, etc.

⁵*War of the Gaedhil with the Gaill*, p. 79.