

were supported on the dead bodies of the Norsemen, while near by was "a trench full of gold and silver to give to Patrick; for the Danes," adds the chronicler, "were a people with a kind of piety; they could for a while refrain from meat and from women."¹

This confusion of the two religions is also illustrated in the crosses, symbols of Christianity, which the Vikings erected in the north of England and in the Isle of Man to the memory of their kinsfolk. On the Gosforth cross in Cumberland a representation of the Crucifixion—obviously influenced by Celtic designs—is found side by side with a figure of the god Vitharr slaying the Wolf, a scene described in *Vafthrútnismál*; while on the western side of the cross is portrayed the punishment of Loki.² A fragment of a cross in the same locality shows Thor fishing for the Mithgarthsormr,³ a subject which is also treated on a cross slab in Kirk Bride Parish Church, Isle of Man.⁴ Among the many other Celtic crosses in Man are four upon which are carved pictures from the story of Sigurthr Fáfnisbani: Sigurthr roasting the dragon's heart on the fire and cooling his fingers in his mouth, his steed Grani and the tree with the talking birds; another figure has been identified with Loki throwing stones at the Otter.⁵ There are besides twenty-six crosses with Runic inscriptions, six of which bring out the Viking connection with the Celtic Church. On one the Ogam alphabet is scratched, and the same monument bears a Runic inscription which tells us that "Mal Lumkun (Ir. Mael Lomchon) raised this cross

¹ *Three Fragments of Annals*, pp. 120-124.

² Cf. *Gylfaginning*, chs. 51, 52.

³ *Hýmiskviða*, *pass.* Cf. W. S. Calverley: *The Ancient Crosses at Gosforth*, p. 168.

⁴ P. M. C. Kermodé: *Manx Crosses*, pp. 180-184.

⁵ *Ib.*, pp. 170-179.