

that Sihtric Gale, Gothfrith's brother (or cousin) was also a Christian, since he formed a friendly alliance with Aethelstan, who gave him his sister in marriage.¹ In 943 Olaf Cuaran was baptized, and in the same year Rögnvaldr, another Norse prince, was confirmed.² After the battle of Tara (980) Olaf went on pilgrimage to Iona, where he died "after penance and a good life."³ His daughter and grandson were called by distinctively Irish Christian names—Maelmuire⁴ (servant of Mary), and Gilla Ciarain⁵ (servant of St. Ciaran). We may also note the name Gilla-Padraig which occurs in the royal family of Waterford⁶ and the half-Irish name of a priest in Clonmacnois, Conmhach Ua Tomrair, who must have been of Norse extraction.⁷

But all traces of heathenism in Ireland had not disappeared by the end of the tenth century. An interesting relic was Thor's ring (Ir. *faíl Tomhair*) which was carried off from Dublin by King Malsechnaill II. in 994.⁸ This must have been the *dóm-hríngr*, so frequently alluded to in Icelandic literature. It was a ring of silver or gold, about twenty ounces in weight, which lay upon an altar in the temple, except during ceremonies, when it was worn on the priest's arm.⁹ Upon this ring oaths were usually sworn.¹⁰ That it was connected with the worship of Thor is clear from a passage in the *Landnámabók* describing a place called

¹ *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, MS.D.*, A.D. 925.

² *Ib.*, *MSS. A.*, 942, D. 943.

³ *Annals of the Four Masters*, A.D. 979.

⁴ *Ib.*, A.D. 1021.

⁵ *War of the Gaedhil with the Gaill*, p. 207.

⁶ *Annals of the Four Masters*, A.D. 982.

⁷ *Ib.*, A.D. 1011.

⁸ *Ib.*, A.D. 994.

⁹ *Eyvbyggja Saga*, chs. 4 and 10; *Kjalnesinga Saga*, ch. 2; *etc.*

¹⁰ Cf. *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, MS.A. Annal*, A.D. 876, *Kjalnesinga Saga*, ch. 2; *etc.*