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Scandinavian Britain

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the islands as depôts and arsenals ; thence pushing on to Ireland or rounding the Cornish peninsula, to make the British Channel or the South Welsh havens ; or weathering the rocky Breton headlands and trending southwards along the Frankish, Gascon, Spanish, and Moorish shores.

The fleets that took this route were mainly Danes and Gotas, and their leaders of Danish blood, and they followed the path by which their predecessors, the Saxons, Angles, and Eotes, had come three centuries earlier, only going further because they did not find such an easy prey.

The second stream of migration, that followed by the *Northmen*, was a new one. Its fountain head is the deep firths of the west coast of Norway, whence it crosses to the Isles of the Caledonians and Picts (Shetland, Orkney, and Pentland coasts), whence it turns south to Fife, and as far as the Northumbrian and Lincoln lands ; or curving round through the Hebrides into the Sea of Man, touches that island and all the fair coasts, Pictish, Irish, and British, that lie about it ; thence south, lapping the west and south of Ireland.

From the Northmen's settlements in our own islands there later went forth on new ventures, to unpeopled and dimly known lands, many venturous souls, over the Haaf (the Atlantic) by way of the Sheep Islands (Faroes) to Iceland, setting up prosperous colonies where the feet of no man, save the Irish hermit, had ever trod. Whence, again, bolder spirits still braved the Arctic Sea, and established two settlements on the