

Our King Ælfred's friend, Oht-here, a Haloga-lander,¹ tells of the *fur-trade*, which depended mainly on the yearly tribute from the Finns, each chief of that people having to furnish 15 martin skins, 1 rein-deer pelt, 1 bear-skin, 1 bear or otter-skin coat, 40 ambers of feathers, 2 ship ropes of 60 ells (1 of horse-whale skin, 1 of seal-skin). He also spoke of the whale fishing, especially the chase of the horse-whale or walrus. He says that as many as sixty were killed by six men in a day.² Their ivory and skins were chiefly valuable. He notices the port of Sciringshall in the Wick, which would have been the chief emporium for Northern Danes and Goths, and of Heaths (the later Heath-by), which was no doubt the main trade-centre for Saxons, Danes, and Goths. He gives an account of his own voyage to Beorma-land, an expedition of fifteen days' sail, being three days to the furthest whale-fisheries' station used, and three more days thence to North Cape; four days thence to where the land lay east, and again five days up the White Sea, running south, where he reached

¹ This Oht-here bears a name found chiefly in connexion with the famous family from Haurda-land, the patriarch of which is Haurda-Care. He is evidently one of the last settlers in Haloga-land, for he dwells northernmost, as he told Ælfred. For an Oht-here, known as Oht-here the foolish, the curious genealogical poem "Hyndla's Lay" was composed. The family of Haurda-Care is later connected with the Orkneys, wherein descendants, if anywhere, should exist.

² I take it, the clause about the big whales is simply transposed here. Oht-here is talking of walruses, but the scribe has put into the middle of his talk another bit of information about big whales. It may have been taken, we might guess, from Ælfred's rough notes in the Hand-book.