

food, and handicraft the Scandinavian differed little from his cousin the Englishman, who had preceded him in his western exodus. Only in cultivation of land, and possibly of cattle, was the Scandinavian of the northern peninsula behind-hand. The Englishman had succeeded to the system of agriculture set up by the Romans in Britain, whereas the Scandinavian still possessed the more primitive cultivation of the early Teutons, and dwelt in a land that was still but half reclaimed from the forest. In art the Scandinavian had already developed a peculiar type of ornament, of which the bronze collections at Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Christiania preserve ample specimens,¹ a type which, while it runs parallel to the Celtic metal work, has mark-worthy characteristics of its own.

Though writing was not used for books or letters, yet the art of writing was known, and weapons, grave-stones, and ornaments have inscriptions on them. The peculiar letters known as *runes* are of the older general North and West Teutonic type, derived from some classic alphabet (that of an Hellenic Black Sea colony possibly, as Canon Taylor thinks; the North Etruscan alphabet, as Professor Bugge believes; or as Dr. Wimmer with less probability affirms, from the Latin alphabet).

The letters were arranged in an order, the reason for which is as yet unknown, as follows:—

¹ The illustrated catalogues of these museums are cheap and good, and will give the English student fair means of studying the finds in Scandinavia in connexion with those of Britain.