

The main peculiarities of the Norwegian wicking ship of the "iron age" may be summed up somewhat as follows, from the Gokstad ship, the latest and most perfect. She was 67 feet long at keel, and  $79\frac{1}{4}$  feet from stem to stern; of 17 feet beam, and about 4 feet depth amidships; clinker-built of eight strakes of solid oak planks fastened with tree-nails and iron bolts, and caulked with cord of cow hair plaited; her planks are fastened to the ribs with bast ties, which gives the frame-work great elasticity. She is undecked (possibly there were lockers fore and aft), with movable bottom boards whereunder could be stowed ballast, stores, weapons, sails, spare spars and oars, and the like; her mast was stepped in a huge solid block, which is so cunningly supported that, while the mast stands steady and firm, there is no strain on the light elastic frame of the ship. Her oars, sixteen a side, pass through rowlocks cut in the main strake (the third) and neatly fitted with shutters against bad weather; the oars are twenty feet long, and beautifully shaped. Her rudder, stepped to the starboard quarter, is a large short oar of cricket-bat shape, fitted with a movable tiller, and fastened to the ship by a curious but simple contrivance, giving the blade play, and keeping it clear of the ship's side. The mast, which is a 40-foot stick, has a heavy long yard with square sail, the stays and rigging are of bast, the mast and yard when shipped lay on two crutches clear of the deck; the awning was of tent-like form, of white web with red stripes, fitted with hemp cords by which it was seized to the ship's sides