

coast,¹ needed good sailors and trained men, who could and would obey orders, and act together at a moment's notice. The whale-fishery and the coasting trade, and the buccaneering voyages to the North and up the Baltic, had trained a school of such men.

In *Half's-Saga* we have read of his crew of "Champions, or merry men," a *comitatus* of picked men as good at the helm or the oar as they were with axe or sword: and there are to be gathered out of various early sources some tradition of the Articles of War and Ship's Regulations, so to speak, of these Northern war vessels.²

No man was taken except *between the two ages* (16 and 60), or in special cases between 18 and 50, or 20 and 60.

No man was admitted without a trial of his strength and activity.

All taken in war was to be brought to the Pile or Stake and there sold and divided according to rule, and this war-booty (*wal-rauf*) was personal (not part of the heritage that went to a man's kindred) and was buried with him.

The crew ate and drank in messes, two or three together, and the cook for the day was probably, as in merchantmen, drawn by lot or on duty in turn.

¹ Several times we hear of the Northmen suffering great loss from heavy gales in spite of all their seamanship, *e.g.*, on the deadly English east coast in 794, on the south coast in 877, and at the entry of the Mediterranean.

² Compare the "Laws of the Feens," as quoted in O'Curry's "Lectures," vol. ii., for the Irish counterpart to those old Teutonic "Wicking Laws."