

own men, his second in command was the captain of the forecastle, or stem-man, who was apparently entrusted with the night-watch when the ships were lying off the shore.<sup>1</sup>

Horses were used to ride on forays or to battle, but all fighting was on foot; the North and West Teutons had not learnt the art of fighting on horseback, which their Eastern brethren, the Goths, were the first to practise. The quickness of their movements, on board ship or on horseback, was one of the causes that led to the marvellous successes of the wickings even in lands like Gaul and Britain, where there were good roads of Roman make.

By night the warriors went forth, studded with their mail-coats,  
their shields shone in the light of the waning moon.  
They alit from their saddles at the Hall-gable.

*Weyland's Lay, 27-29.*

There were three kinds of warlike operations; *stratagems*, such as night-attacks, ambushes, wood-barricades, surprises, assaults with fire, such as had always formed part of Teutonic warfare and feud: *battles*, regular pitched fights, for which a place and day were named and a fair trial of strength made; and *sieges*. These were conducted both by blockade and assault, the Northmen and Danes having ample

<sup>1</sup> See, for instance, C. P. B., i. 151, Flyting of Attila and Rimegerd, 11, 12, and 45, 46:—

RIMEGERD. The prince must trust thee well to let thee stand  
at his ship's fair stem.

ATTILA. I must not go hence till the men waken,  
but keep ward over the king.