

Guthorm-Æthelstan "Gurmund"; he held Cirencester in 879-880. Here again we have no trace of a pre-historic Viking, but only of history distorted and antedated. The grains of truth in all these Celtic legends must be looked for in the real events of the ninth to the twelfth centuries.

Not only in folklore, but in well-meant historical study the same tendency is visible. In the *Annals of the Four Masters* under A.D. 743 occurs this entry: "Arasgach, abbot of Muicinsi Reguil, was drowned." A similar entry appears in the *Ulster Annals* for 747; meaning that the abbot of the "Hog-island of St. Regulus" (Muckinish in Lough Derg) so met his death. But according to John O'Donovan's note (ed. 1849) the former editor, Dr. O'Connor, had read for "Reguil," "re gallaibh,"—the abbot of Muckinish was drowned "by strangers," the Gaill or Vikings, half a century before they were otherwise heard of. Following this error, Moore in his history described an attack on "Rechrain," meaning Lambey, and the drowning of the abbot's pigs by the Danes. "Thus," says O'Donovan, "has Irish history been manufactured."

Thus, too, English history. Gaimar, to whom we are often indebted for a bright touch on our early annals, places the story of Havelock the Dane in the days of Constantine, successor to King Arthur. Now Havelock is the Cumbrian legendary form of Olaf Cuaran, the tenth century king of York and Dublin (see pp. 138, 139), and though the story is woven from early traditions, the setting is antedated. Many