

supposed to have been fought about 700 A.D., King Harald Hilditönn is said (in *Sögubrot*) to have had the help of Brat the Irishman and Orm the English. There is no great absurdity in supposing that a stray Westerner may have wandered into his service, but when the *Fornmanna-sögur* tell us that he died at the age of one hundred and eighty winters after owning a kingdom in England, and this in the lifetime of Bede, the mythical nature of the story is apparent. Sigurd Hring, his kinsman and opponent at Brávöll, "be-thought him of the kingdom which Harald had owned in England, and, before him, Ivar Widefathom, then ruled by Ingjald, brother of Petr, Saxon king," or rather (not to make the story more absurd than it need be) the "West Saxon king," for the *p*, or Anglo-Saxon *w*, has been misread. So Sigurd invaded Northumbria, fought battles in which Ingjald and his son Ubbi fell, won the realm and left it under a tributary King Olaf, son of Kinrik, cousin of Ivar Widefathom, who was ultimately driven out by Eava, son of Ubbi (Eoppa). Munch (*Norske Folks Historie*, I., i., p. 281) points out that there were real Saxon kings to tally with the story; Ingild, brother of Ini of Wessex, died 718: but the whole account seems to be a garbled version of affairs in the middle of the tenth century, when Eirík (sometimes called Hring, or Hring) and Olaf Cuaran were disputing the kingdom of Northumbria.

Coming down to the threshold of history we have the romantic figure of Ragnar Lodbrok, dragon-slayer, and son-in-law of the great dragon-slayer Sigurd Faf-