

similar expedition to the western seas from their headquarters in Sjøland at Leira, where was the royal hall, named, from the antlers of deer at its gables, *Heorot*, or Hart. Here King Hrodgar (Roar), son of Halfdan, and his nephew Hrolf Kraki, the Skjöldungs, fought the Hadobards from the East and drove them away; but in the end misfortune came to the burg of the Skjöldungs, and Hrolf fell with his men. Danes and Swedes in the folk-wandering epoch were already conscious of some collective nationality; race-union was begun; while the inhabitants of Norway were scattered into separate tribes and petty kingdoms until the beginning of the true Viking age. The first steps to extension of power westward must naturally have been taken from Denmark as a centre, the Swedes pushing east to Russia. But Professor A. Bugge also thinks, agreeing with H. Zimmer, that the Norse of Norway had found their way across the sea to the Orkneys and Shetland a hundred years before the Viking attacks are recorded in England and Ireland. There seems to be no reason to doubt that they did adventure on the high seas somewhat sooner than the usually assigned date; for Dicuil, writing about 825, describes islands divided by narrow channels and swarming with sheep, which seem to be the Færoes (sheep-isles), as inhabited a century before by Irish monks, but then deserted on account of heathen pirates; and, in fact, the colony of Grím Kamban was made in 825. But by then the Viking Age had begun; and Prof. A. Bugge would put their advent in Britain much earlier.