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Scandinavian Britain
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About this time the overking of Denmark ruled also Vestfold, the west coast of the Vík, now the fjord of Christiania in Norway; there was hardly anything in the nature of a political distinction between the people on the opposite coasts of the Skagerrack; the language was much the same, and the ethnological differences noticed later as distinguishing Black-pirates, or Danes, from White-pirates, or Norse, in Ireland cannot have been important in the case of sea-farers united rather than divided by the narrow seas. The mountains of Norway, cutting up the country into deep valleys, were a more effectual bar to intercourse, and the true Norse were those of the Bergen and Trondhjem fjords and Gudbrandsdal. From the beginning the English regarded the invaders as Danes; the word "Northmen" was the French name. To the Franks all the invaders came from the North, and the name did not mean people of Norway, which indeed Prof. Noreen derives—as Munch (*Norske Folks Historie*, I. i. 67) hinted—not from "north," but from *nór*, a sea-loch. The Northmen of Normandy were mostly of Danish origin—that is to say, from the country later known as Denmark. Irish annals called the invaders the Gaill (foreigners) or Gentiles, or heathen, until 836, when the *Four Masters* chronicle the arrival of sixty ships of *Northmen*, and, in 841, three fleets *Normannorum*—a Latin word in the Gaelic text. In 846 the same annals mention *Tomhrair erla tanaisi righ Lochlainne*, jarl Thórir, tanist (heir) of the King of Lochlann. Then, in 847, "a fleet of seven score ships of the people of the king