

THE STORY OF KING MAGNUS
BAREFOOT.

THE STORY OF KING MARY

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CHAPTER I. THE BEGINNINGS OF KING MAGNUS BAREFOOT.

MAGNUS, son of King Olaf, was straight-way after the death of King Olaf taken to king in the Wick over all Norway. But when the Uplanders heard of the death of King Olaf, they took to king Hakon, Thorir's fosterling, a first cousin of Magnus. Sithence fared Hakon and Thorir north to Thrandheim, and when they came to Nidoyce then summoned he the Ere-Thing, and at that Thing Hakon craved for him the king's name, and that was given him so far that the bonders took him to king over that half of the land which King Magnus, his father, had had. Hakon took off from the Thrandheim folk the land-penny geld, and gave them many other law-boot; he took off from them Yule-gifts withal. Then turned all the Thrandfolk to friendship with King Hakon. Then King Hakon took to him a bodyguard, and sithence fared back to the Uplands, and gave to the Uplanders all such law-boot as to the Thrandheimers, and they also

were his full and fast friends. Then was this sung in Thrandheim :

Young Hakon the fame-bounteous
 Came hither : best of all men
 Upon the earth born is he.
 So with Steig-Thorir fared he.
 Himself he offered sithence
 To give up half of Norway
 To Olaf's son, but bounteous
 Magnus, speech-deft, would all have.

CHAPTER II. THE DEATH OF KING HAKON.

KING MAGNUS fared in autumn north to Cheaping, and when he came there, fared he forthwith into the king's garth, and abode in the hall and dwelt there the early winter. He kept seven longships in an open wake in the Nid off the king's garth. But when King Hakon heard that King Magnus had come to Thrandheim, he fared from the east over Dovrafell, and then to Thrandheim and unto Cheaping, and he took him harbour in Skuli's-garth down below Clement's Church, which was the ancient king's court. It liked ill to King Magnus the great gifts which King Hakon had given to the bonders to win their friendship ; for Magnus deemed that his own had been given away no less than Hakon's ; and his mind was sore troubled thereat, and he deemed him mishandled of his kinsman thereby, that he should now have so much less incomings than his father had had, or his forefathers before him ; and he wited Thorir

for this rede. King Hakon and Thorir got to know hereof, and misdoubted them as to what Magnus might be minded to do, and them-seemed that was most doubtful above all, that Magnus should have afloat longships tilted and arrayed.

In the spring about Candlemas King Magnus laid aboard in the midst of the night, and put out with ships tilted and lights burning thereunder, and held out to Hefring, and tarried there for a night, and they made there great fires up aland.

Then King Hakon and that folk which was in the town thought this was done of treason. He let blow the host out; and all the Cheaping's folk sought thereto, and were gathered nightlong. But in the morning when it took light, and King Magnus saw an all-folk's host on the Eres, he held out down the firth, and so south to Gulathing's parts. Then King Hakon arrayed his journey, and was minded east for Wick. But erst he had a Mote in the town, and spoke and bade men of their friendship, and behight his friendship to all, and said that there was a shadow over the will of his kinsman King Magnus.

King Hakon sat on a horse, and was bound for faring; all folk behight him their friendship with goodwill, and following if he should need it; and all the folk saw him off as far as out under Stoneberg.

King Hakon rode up to Dovrafell; and as he fared out over the fell he rode one day after a ptarmigan that would be flying before him; and therewith he fell sick and caught his bane-sickness, and died there on the fell. His body was flitted

north and came to Cheaping half a month after he had fared away thence. And all the folk of the town, and they mostly greeting, went to meet the body of the king, for all folk loved him heartily dear. The body of King Hakon was buried at Christchurch. King Hakon was a man of well five and thirty years of age, and he was one of the lords of Norway most dearly beloved of the people. He had fared north to Biarmland, and had had battles there, and won the victory.

CHAPTER III. WARFARE IN HALLAND.

KING MAGNUS held in winter east to Wick, and when it was spring, he fared south to Halland and harried wide about there. Then burnt he Viskdale there, and more countries beside; gat he there much wealth, and therewithal went back to his kingdom. So says Biorn Cripplehand in the Magnus-drapa :

Let fare the lord of Vors-folk
 With sword wide over Halland.
 Swift was the flight to-driven ;
 The Hord lord singèd houses.
 Sithence the king of Thrandfolk
 Burned countrysides a many ;
 Fast blew the hell of withies.
 Wake must the Viskdale widows.

Here it is said that King Magnus did the greatest deeds of war.

CHAPTER IV. OF STEIG-THORIR.

THERE was a man named Svein, the son of Harald Fletcher, a Danish man of kin ; he was the greatest of vikings and a mighty man of war, and most valiant, a man of great kin in his land. He had been in mickle good-liking with King Hakon. But after the death of King Hakon, Steig-Thorir trowed ill therein, of getting into peace and friendship with King Magnus, if his might should go over all the land, by reason of the enmity and withstanding which Thorir erst had had against King Magnus. Sithence had they, Thorir and Svein, that rede which thereafter was brought about, in that they raised them a flock through the strength of Thorir and his thronging. But whereas Thorir was an old man, and heavy in his goings, then took Svein to the steering of the flock, and the chieftain's name. To this rede turned more chiefs beside. The highest among them was Egil, son of Aslak of Aurland. Egil was a landed-man, and had to wife Ingibiorg, the daughter of Ogmund, son of Thorberg, a sister of Skopti of Gizki. Skialg was the name of a mighty and wealthy man who joined the band moreover. This Thorkel Hammer-skald tells of in the Magnus-drapa :

Thorir great-heart with Egil
 Drew flocks from wide together ;
 Those redes of theirs were nowise
 Full gainful unto menfolk.
 Heard I that Skialg's friends gat them
 Sharp hurt thence ; that the land's-lords

Cast stone beyond their power
'Gainst murder-hawks' drink-giver.

Thorir and his raised up the flock in the Uplands, and came down upon Raumsdale and Southmere, and got together for them ships there, and held sithence for the north to Thrandheim.

CHAPTER V. THE UNDERTAKINGS OF THORIR.

SIGURD WOOL-STRING was the name of a landed-man, the son of Lodin Viggskull; he gathered folk by the arrow-shearing, whenas he heard of the folk of Thorir and them, and made for Vigg with all the folk he could get. But Svein and Thorir held their folk thither, and fought with Sigurd and his folk, and got the victory, and wrought much man-spoil; but Sigurd fled away and fared to find King Magnus. But Thorir and his fared to Cheaping, and dwelt a while there in the firth, and came there a many men to them.

King Magnus heard these tidings, summoned an host together, and straightway sithence held north for Thrandheim. But when he came into the firth, and Thorir and his heard thereof, they lay by Hefring, and were all boun to hold out of the firth; then rowed they unto Wainwickstrand, and went off ship there, and landed and came north into Theksdale in Sallowwharf, and Thorir was carried in barrows over the fells. Then they betook them aboard ship, and fared north to Halogaland.

But King Magnus fared after them, so soon as

he was boun from Thrandheim. Thorir and his went all the way north to Birchisle, and John fled away and Vidkunn his son. Thorir and his robbed all chattels there and burnt the stead, together with a good longship which Vidkunn had. Then said Thorir as the cutter was burning and the ship heeled over: "More to starboard, Vidkunn!" Then was this sung:

In mid Birchisle now burneth
 The goodliest home I wot of.
 No gain from Thorir cometh;
 Roareth the bale of timber.
 Of the fire John will not grudge him,
 Nor robbing when 'tis evening.
 Bright low the broad stead sings;
 The reek goes up to heaven.

CHAPTER VI. THE DEATH OF STEIG-THORIR AND EGIL.

JOHN and Vidkunn fared day and night until they met King Magnus. Svein and Thorir also went on from the north with their host, and robbed wide about Halogaland. But when they lay in the bay called Harm, then they saw the sailing of King Magnus, and Thorir and they deemed they had not folk enough to fight, so they rowed away and fled. Thorir and Egil rowed to Hesiatown, but Svein rowed out into the main, but some of their band rowed into the firth. King Magnus held after Thorir and Egil; and when the ships ran together at the landing-place, Thorir was in the fore-room of his ship. Then called Sigurd Wool-string to him: "Art thou whole,

Thorir?" Thorir answered: "Whole of hand, but frail of foot." Then fled the folk of Thorir and Egil up aland, but they laid hands on Thorir. Egil was taken withal, because he would not run away from his wife. King Magnus had them both taken to Wambholme; and when Thorir was led ashore he reeled on his feet, and Vidkunn said: "More to larboard, Thorir." Sithence was Thorir led to gallows, and he said:

We were fellows four,
And set one to the rudder.

And when he walked up to the gallows he said: "Evil are evil counsels." Sithence was he hanged; and whenas up reared the gallows-tree, Thorir was so heavy that his halse was torn asunder, and the trunk fell to earth. Thorir was of all men the biggest, both high and thick. Egil withal was led to the gallows, and when the king's thralls were about to hang him, Egil spake: "Nought shall ye hang me for this cause, that each one of you were not meeter to hang than I." Even as was sung:

O sun of wave-day, soothly
Heard I that true word came forth
From out of the mouth of Egil
Against the heartless king-thralls.
Said he each man was meeter
Higher to hang than he was.
The waster of the war-blink
Grief mickle there abided.

King Magnus sat by while they were hanged, and was so wroth that no one of his men was bold enough to dare bid for peace for them. And when

Egil spurned the gallows the king said: "Good kinsmen stand thee ill in stead in thy need." Thereby it was shown that the king would have been bidden that Egil might live. So says Biorn Cripplehand:

Swift lord of Sogn-folk reddened
The sword on bands of robbers;
Wide was the wolf a-tearing
Warm carrion round in Harm-firth.
Heardst how the king did do it
That men loathed lord-betrayal?
Graithe was fight-doer's faring.
So fared it, hanged was Thorir.

CHAPTER VII. OF PUNISHMENTS ON THE THRANDHEIM FOLK.

KING MAGNUS held sithence south to Thrandheim, and gave great punishments there to all such men as were proven traitors to him; some he slew, some he burnt their goods. So says Biorn Cripplehand:

Shield-shunning ravens' feeder
Won fear for folk of Thrandheim,
When deemed they bale of woodlands
Was roaming through the built-land.
I deem that war-hosts' Balder
Locked the life-days of two hersirs.
The troll's horse was unhungry;
The erne flew to the hanged ones.

Svein, the son of Harald Fletcher, fled first out into the main and so to Denmark, and was there until he got himself into peace with King Eystein, son of Magnus. He took Svein to peace, and

made him his trencher-swain, and bestowed on him kindness and honour.

Then had King Magnus sole dominion in the land, and upheld well the peace thereof, and ridded it of all vikings and way-layers. He was a brisk man, and warlike and toilsome, and liker in all wise to his father's father Harald in his mind-shape rather than unto his own father.

CHAPTER VIII. OF SVEINKI.

A MAN hight Sveinki, the son of Steinar; he dwelt east away by the Elf, a very mighty man. He had fostered Hakon or ever Thorir of Steig took to him. As yet Sveinki had not given himself up into the power of King Magnus.

Now King Magnus called to him Sigurd Wool-string, and told him that he will send him to Sveinki to bid him out of his lands, and the king's havings to boot: "For he has not made obeisance to us, nor done us honour." He said: "East in the Wick are those landed-men, Svein Bridgefoot, Day Eilifson, Kolbiorn Klakk, to flit our case by right and law."

Then said Sigurd: "I wist not that there was a man to be looked for in Norway for whom three landed-men were needed to come along with my avail." The king said: "No taking to it if it be not needed."

Now he arrays his journey with one ship, and held east for the Wick, and summons the landed-men together, and then a Thing is called through-

out the Wick, and thereto are bidden the Elfbiders from the east, and there was much thronging of men. Men had to bide Sveinki a while. Sithence is seen the faring of men thither, and as an heap of ice-shivers was it to look on ; and there cometh Sveinki and his into the Thingmote, and sat down in one ring, and had five hundreds of men.

Then stood up Sigurd and spake and said : " God's greeting and his sends King Magnus unto God's friends and his, all landed-men, and mighty men, and therewith fair words, bidding himself for the captain, and to be the breast for all men of Norway ; good it is to take well a king's word."

Then standeth up a man in the flock of those Elfgrims, mickle waxen, exceeding swollen-faced, in a fleece-cope, a cudgel over his shoulder, and a bowl-hat on his head. He answered : " No need of roller, quoth fox, drew harp-shell o'er ice." And then he sat down again.

Somewhat later Sigurd stood up and spake, and thuswise took up the word : " Little welding to the king's errand have we got of the flock of those Elfgrims, and but middling friendly. But in such matters each taketh his own measure. But, to make the king's errand barer, he now biddeth land-dues from mighty men, and the fetching of men to his hosting, and other kingly honours withal. Let each one run through his own mind how he will have done that, give honour to himself, and right laws to the king, if before he have come short therein." And thereupon he sat down.

The same man riseth up and warped his hat somewhat, and answereth : " Snowsome it sniffeth,

lads, quoth Finns; had snow-shoes for sale;” and then sat down.

And somewhat later rose up Sigurd; he had had talk with the landed-men to the end that it needed not to draw feather over the king's frank errand; and wroth-looking is he, and casteth off the cloak he had over him, blue of colour, and was in red-scarlet kirtle thereunder; and he spake: “Now things have come to this pass, that each one must look out for himself; there is no need to shear fine with this man. It is now seen how much we are accounted of, and if that be borne, there is more behind, to wit, that the king's errand is answered shamefully; and after all, each one must look to his own worth. There is a man hight Sveinki, and is Steinar's son, dwells east by the Elf; the king will have of him his right land-dues and his own lands, or biddeth him else quit his lands. Now it behoves not to hang back herein, or to answer with mocking words. Men will be found his peers in power, though he take our errands unworthily; and it is better now than later to push on one's affair with honour, than to abide with shame from stubbornness.” And he sat down.

Then Sveinki riseth up, and casteth his hat off on his back, and spake: “Pshaw!” said he, “beast of a dog! foxes shitted in the carle's burn. Hearken a foul thing, thou sleeveless, of shirtless back! What! biddest thou me be off my lands? Sent were aforetime on the same errand they of thy kindred, thou Sigurd Woolbag! One was called Gill Back-rift, and another by a worsen name; nightlong were

they in a house, and stole wheresoever they came. What! biddest me out of my lands? Less was thy carp while Hakon my fosterson was alive; whenas so adrad wert thou, if thou wert in his way, as a mouse in a trap; so wert thou huddled up in rags as a cur aboard ship; as packed into a sack as corn in a skin; so wert thou chased out of thy lands as a plough-horse from stud; and one breathing hole thou hadst like an otter in a gin. What now! Deem thee well apaid if thou come away with thy life. Stand up!"

That rede only saw Svein Bridgefoot and his to put a horse under Sigurd, and he rode away into the wood. And so it closed that Sveinki went back to his lands.

But Sigurd Wool-string came the land-road with ill play north to Thrandheim, and met King Magnus, and told him how matters stood.

Then said the king: "Didst thou need somewhat of avail from the landed-men?"

Sigurd deemed ill of his journey, and said he had will to avenge him, and he eggs-on the king. King Magnus let array five ships, and fared south along the land, and east to Wick, and there taketh glorious feasts of his landed-men. The king told them he will meet Sveinki, and said he misdoubted him that he would will to be king over Norway. They said the man was mighty, and hard to deal with.

Now fareth the king until they came off the abode of Sveinki. Then bade the landed-men to be allowed to wot of tidings, and they go up from the ships; they see the faring of Sveinki, that he

had come from his stead with an host of men well arrayed. Thereupon the landed-men uprear the white shield; Sveinki stays his men, and both hosts met.

Then spake Kolbiorn Klakk: "King Magnus sends thee greeting;" and then he saith, and biddeth him heed his own honour and the king's lordship, and not to dight him so masterful as to fight with the king. He offered to bear words of peace betwixt, and bade him stay his host.

Sveinki said he would abide. "We fared out against you, that ye might not tread down our acres."

They met the king, and said that all would be in his wielding. The king said: "Swift is my doom: let him flee out of the land, and come back never while is my reign; and he shall let go all his goods."

"Would not that be more seemly," said Kolbiorn, "and better for the hearing of other kings, to put him from the land in such wise, that he might be with mighty men for his wealth's sake. He will never come back while we have the lands; but thou wouldst have done in mighty man's manner: Think of this with thyself, and worthy our words."

The king said: "Let him fare away forthwith."

Then they meet Sveinki, and tell him kind words from the king, but that withal, that the king bids him fare away from the land, and do that honour to the king for that he had trespassed against him; for that is honour to both; the king would grant him as much wealth as would beseem him. "Think thereof."

Then said Sveinki: "Then things must have changed if the king spoke kindly. Why should I flee my lands and all my goods? Hearken to it! Better it seems to me to fall amidst my belongings than to flee mine heritage. Tell the king that hence I flee not so long as one bow-shot."

Kolbiorn said: "Nought is that the one only likely thing; better to bow to worship of the best lord, than to withstand him to the point of great troubles. To a good man is it good wheresoever he liveth; and thou wilt be most accounted of wheresoever thou happenest on men the most mighty, in that thou hast held thine own against such a lord. Hearken to our behest, and worship somewhat our errand. We offer thee to look after thy goods and truly to guard them; withal, if thou come back to thy lands, pay thou scat never, but it be thy will, and thereto shall we lay in pledge both our goods and our lives; thrust this not away from thee, and so spare all troubles to good fellows."

Then Sveinki held his peace and spake sithence: "Wisely do ye seek hereafter; yet it misdoubteth me whether this errand of the king be not somewhat turned aside. But for the mickle goodwill ye have shown, I shall so worship your words that I will fare from the land winterlong; but that while I shall have my goods left in peace according to your behest. Say these my words to the king; and that it is done for your sakes, not for the king's."

Then they met the king and tell him that Sveinki lays everything in his power. "But he biddeth, therefor, the honour of thee to be away three

winters, then to come back, if that be the will of both of you. Do for thy kingship and our prayer, and let it so be, whereas all is at thy doom, and we shall lay all down thereto, that he come not back save at thy will."

Then spake the king: "As good men and true ye flit it, and for your sake shall we even so do as ye pray. Tell him so."

They thanked the king, and fared on to find Sveinki, and tell him of the kindly words of the king; "and fain are we if ye two might come to peace; prays the king that a three-winters' frist should be named; but we ween, if we wot the sooth, that ere that he will not be without you; and for your honour's sake it is a rede worshipful not to naysay it."

Says Sveinki: "What then, forsooth! Tell the king I shall do him no heartburn in dwelling here; so take ye my goods in hand."

He turns with his host home to the stead, and is off straightway, and was boun hereto before. Kolbiorn stayeth behind bidding King Magnus to a feast, as if that had already been settled before.

Now Sveinki rides up into Gautland with all his host, such thereof as liketh him. The king taketh banquets at his steads, and then goes back to the Wick, and those are called the king's goods and lands which Sveinki had owned, and he lets Kolbiorn guard them.

The king taketh banquets about the Wick; and then he fareth to the north, and now things are quiet a while. But now ill-folk fall upon the Elfgrims, whereas it is lordless, and the king sees

that waste will be his realm east away there. Seems to him the only thing to be done is to grant it to Sveinki to break the stream before him, and that seemeth the handiest; and the king sendeth word to Sveinki twice, but he fared not, till the king himself came to Denmark. Then they made full peace, and Sveinki fared to his own lands, and was ever sithence a breast for the king.

CHAPTER IX. THE WEST-FARING OF KING MAGNUS.

KING MAGNUS dight his journey out of the land, and had an host mickle and fair with him, and ships of the best. He held his host west over the main, and first to the Orkneys. He laid hands on both earls, Paul and Erlend, and sent them both east to Norway, and set his son Sigurd up for lord over the isles, and gat him a council. Sithence King Magnus held his host into the South-isles, and when he came there, he fell straightway to harry, and to burn the builded country, and slew the menfolk, and robbed wheresoever they fared; but the folk of the land fled wide away, some into Scotland's firths, some south to Cantire, or west to Ireland, while othersome gat life and limb, and became the king's men. So says Biorn Cripplehand:

Wood-sorrow all through Lewis
 Played wildly nigh the heavens;
 Wide were the folk flight-eager;
 Fire gushèd forth from houses.

Farèd the king fight-eager
 Wide with the flame Vist over ;
 The lord wan fight-beam ruddy ;
 And life and wealth lost bonders.

The stauncher of the hunger
 Of storm-goose let there harry
 Sky. And glad wolf tooth reddened
 On many a wound in Tirey.
 The Grenland's lord wrought weeping
 For maids south down the islands ;
 The Mull-folk ran all mithered ;
 High went the Scotchmen's scatterer.

CHAPTER X. OF LAWMAN, THE SON OF KING GUDROD.

KING MAGNUS brought his host to Holy Isle, and gave there truce and peace to all men and to all men's goods. So men say that he was minded to open Columbkil Church, the little, but went not the king within, and straightway locked the door with bolt, and said that no one should be so bold henceforth to go into that church, and so has it been done sithence. Then King Magnus brought his host south to Islay, and harried there and burnt. And when he had won that land, he dight his journey south past Cantire, and then harried on either board, now on Ireland, now on Scotland, and went thus all with war-shield all the way south to Man, and harried there as in other places. So says Biorn Cripplehand :

The brisk king wide the shield bore
 On to the level Sandey ;

Smoked Islay when the war-men
Of All-wielder eked burnings.
Yet southward Cantire louted
Neath edges of the war-host ;
Sithence fight-feeder nimble
Wrought man-fall of the Man-folk.

Lawman hight the son of Gudrod, King of the South-isles. Lawman was set to land-ward in the northern isles. But when King Magnus came to the South-isles with his host, Lawman fled away here and there about the islands ; but at last King Magnus' men took him, together with his crew, whenas he would flee to Ireland. The king let set him in irons and keep him in ward. So says Biorn Cripplehand :

Each shelter was of peril
Which had the son of Gudrod ;
The Thrand's lord gat the banning
Of land there unto Lawman.
The Agdir-folk's deft youngling
Gat caught outside the nesses,
Waster of adder's bolster,
Whereas roared tongues of blade-rims.

CHAPTER XI. THE FALL OF EARL HUGH THE VALIANT.

SITHENCE held King Magnus his host for Bretland. But when he came into Anglesea-sound there came against him an host from Bretland, and two earls ruled thereover, Hugh the Valiant and Hugh the Thick, and laid straightway to battle, and there was the hard fight. King Magnus shot from the bow, but Hugh the Valiant was all-byrnied, so that nothing was bare

on him save the eyes alone. King Magnus shot an arrow at him, and another man withal, a Halogalander, who stood beside the king, and they shot both at once. Came one arrow on the nose-guard of the helm, and the nose-guard was bent and twisted over to one side, but the other shot came on the earl's eye, and flew through to the back of the head, and that is kenned to the king. There Hugh the Earl fell, and fled the Bretlanders sithence, and had lost much folk. So says Biorn Cripplehand :

The sword-grove ruled life-spilling
Of Hugh the Earl, the Valiant,
In Angle-sound, where sheared
The strokes, and darts flew swiftly.

And yet again was this sang :

Point dinned against the byrny ;
With might and main the king shot ;
Agdir's All-wielder swayed
The elm ; blood leapt on war-helms.
Into the rings flew string-hail ;
The folk stooped ; but the Hord's-lord
Let bane come to the earl there
In the land-onset hardy.

King Magnus gat victory in that battle. Then gat he Anglesea, and that was the furthest south that the former kings who had been in Norway had gotten dominion to them. Anglesea is a third part of Bretland. After this battle turned back King Magnus with his host, and made first for Scotland. Then men fared between him and King Malcolm of Scotland, and they made peace between them. King Magnus should have all the

islands that lie to the west of Scotland, all them to wit betwixt which and the main land a keel with rudder shipped could fare. But when King Magnus came from the south up to Cantire, then let he drag a cutter over Cantire-neck with rudder shipped, and himself sat on the poop and held the tiller; and thus got he to him so much land as lay to larboard. Cantire is a mickle land, and better than the best isle of the South-isles save Man. A narrow neck there is between it and the main land of Scotland, and thereover longships are often dragged.

CHAPTER XII. DEATH OF THE EARLS OF ORKNEY.

KING MAGNUS was the winter over in the South-isles. And then fared his men over all Scotland's firths, and rowed inside all islands builded and unbuilded, and owned for the King of Norway all the islands. King Magnus got to wife to his son Sigurd, Biadmynia, daughter of King Myrkiartan, the son of Thialfi, the King of the Irish, who ruled over Connaught.

The next summer King Magnus fared with his host east to Norway. Earl Erlend was dead of sickness in Nidoyce, and there is buried, but Earl Paul in Biorgvin.

Skopti, the son of Ogmund, the son of Thorberg, was a landed-man of renown. He dwelt at Gizki in Southmere. He had to wife Gudrun, daughter of Thord, the son of Foli. Their children were: Ogmund, Finn, Thord, and Thora,

whom Asolf, son of Skuli, had to wife. The sons of Skopti and his wife were the most likely of men in their youth, and the best beloved of folk.

CHAPTER XIII. STRIFE OF KING MAGNUS AND KING INGI.

STEINKEL, the Swede-king, died near the fall of the two Haralds ; and Hakon hight the king in Sweden next after King Steinkel. Sithence was Ingi king, the son of King Steinkel, a good king and a mighty, of all men the most and strongest. He was king in Sweden whenas Magnus was king in Norway. King Magnus claimed that that was the land-marches, that in days of yore the Gautelf had sundered the realms of the Swede-king and Norway's king, and sithence the Vener, as far as Vermland, and King Magnus claimed to own all the countrysides to the west of Vener, that is, Southdale and Northdale, Vear and Vardyniar, and all marklands thereto appertaining ; but that had then this long while lain under the sway of the Swede-king, and to West Gautland as for dues ; and the men of the marklands would still be under the sway of the Swede-king as erst.

King Magnus rode out of the Wick up into Gautland, having an host mickle and fair. But when he came into the mark-dwellings he harried and burned, and fared so through all the builded lands, and the people went under him and swore obedience to him. But when he came up as far as the water of Vener the autumn began to wear.

Then they went out into Kvaldins-isle, and made there a burg of turf and timber, and digged a dyke about it. And when this work was done, there was brought into it victual and other havings whereof was need. The king set therein three hundreds of men, the captains of whom were Finn, the son of Skopti, and Sigurd Wool-string, and had the goodliest company. But the king turned back therewith west toward the Wick.

CHAPTER XIV. OF THE NORTHMEN.

BUT when the Swede-king heard this, he bade an host together, and the word went that he was minded to ride down, but that was tarried awhile. Then sang the Northmen this :

All long doth Ingi thew-broad
Tarry his riding downward.

But when the water of Vener was laid under ice, King Ingi came down, having wellnigh thirty hundreds of men. He sent word to the Northmen who sat in the burg, and bade them fare their ways with what goods they had, and back to Norway. But when the messengers bore to them the king's word, Sigurd Wool-string answered and said, that King Ingi would bring about other things than to wise them away as a herd out of ham, and said, he would have to come nigher first. The messengers bore these words back to the king. Sithence fared King Ingi with the whole host out into the island, and sent a second time men to the

Northmen, and bade them fare away and have with them their weapons, raiment, and horses, but leave behind all robbed goods. This they naysaid ; but sithence they fell on them, and both shot at each other.

Then let the king bear stones and timber thereto, and fill the dyke. Then let he take an anchor and bind it to long staves, and bear that up to the top of the timber-wall. Then went thereto many men and dragged the wall asunder. Then were made big fires, and they shot blazing brands at them. Then the Northmen bade for quarter, and the king bade them go out weaponless, cloakless ; and as they went out each of them was whipped with twigs. They fared away in such plight and home again to Norway, but the markmen all turned back to King Ingi. Sigurd and his fellows went on until they met King Magnus, and told him of their misadventure.

CHAPTER XV. OF KING MAGNUS AND GIFFORD.

THAT man came to King Magnus when he was east in the Wick, hight Gifford, a Welshman, and said he was a good knight, and offered King Magnus his service, and said that he had heard the king had a realm much in need of rule. The king gave him a good welcome.

At that time King Magnus was making ready to fare up into Gautland, as he deemed he had a claim on the Gauts to his dominion. A great host

he had, and the West-Gauts went under him all about the nearest countrysides. Sithence he set him down at the marches, and they dwelt in tents, and he was minded on a raiding. King Ingi heard this, and gathers folk and takes the way to meet King Magnus. But when to King Magnus came the news of his faring, his captains egged him to turn back ; but the king would not that, but holds him on to go meet King Ingi a-night ere he should be ware. And as he was arraying his host at the stead hight Foxern, he asked : " Where is Gifford ? " And he was not seen. Then said the king :

Now nought will he our flock fill,
The false knight of the Welshmen.

Then a skald who was with the king joined in :

The king asked what was doing
Gifford, whenas the folk fought ;
In gore we reddened weapons,
But thither came he nowhere.
On a red nag the dastard
Full-loth was to forth-riding ;
And nought will he our flock fill,
The false knight of the Welshmen.

Mickle manscathe was there, but King Ingi got him free by flight. Then came Gifford riding down from the land, and was spoken nought well of, that he was not at the battle. Fared he away sithence, and went to England ; hard was their voyage, and he lay mostly abed. Then went to the baling a man of Iceland hight Eldiarn, and when he saw where Gifford lay, then sang he :

Why fitteth it a courtman
 To doze in surly temper?
 Be brisk, O knight fair-hairèd,
 Though walloweth the keel now.
 Sooth is that I bid Gifford
 Betake him to the bale-butt;
 O'er high belike is baling
 In the broad-hulled horse of whale-land.

And when they came west to England, he tells how the Northmen had benithed him. Then was a mote called, and thither came a greve, and the case came before him. He said he was but little wont to the cases of men, whereas he was a young man, and had had over-rule but a short while; "and the other matter can I little to clear up, when sung it is; yet may we hearken." Then Eldiarn sang:

Heard I that flight thou dravest
 At Foxern, but the other
 Of the man-host there were hidden,
 I heard of a war was hard there.
 High was the going thereat
 Of the hardener of helm-thunder,
 Where, Gifford, you to hell smote,
 As you stood, the lads of Gautland.

Then said the sheriff: "Little am I of a skald, but I can hear that this is no nith, and that there was an honour unto thee therein." But he (Gifford) can not what to say hereon, but he finds that this was mockery.

CHAPTER XVI. BATTLE AT FOXERN.

IN spring, so soon as the ice was loose, King Magnus went with his host east to Elf, and held up the eastern branch thereof, and harried everywhere in the realm of the Swede-king. But when they came up as far as Foxern, then they went up aland from their ships. And as they came over a certain river which was in their way, came against them the host of the Gauts, and a battle befell, and the Northmen were overborne by folk and turned to flight, and a-many of them were slain by a certain water-force. King Magnus fled, and the Gauts followed them, and slew such as they might. King Magnus was a man easily known; the most of men; he had a red surcoat over his byrny, the hair, silky flaxen, falling down over his shoulders. Ogmund Skoptison rode on one side of the king, the biggest and fairest of men, and said: "Give me the surcoat, king." The king answered: "What hast thou to do with the surcoat?" "I will have it," said he; "thou hast given me greater gifts than that." Now the lay of the land was such, that far and wide there were level fields, and the Gauts and the Northmen saw each other ever; but in other places there were cloughs and copses which hid the sight. Then the king gave the surcoat to Ogmund, and he donned it. Sithence ride they forth on to the fields, and Ogmund turned right athwart, and his company. And when the Gauts saw that, they deemed that there would be the king, and rode thither after him all. So the king rode his way to the ship, but Ogmund drew

away as hardly as might be, and yet came hale aboard ship. Held King Magnus sithence down along the river, and so north into the Wick.

CHAPTER XVII. PEACE BETWEEN THE KINGS.

THE next summer after, a meeting was laid betwixt the kings at King's Rock in the Elf, and thither came Magnus, Norway's king, and Ingi, the Swede-king, and Eric, the son of Svein, the Dane-king, and this meeting was bound to truce. But when the Thing was set, the kings went forth into the field apart from other men, and spoke together for a little while, and then walked back to their folk, and then was peace made so that each should have such dominion as their fathers had had afore, but each king should boot his own landsmen their robbery and man-scathe, and each sithence to even it against each other; King Magnus should have to wife Margaret, the daughter of King Ingi, who was sithence called Frithpoll.

That was the talk of men that never had been seen men lordlier than were they, all of them. King Ingi was somewhat the biggest and stoutest, and he was deemed to be the most elderlike; King Magnus was deemed to be the most masterful and nimblest; but King Eric was rather the goodliest to behold; but all were they fair men, big, noble, and word-handy. At things thus done they parted

CHAPTER XVIII. THE WEDDING OF KING MAGNUS.

KING MAGNUS gat Queen Margaret, the daughter of King Ingi, and she was sent from the east from Sweden to Norway, and there was gotten to her a noble following. But King Magnus had afore certain bairns which are named. A son of his was hight Eystein, whose mother was of little kin; another hight Sigurd, younger by one winter; his mother hight Thora; Olaf hight the third, much the youngest; his mother was Sigrid, the daughter of Saxe of Wick, a noble man in Thrandheim; she was the king's concubine.

So say men, that whenas King Magnus came back from his west-viking, that he held much to the fashion of raiment as was wont in the Westland, and many of his men likewise. They would go barelegged in the street, and had short kirtles and over-cloaks. So then men called him Magnus Barefoot, or Bareleg. But some men called him Magnus the High, othersome Stour-whiles Magnus. He was the highest of men. His mark of height was done in Mary's Church in Cheaping, that same which King Harald had let do make. There by the north door were hammered out, on the stone wall, three crosses, one for Harald's height, the second Olaf's height, the third Magnus' height; and that was marked where each of them might kiss the handiest. Harald's cross was uppermost, and Magnus' cross nethermost, but Olaf's mark midway of both.

This lay is given to King Magnus, how that he made it of the Kaiser's daughter :

Matild is the one that hurts me
 My play and joy, and waketh
 The war ; now from wounds drinketh
 The blood-mew in the southland.
 The lady white-red hairèd,
 Her land with shield who wardeth,
 Teacheth me little sleeping ;
 Swords bit the doors of Hogni.

And still he sang :

What here in the world is better
 Than the fair wives ; but seldom
 The skald doth cease from longing.
 Long day the lad that tarries.
 This heavy sorrow bear I
 From Thing, that never henceforth
 My maiden shall I find me ;
 Men for the mote bedight them.

When King Magnus had heard a friendly word from the Kaiser's daughter to him, and when she had said that such a man she deemed of worship as was King Magnus, then he sang this :

In secret good word hear I
 On the skald from the Gerd of gold-ring :
 The red-haired arm-lime will not
 Cast forth her speech on sea-wave.
 I love the words well-loving
 Of that row-bench of good-web,
 Though nowise oft I find her.
 Know, men ! that high I love her.

CHAPTER XIX. UNPEACE BETWIXT KING MAGNUS AND SKOPTI.

SKOPTI OGMUNDSON fell out with King Magnus, and they strove about an heritage. Skopti held it, but the king claimed it with so mickle mastery that it came to the very point of peril. Many meetings they had to hold on the matter, but Skopti laid that rede thereto, that he and his sons should never be all at once in the king's power; and he said that that would serve best.

Whenas Skopti was before the king he brought this forward, that due kinship was betwixt him and the king, and that, moreover, he had always been a dear friend to the king, and their friendship had never turned aside. So said he, that men might know that he had got such wits about him, "that I will not," says he, "hold the matter in contest with thee, king, if I should speak wrong; but in this I take after my fore-elders, to hold my right against anyone, and in that matter I have no respect of person."

The king was the same, nor did his mind grow meeker by such speech. So Skopti fared home.

CHAPTER XX. THE JOURNEY OF FINN SKOPTISON.

SITHENCE went Finn, the son of Skopti, to find the king, and talked with him, and bade the king this, that he should let father and sons get their rights of this case. The

king answered surly and short. Then said Finn : "I looked for something else from thee, king, than thy robbing me of law herein, whenas I went into Kvaldinsey, which few others of thy friends would do ; for they said, as sooth was, that they were afore-sold who sat there, and doomed to death, if King Ingi had not shown us more high-mindedness than thou hadst seen to for us ; and yet many folk will deem that we bore shame thence, if that be worth aught."

At such talk the king shifted nought ; and so Finn fared home.

CHAPTER XXI. THE JOURNEY OF OGMUND SKOPTISON.

THEN fared Ogmund Skoptison to see the king. And when he came before the king, he bare forth his errand, and bade the king do right by the father and sons. The king said that that was right which he spake, and that they were wondrous overbold. Then spake Ogmund : "Thou wilt come thy way, king, thus-wise, and wrong us by reason of thy might. Will that here be sooth, as 'tis said, that the giving of life most men reward ill or nought. That shall eke follow my plea, that I shall never again come into thy service, nor any one of our fatherhood, if I may rule it."

Fared Ogmund home after this, and never after did they see each other, King Magnus and Ogmund.

CHAPTER XXII. SKOPTI'S FARING OUT OF THE LAND.

NEXT spring Skopti, the son of Ogmund, arrayed his faring away out of the land. He had five longships, all well dight; and to this journey betook themselves with him his sons, Ogmund and Finn and Thord. They were somewhat late boun, and sailed in harvest to Flanders, and were there the winter through. Early in the spring they sailed west to Valland, and in the summer they sailed out through Norvisound, and in harvest to Rome. There died Skopti. All of them, father and sons, died in this journey, but Thord lived the longest of them, and died in Sicily. That is the say of men, that Skopti was the first of Northmen to sail through Norvisound, and most famed was that journey.

CHAPTER XXIII. MIRACLE OF KING OLAF AT A FIRE.

IT befell in Cheaping, whereas King Olaf rests, that fire came into a house in the town, and it burned wide. Then was borne from out the church the shrine of King Olaf, and set against the fire. Sithence ran thereto a man hairbrained and unwise, and beat the shrine, and threatened the holy man, and said that all would burn up there unless he saved them with his prayers, both the church and other houses. Now almighty God let the burning of the church be staved off, but to that unwise man he sent eye-

pain forthwith the same night, and thus he lay all along until the holy King Olaf prayed almighty God for mercy for him, and within that same church he got healed again.

CHAPTER XXIV. KING OLAF'S MIRACLES ON A CRIPPLED WOMAN.

THAT other tidings also was in Cheaping, that a certain woman was brought thither to that place whereas King Olaf rests. She was so fordone that she was all crippled together in such wise that both her legs lay bent up with her thighs. Now inasmuch as she was diligent at prayers, and had made behests to him greeting, he healed her of her mickle ailing so that her feet and legs and other limbs were straightened out of their bonds, and thereafter every joint and limb served its right shape. Before she might not even crawl thither, but she walked thence whole and fain to her homestead.

CHAPTER XXV. WARFARE IN IRELAND.

KING MAGNUS arrayed his journey out of the land, and had a mickle host; and at that time he had been king over Norway nine winters. Then fared he west over sea, and had the goodliest host that was thereto in Norway. Him followed all mighty men in the land: Sigurd Hranison, Vidkunn Jonson, Day Eilifson, Serk of Sogn, Eyvind Elbow, the king's

marshal, Wolf Hranison, brother of Sigurd, and many other mighty men. The king fared with all this host west to Orkney, and took with him thence the sons of Earl Erlend, Magnus and Erling. Then he sailed for the South-isles, and while he lay off Scotland, Magnus, the son of Erling, ran by night from the king's ship, and swam ashore and fared sithence into a wood, and came at last to the court of the King of the Scotch.

King Magnus went with the host on towards Ireland, and harried there. Then came King Myrkiartan to hosting with him, and they won mickle of the land, Dublin to wit, and Dublinshire; and King Magnus was through the winter up in Connaught with King Myrkiartan, but set his men to guard the land he had won. But when it was spring the kings fared with their hosts west into Ulster, and had there many battles, and won land, and had won the most part of Ulster when King Myrkiartan went back home to Connaught.

CHAPTER XXVI. UPGOING OF KING MAGNUS.

KING MAGNUS arrayed his ships then, and was minded to fare east to Norway; he set his men for the guarding of the land in Dublin. He lay off Ulster with all his host, and they were boun to sail. They deemed they needed a strand-hewing, and King Magnus sent his men to King Myrkiartan bidding him to send him a strand-hew, and he appointed the day on which it was to come, if his messengers were hale,

to wit, the day before Bartholomewmas ; but on the eve of that mass they were not yet come. But on the massday, whenas the sun ran up, King Magnus went aland with the most part of his host, and went up from the ships, and would seek for his men and the strand-hew. The weather was windless and sunshiny, the road lay over mires and fens where thereover were cut logs of wood, but on either side there were copses. As they set forward there was before them a high hill, whence they might see far and wide. They saw thence a mickle ride-reek up landward, and talked between them whether that could be the host of the Irish, but some said that it would be their men with the strand-hew.

So they took stand there. Then spake Eyvind Elbow : " King," said he, " what is thy mind about this journey? Unwarily men deem thou farest, whereas thou wottest that the Irish are guileful ; bethink thee now of some rede for thine host."

Then spake the king : " Let us now rank our host, and be ready if this be guile."

So it was ranked, and the king and Eyvind went before the array. King Magnus had a helm on his head and a red shield, and laid thereon a golden lion ; girt with the sword which is called Legbiter, tooth-hilted, and the grip gold-wrapped, the best of weapons ; he had a spear in hand, and had on a silken surcoat over his shirt, and a silken lion shorn out on back and breast, gules, and that was the talk of men that never had been seen a nobler man or more valiant. Eyvind had eke a red silken surcoat of the same fashion as the king's,

and he, too, was a big man, and goodly, and the most warrior-like.

CHAPTER XXVII. THE FALL OF KING MAGNUS.

BUT when the dust-cloud came nearer, they saw that there went their own men with a mickle strand-hew which the King of the Irish had sent them, and had held all his word to King Magnus. Then they turned back down to the ships, and this was about the hour of midday. But when they got out on the mires it was slow faring over the fens; and then rushed out the host of the Irish of every wood-ness, and gave battle forthwith; but the Northmen fared drifting, and many of them fell speedily. Then Eyvind spake: "King," says he, "unhappily fareth our folk; take we good rede swiftly."

The king said: "Blow the war-blast for all folk to gather under the banner, but what folk here is shoot into shield-burg, and fare we then away to heel out over the mires; sithence shall there be no peril, when we come unto the level land."

The Irish shot boldly, yet fell they all-thick, but ever came man in man's stead. But when the king was come to the outermost ditch, there was mickle ill-going there, and crossing but in few places, and there fell much Northmen. Then the king called to Thorgrim Skinhood, a landed-man of his, Upland of country, and bade him fare over the dyke with his company: "But we will fend it meanwhile," says he, "so that ye shall take no

hurt. Fare ye sithence under yonder holm, and shoot at them while we fare over the dyke, for ye be good bowmen."

But when Thorgrim and his got over the dyke, they cast their shields on their backs and ran down to the ships. And when the king saw that, he said: "Unmanly sunderest thou from thy king! Unwise was I when I made thee a landed-man, and made Sigurd Hound an outlaw. Never would he have so fared."

King Magnus gat a wound; a spear was thrust through both his thighs above the knee. He gripped the shaft betwixt his legs, and brake off the spearhead, and spake: "So break we every each sparleg, swains. Set ye on well; I shall be none the worse."

King Magnus was hewn on the neck with a sparth, and that was the bane-sore of him.

Then fled they who were left. Vidkunn, son of John, bore to ship the sword Legbiter and the king's banner; they ran the last, he, the second Sigurd Hranison, and the third Day Eylifson. There fell with King Magnus Eyvind Elbow, Wolf Hranison, and many other mighty men; fell many of the Northmen, but yet a many more out of the Irish. But the Northmen that got away, left the land straightway that harvest.

Erling, the son of Earl Erlend, fell in Ireland with King Magnus. But when the host that had fled out of Ireland came to Orkney, and Sigurd heard of the fall of Magnus his father, he betook himself straightway to journeying with them, and they fared that harvest east unto Norway.

CHAPTER XXVIII. OF KING MAGNUS AND VIDKUNN, SON OF JOHN.

KING MAGNUS was king over Norway for ten winters, and in his days there was good peace within the land, but the folk had great toil and cost from his outland-hostings. King Magnus was most well-beloved of his own men, but the bonders deemed him hard. That tell men of his words, when his friends said that he would often fare unwarily whenas he harried in the outlands: he said thus: "For fame shall one have a king, not for long-life."

King Magnus was nigh on thirty years of age when he fell. Vidkunn slew that man in the battle who was the banesman of King Magnus; then fled Vidkunn, and had gotten him three wounds; and for that sake the sons of Magnus took him into the most dear-liking.

