

THE STORY OF SIGURD THE
JERUSALEM-FARER, EYSTEIN,
AND OLAF.

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CHAPTER I. THE BEGINNINGS OF THE SONS OF MAGNUS.

AFTER the fall of King Magnus Barefoot, his sons, Eystein, Sigurd, and Olaf, took up kingdom in Norway ; Eystein had the northern deal of the land, and Sigurd the southern. King Olaf was then four or five winters old, but that third part of the land which was his share they both had ward over. Sigurd was taken to king when he was thirteen or fourteen winters old, but Eystein was a year older. King Sigurd left behind west beyond the sea the daughter of the Irish king.

When the sons of King Magnus were taken to kings, came back from Jerusalem-land, and some from Micklegarth, those men who had fared out with Skopti Ogmundson ; and they were most famed, and knew to tell of many kind of tidings. And from the newness of the matter yearned a many men in Norway for those farings. It was said that in Micklegarth Northmen gat any wealth

they would to bless them withal, they who would go into war-wage. They bade the kings that one of them or the other, either Eystein or Sigurd, should fare and be captain of that folk which should betake itself to the journey. And the kings said yea thereto, and arrayed the journey at both their costs. To this journey betook themselves many mighty men, both landed-men and mighty bonders. And when the faring was boun, it was settled that Sigurd should fare, but Eystein should rule over the land on behalf of both.

CHAPTER II. OF THE EARLS OF ORKNEY.

ONE winter or two after the fall of King Magnus Barefoot there came from the west from Orkney Hakon, son of Earl Paul, and to him the kings gave earldom and lordship in the Orkneys, even as the earls before him had had, such as Paul his father or Erlend his father's brother. And Earl Hakon went west to the Orkneys.

CHAPTER III. KING SIGURD'S JOURNEY ABROAD.

FOUR winters after the fall of King Magnus, fared King Sigurd his folk away from Norway; then had he sixty ships. So says Thorarin Curtfell:

So came together
Mickle host, eager

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Of the folk-king much wise
Well willed to the bounteous,
That sixty board-fair
Ships hence glided
O'er waves at the willing
Of God the all-pure.

King Sigurd sailed in the autumn to England ; there then was king Henry, son of William the Bastard ; and King Sigurd was there the winter through. So says Einar Skulison :

Toil-mighty leader ruled
Westward the most of war-hosts ;
Sea's mare sped 'neath the lord king
Unto the English lea-land.
The fight-glad king let keel rest,
And winter-long there bided ;
No better king there strideth
From out of Vimur's falcon.

CHAPTER IV. KING SIGURD'S JOURNEY.

KING SIGURD fared next spring with his host to Valland, and came in the harvest out on Galizialand, and dwelt there the next winter. So says Einar Skulison :

And the great-king, the highest
In power beneath the sun-hall,
There in the James'-land fed he
His soul the second winter.
There heard I war-hosts' leader,
He paid an earl o'er-froward
For a lie ; the king keen-minded
Brightened black swan of battle.

This was with these tidings, that the earl who

ruled over the land there made peace with King Sigurd, and the earl should let set market for meat-cheaping for Sigurd all the winter; but this went on no longer than to Yule, and then meat grew hard to get, for the land is barren and an ill meat-land. Fared then King Sigurd with a mickle company to a castle which the earl had, and the earl fled away, whereas he had but a little band. King Sigurd took there much victual and mickle other war-gettings, and let flit it all to his ships, and then arrayed him for going away, and fared west along by Spain.

Whenas King Sigurd was sailing along Spain it befell that certain vikings who were faring on war-catch came to meet him with an host of galleys; but King Sigurd joined battle with them; and so hove up his first battle with heathen men, and he won eight galleys of them. So says Haldor Gabbler:

And vikings little worthy
Fared they to meet the mighty
King of the roofs of Fiolnir,
The king laid low the fight-gods.
The host there gat the ridding
Of galleys eight, where fell not
Few folk; the friend of warriors,
The kind to men, gat plunder.

Sithence held King Sigurd to the castle called Cintra, and fought there another battle; that is in Spain. Therewithin sat heathen folk, and harried on Christian men; he won the castle, and slew there all the folk, for none would let them be christened, and took there mickle wealth. So says Haldor Gabbler:

Now of the great deeds tell I
Of the king which fell in Spain-land;
The slinger of the Van's day
Let set on Cintra boldly.
Grim grew it for those warriors
With the hardy lord to battle,
E'en they who wholly naysaid
God's right there bidden to them.

CHAPTER V. LISBON WON.

AFTER that King Sigurd held his host to Lisbon; that is a mickle town of Spain, one half Christian, the other half heathen; there sunder Spain christened and Spain heathen; all the countrysides are heathen which lie to west thence. There had King Sigurd the third battle with heathen men, and had the victory; gat he there mickle wealth. So says Haldor Gabbler:

O brisk king's son, thou foughtest
The third of victories south there
In the land, whereat ye landed
'Gainst the town which called is Lisbon.

Then King Sigurd held the host west round about Spain-heathen, and laid-to at the town called Alcasce, and had there the fourth battle with heathen men, and won the town, and slew there so many folk that he ridded the town. There they gat exceeding mickle wealth. So says Haldor Gabbler:

I heard that ye, folk-urger,
Yearnd to win sharp fight-stour
A fourth of times out yonder
Where called it is Alcassé.

And still this :

Heard I of sorrows' winning
Unto the women heathen,
In one burg wasted : folk there
Chose to drift into fleeing.

CHAPTER VI. BATTLE IN FORMIN- TERRA.

THEN held King Sigurd his way and laid for Norvi-sound, and in the sound was before him a mickle viking-host, and the king laid into battle with them, and had there the fifth battle and won the victory. So says Haldor Gabbler :

Ye trusted edge to redden
Eastward of Norvi-sound there,
And there did God avail thee ;
To fresh wounds flew the corpse-mew.

Sithence King Sigurd laid his host south away along Serkland, and came to the island called Forminterra. There had set down a mickle host of heathen Bluemen in a certain cave, and had set before the door of the cave a great stone-wall ; they harried wide in the land, and flitted their war-catch to the cave. King Sigurd made onset upon that island, and fared to the cave, which was in a certain sheer-rock, and it was steep going up the bent to the stone-wall ; but the rock shoved forth over the stone-wall. The heathen guarded the stone-wall, and were nought adrad of the weapons of the Northmen, whereas they might bear stones and weapons down upon the Northmen below

their feet. Nor did the Northmen make the onset as matters stood.

Then took the heathen pall and other dear-bought things, and bore them out unto the wall, and shook them at the Northmen, and whooped at them, and egged them, and taunted them of their heart.

Then sought King Sigurd a rede thereto. He let take two ship's-boats such as be called barks, and drag them up on to the rock over the cave door, and let lash thick ropes to the thwarts and stem and stern. Sithence men went into them as many as had room therein, and then the boats were let down before the cave with ropes; then they in the boats shot and cast stones so that the heathen shrank aback from the stone-wall. Then went King Sigurd up on to the rock under the stone-wall with his host, and they brake the wall, and so came up into the cave; but the heathen fled within over another stone-wall which was set athwart the cave. Then let the king flit into the cave big wood, and cast up a mickle bale in the door of the cave and set fire to it. But the heathen, whereas fire and smoke sought to them, some lost their lives, some went on to the weapons of the Northmen, and all folk there were either slain or burned. There gat the Northmen the greatest of war-catch which they had taken in this journey. So says Haldor Gabbler:

Before the stem
Of that stour be-yearning
Peace undoer
Was Forminterra.

There must the Bluemen's
 Host be tholing
 Fire and edges
 Ere bane they gat them.

And this, moreover :

The famed king's deeds on Serkmen
 Have grown to fame. Fight-strengtheners !
 Thou lett'st the barks sink downward
 Before the troll-wife's by-way.
 But he the Thrott of clashing
 Of Gondul's Thing sought upward
 From the cliff-bent with his following
 To the thronged cave of the sea-cliff.

And again says Thorarin Curtfell :

The king fight-hand
 Bade men be dragging
 Two blue-swart wind-wolves
 Up on to the rock there.
 Then when the strong-deer
 Of timbers, men-manned,
 In ropes sank downward
 Before the cave door.

CHAPTER VII. FIGHT IN IVIZA AND MINORCA.

THEN fared forth his ways King Sigurd,
 and came to the island hight Iviza, and
 there had battle and won the victory.
 That was the seventh battle. So says Haldor
 Gabbler :

The much be-worshipped marker
 Of murder-wheels brought ship-host
 To Iviza ; the fame-king
 Was fain of the peace-sundering.

After this King Sigurd came to the island hight Minorca, and had there the eighth battle with heathen men, and gat the victory. So says Haldor Gabbler :

Sithence befell the eighth one
Of point-storms to be wakened
On green Minorc : the king's host
They reddened there Finn's tribute.

CHAPTER VIII. HOW ROGER TOOK KINGDOM.

KING SIGURD came in spring to Sicily, and dwelt there long. Then was Roger duke there ; he gave good welcome to the king, and bade him to a feast. King Sigurd came thereto, and much folk with him. There was dear welcome, and every day of the feast stood up Duke Roger and served King Sigurd at the board. And on the seventh day of the feast, whenas men had washed hands, King Sigurd took the earl by the hand, and led him up into the high-seat, and gave him the name of king and that right, that he should be king over the realm of Sicily ; but before there had been only earls over that realm.

CHAPTER IX. CONCERNING KING ROGER.

ROGER, King of Sicily, was the mightiest of kings ; he wan all Apulia, and laid it under him, and many other great islands in the Greekland main. He was called Roger

the Rich. His son was King William of Sicily, who long had had great unpeace with Mickle-garth's kaiser. King William had three daughters and no son. One of his daughters he gave to Kaiser Henry, the son of Kaiser Frederick, but their son was Frederick, who now was Kaiser of Rome-burg. Another daughter of King William had the Duke of Cyprus. The third, had Margrit, the lord of corsairs; Kaiser Henry slew them both. The daughter of Roger, King of Sicily, had Kaiser Manuel in Micklegarth, and their son was Kaiser Kyrialax.

CHAPTER X. KING SIGURD FARED TO JERUSALEM.

IN the summer sailed King Sigurd out over the Greekland's main to Jerusalem-land, and then fared up to the city of Jerusalem, and met there Baldwin, the King of Jerusalem. King Baldwin welcomed King Sigurd exceeding well, and rode with him down to the river Jordan and back again to Jerusalem. So says Einar Skulison :

To skald not onefold is it
Praise of All-wielder's lordship :
The sea-cold hull the king let
Glide through the Greekland's salt-sea
Or ever the wolf-feeder
Made fast his ships to Acre,
The huge broad burg ; fain morning
All folk with their king abided.

And this furthermore :

Jerusalem, so tell I,
 The built place, fared the fight-blithe
 To look on : no king nobler
 Men wot of neath wide wind-hall.
 Hater of flame of hawk-field
 Gat speedily to bathe him
 In the clear Jordan water :
 Praise to this rede was given.

King Sigurd dwelt much long in Jerusalem-land
 through harvest and the beginning of winter.

CHAPTER XI. SIDON WON.

KING BALDWIN made a goodly banquet
 for King Sigurd, and much folk with
 him. Then gave King Baldwin many
 holy relics to King Sigurd ; and then was taken
 a splinter out of the Holy Cross, by the rede of
 King Baldwin and the Patriarch, and they both
 swore on a holy relic, that that tree was of the
 Holy Cross, on which God himself was pined.
 Sithence that holy relic was given to King Sigurd ;
 this bargain then he swore, together with twelve
 other men with him, that he would further Christian
 faith by all his might, and bring into his land an
 archbishop's chair if he might, and that the cross
 should be there whereas the holy King Olaf rested,
 and that he should further the tithe, and himself
 pay it.

King Sigurd fared sithence to his ships in Acre-
 burg. Then King Baldwin was arraying his host
 to go to Syria-land to the town hight Sidon ; that
 burg was heathen. To that journey King Sigurd
 betook himself with him. And when the kings

had a little while sat before the town, the heathen men gave themselves up, and the kings gat the town, but their folk other booty. King Sigurd gave to King Baldwin all the town. So says Haldor Gabbler :

Feeder of tyke of wounding,
A heathen burg thou takedst
By might, but gav'st by bounty.
Each fight was fought full valiant.

Of this Einar Skulison also tells :

I heard that the lord of Dalefolk
Wan Sidon : so the skald minds.
The slaughter-slingers took then
In Hrist's wreath hard a-riding.
The war-hawk's strong mouth-dyer,
A woeful work he brake there ;
Fair swords grew red, but the brisk king
Gat gladdened of the victory.

After that King Sigurd fared to his ships, and made ready to leave Jerusalem-land. They sailed north to that island which hight Cyprus, and there King Sigurd dwelt somewhile, and fared sithence to Greekland, and laid-to all his host off Angelness, and lay there for half a month. And every day was fair breeze north along the main ; but he willed to bide such a wind as should be a right side-wind, so that sails might be set endlong of the ship, for all his sails were set with pall, both fore and aft ; for this reason, that both they who were forward, as well as they who were aft, would not to look on the unfair sails.

CHAPTER XII. THE JOURNEY OF KING SIGURD TO MICKLEGARTH.

WHEN King Sigurd sailed in to Micklegarth, he sailed near to the land; all about up the land there are burgs and castles and thorps, so that nowhere there is a break therein. Then folk saw from the land into the bow of all the sails, and there was nowhere an opening between; all looked as if it were one wall. All folk stood out of doors that could see the sailing of King Sigurd.

Kaiser Kyrialax had heard of the journey of King Sigurd, and he let unlock that town-gate to Micklegarth which is hight Goldport; through that gate the kaiser shall ride into the town when he has been long away from Micklegarth, and has had a great victory. Then let the kaiser spread pall over all the streets of the city from Goldport to Laktiarn; there are all the noblest halls of the kaiser. King Sigurd said to his men that they should ride proudly into the city, and let them look to be heeding little, whatever new things they might see, and so did they.

Rode King Sigurd and all his men in the greatest state to Micklegarth, and so to the bravest hall of the king, and there was all dight before them.

King Sigurd tarried there for a while. Then sent Kaiser Kyrialax his men to him, asking which he would rather, take from the kaiser six ship-pounds of gold, or that the king should let do for him the play which the kaiser was wont to show

at the Hippodrome. King Sigurd chose the play, and the messengers said that the cost to the kaiser of the play was no less than that gold. Then the kaiser let array the sport, and men played thereat in wonted wise, and that time all the play sped better for the kaiser. The queen owns half the play, and their men strive each against the other in all the plays; and the Greeks say that if the king wins more games at the Hippodrome than the queen, then will the king win the victory if he goes to the wars. That say men who have been in Micklegarth, that the Hippodrome is made on this wise, that a high wall is set about a field, that may be equalled to the width of a homefield; round it is, with grades all about, and there men sit along the stone-wall while the game is in the field. There are carven many ancient tidings, the As-folk, the Volsungs, the Giukungs, done of copper and metal, with so mickle deftness, that men deem it all to be alive when they come to the game. The plays are wrought with mickle cunning and guile; men seem to be riding in the air, shooting-fire is used thereat, and every kind of harp-play and song-gear.

CHAPTER XIII. OF KING SIGURD.

THAT is said how King Sigurd would give the kaiser dinner on a day, and he biddeth now his men to gather all stuff in stately wise. And when everything had been got together which behoved for the entertainment of rich men, King Sigurd said that men should go into that

street in the city whereas fire-wood was cheapened, and said that they would need the same. They said that every day many loads thereof were driven into the town, and he need have no misdoubting on that score. But when they wanted to take it, all gone was the wood, and so they tell the king. He answered: "Look to it now if ye may get walnuts; no less shall we can to make fire of them."

They fared and got so much as they would. And now comes the kaiser and his worthies, and they sit down together, and are in manifold honour there, and King Sigurd feasteth them gallantly. And when the kaiser and the queen find out that there is nought lacking, then sendeth she men to wot what they had to firing. So they come to a certain house, and find that it is full of walnuts, and tell her thereof. She said, "Certes, this king will be of high conditions, and will spare few things for his honour's sake. No wood burns better than this firing."

This had she done to try him, what rede he should take.

CHAPTER XIV. KING SIGURD'S JOURNEY HOME.

AFTER this King Sigurd arrayed him for his home-faring. He gave to the kaiser all his ships; and a gold-adorned head was on the ship that King Sigurd had steered. They were set on Peter's Church, and are there sithence to behold. Kaiser Kyrialax gave King

Sigurd many horses, and fetched him a way-leader through all his realm. Fared then King Sigurd away out of Micklegarth, but a mickle many of Northmen abode behind, and went into war-wage there.

King Sigurd went from the east first through the land of the Bolgars, and then through Hungary-realm, and through Pannonia, and Svava, and the land of the Beiards. There he met Lothaire, the Kaiser of Rome-burg, who gave him an exceeding good welcome, and fetched him a way-leader through the whole of his realm, and let hold cheapings for them according as they needed for all chaffer. And when King Sigurd came to Sleswick in Denmark, then Earl Eilif gave him a glorious banquet, and that was midsummer season. In Heathby he met Nicholas, the Dane-king, who welcomed him full well, and himself followed him north into Jutland, and gave him a ship with all dight, which he had into Norway.

Fared King Sigurd thus back to his realm, and had good welcome. And that was the talk of men, that never had there been a more worshipful faring out of Norway than was that, and he was then twenty years of age. He had been three winters on this faring. King Olaf, his brother, was then twelve winters old.

CHAPTER XV. OF KING EYSTEIN.

KING EYSTEIN had wrought much in the land such as was profitable while King Sigurd was a-faring. He set up a monk-cloister at Northness, near to Biorgvin, and thereto he laid mickle wealth. He let build Michael's Church, the goodliest of stone minsters. He let build also in the king's garth the Apostles Church; and there also he let build the great hall, the stateliest treen house that has ever been done in Norway. He let build also a church at Agdirness, and a work and a haven where erst was havenless. He let do also at Nidoyce in the king's garth the Nicholas Church, and that house was of much care done, both of carvings and all other smith's-work. He also let do a church north in Vagar in Halogaland, and laid a prebend thereto.

CHAPTER XVI. KING EYSTEIN GOT IAMTLAND.

KING EYSTEIN sent word to the wisest men in Iamtland and the mightiest, and bade them to him, and welcomed all who came with mickle kindness, and saw them off with friendly gifts, and thus drew them to friendship towards him. But whereas many of them got wont to faring to him, and take his gifts, while to othersome he sent gifts, them that came not, he got himself into full friendship with all the men who ruled over the land. Then he would talk with them, and said how that the Iamts had done

ill in that they had turned away from the kings of Norway in fealty and scat-gifts. He took up the tale of how the Iamts had gone under the sway of King Hakon, Athelstane's-fosterson, and were long sithence under the kings of Norway. He spake of that withal, how many needful things they might get from Norway, and how mickle trouble it was for them to have to seek to the Swede-king for that which they needed. And in such wise he brought about his matter, that the Iamts themselves offered him and bade him that they would to turn them to fealty to King Eystein, and that that was their need and necessity. And their fellowship so drew together that the Iamts gave all the land under the dominion of King Eystein. And first towards this end took mighty men there troth-oath of all the folk. Sithence they fared to King Eystein and swore him the dominion, and that has been held ever sithence. So King Eystein won Iamtland by wisdom, not by onfall, as had done some of his forefathers.

CHAPTER XVII. OF KING EYSTEIN.

KING EYSTEIN was the goodliest of men to behold, blue-eyed and somewhat open-eyed, with flaxen hair and curly, scarce of high middle stature, wise of wit, of much lore in all these, laws, to wit, and deed-tales, and man-lore, swift of counsel and wise of word, and of the deftest-spoken; of all men the merriest and the meekest of mood, dear to heart and well-beloved

of all the all-folk. He had to wife Ingibiorg, the daughter of Guthorm, the son of Steig-Thorir. Their daughter was hight Maria, whom afterwards Gudbrand, the son of Shavehew, had to wife.

CHAPTER XVIII. OF IVAR, THE SON OF INGIMUND.

KING EYSTEIN had in many ways bettered the law of the land's-folk, and he upheld much the law, and made himself cunning of all law in Norway, and he was withal mickle wise of wit. By this matter may one mark how worshipful a man was King Eystein, and how kind to friends, and how thoughtful to seek after his friends what was to grieve them. There was with him a man of Iceland hight Ivar Ingimundson, wise, and of great kin, and a skald, and the king was well with him and loving, as is shown in this matter. Ivar fell ungleeful, and when the king found that, he called Ivar to talk with him, and asked him why he was so unglad. "But before when thou wert with us, we had manifold game of thy talk. I am not seeking this of thee because I wot not that thou wilt be so wise a man as to know that I have done nothing amiss to thee. Tell me what is it?"

He answered: "What it is, lord, I may not tell out."

Then said the king: "Then will I guess thereat. Are there any such men about that thou mayst not away with?"

He said it was not that. Said the king:

"Deemest thou thou hast of me less honour than thou wouldst?" He said it was not that. The king spake: "Hast thou seen any such thing as thou hast taken to heart and thinkest ill?" He said that was not it.

Said the king: "Longest thou to fare to some other men or other lords?" He said that was not it.

The king said: "Now the guess grows harder. Are there any women here or in other lands whom thou pinest for?" He said that so it was. The king said: "Be not heart-sick thereover. So soon as spring is, fare thou to Iceland, and I shall give thee wealth and mickle honour, and my letters and seal thereon to those men who have her matter in hand, and I wot that no such men are to be looked for as would not be swayed by my words of counsel or my threats."

Answered Ivar: "It goes heavier than that, lord; my brother has this woman."

Then said the king: "Turn we thence then; I see a rede thereto. After Yule I shall fare a-guesting; fare thou with me, and thou shalt see many courteous women, and if they be not king-born I shall get them to thy hand."

He answered: "The heavier it falleth, that when I see fair and darling women, then am I reminded of that woman, and then is my grief the more."

The king said: "Then I shall give thee rule and lands to play withal."

He answered: "I love it not."

Then said the king: "I will give thee goods then,

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and fare thou hence to whatsoever land thou willest."

He said he willed it not.

Then said the king: "Now it becomes of the hardest to seek after this. I have sought and tried as well as I know how. But there is one thing left, and that is little worth beside those which I have bidden thee already. Come every day, when the boards are drawn, to see me, and if I be not sitting over weighty matters, I will talk with thee about this woman in every manner wise that may come into my mind, and I will give myself leisure thereto; that whiles betideth, that grief becomes lighter to men if it be talked over. That shall also follow this, that thou shalt never fare hence away giftless."

He answers: "That will I, lord, and have thou thanks for thy seeking."

And now ever they do so, if the king be not sitting over weighty matters; then the king would talk with him, and thus his grief was bettered and he gladdened again.

CHAPTER XIX. OF KING SIGURD.

KING SIGURD was mickle waxen, red-haired, lordly of look, though not goodly, well waxen, nimble of gait, few-spoken, oftenest nought meek, good to friends, fast in friendship; not deft of speech, devout of ways, and stately mannered. King Sigurd was masterful, and great in punishments, an upholder of the law, bounteous of wealth, mighty, and much renowned.

King Olaf was a man high and slender, fair to behold, merry and meek of ways, well befriended. While these brethren were kings in Norway they took off many burdens which the Danes had laid on the people while Svein, the son of Alfiva, ruled in the land; they became thereby mightily well-beloved of the all-folk, and the great men withal.

CHAPTER XX. KING SIGURD JERUSALEM-FARER'S DREAM.

SO it is said that King Sigurd fell into mickle unglee, and folk might have but little of his talk, and he sat but short whiles over the drink. That seemed heavy to the counsellors, and his friends and the court, and they bade King Eystein lay some rede to it, if he might get to know what was the cause hereof; for now no men gat any settlement of their affairs who sought him thereto.

King Eystein answers so: "Hard is it to talk about and to seek after it from the king." But at the praying of men, however, it came to his promising to do this.

So once on a time he wakes this and asks what was the cause of his sadness: "That is now, lord, a grief to many men, and we would wot what brings it about; or hast thou heard of any such tidings as may seem a great matter to thee?"

King Sigurd says: "That is not so."

"Is it then, brother, that thou wilt from the land, and get thee yet more of realm, as did our father?" That, he said, was not it.

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"Are there any men here in the land who have come in the way of thy wrath?" He said that was not so.

"That will I then wot if thou hast had any dream that bringeth thee imaginings?" He said that so it was.

"Tell it me then, brother."

He answered: "I shall not tell thee, unless thou unravel it even as it is, for I shall can to know it all-clearly if thou arede it aright."

He said: "That, lord, is a very hard matter on both sides: either to sit before thy wrath, which will lie thereon, if the matter be not unravelled; or that wronging and trouble which befalleth the folk as things are. But I will arede me to risk thy mercy, though the unravelling be not to thy liking."

He answered: "That me-dreamed and methought that we three brethren were sitting all together in one chair before Christchurch north in Cheaping, and then meseemed walked out of the church the holy King Olaf, our kinsman, arrayed in his king's gear, and was most glorious to look upon, and blithe. He went to King Olaf, our brother, and took him by the hand and spake to him blithely: 'Fare with me, kinsman!' And methought he walked with him into the church. Somewhat after he came out of the church, and walked up to thee, brother, and bade thee go with him, and was not so blithe as erst; sithence the two went into the church. Then did I hope he would come to meet me, but that was not so. Then fell on me a mickle dread and feebleness and unrest, and therewith I awoke."

King Eystein answered: "Lord," said he, "so I arede it: the chair betokens the reign of us brethren; and whereas it seemed thee that King Olaf came with blitheness towards Olaf our brother, then will he live the shortest, and will have good to hand, whereas he is well-beloved and young, and in few things hath he fallen, and King Olaf will help him. Now, whereas thee-seemed he came to meet me not the like blithely, that betokens that I shall live some winters longer, yet not to be old, and I hope that his over-sight will stand me in stead, whereas he came to me, though not with the same-like bloom as with Olaf; whereas much have I befallen to trespass and the breaking of commandments. But whereas thou thoughtest that his coming to thee was tarried, that, I guess, will not mark thy parting from this world, and it can be, that thou wilt happen on some heavy ill, whereas it beseemed thee as if some unbrightness laid itself upon thee, and dread. And I guess that thou wilt be the oldest of us, and wilt the longest rule this realm."

Then said King Sigurd: "Well is it areded and wisely, and after this is it most like to go."

Takes the king now to gladden.

CHAPTER XXI. KING SIGURD'S WEDDING.

KING SIGURD got to wife Malmfrid, the daughter of King Harald, the son of Valdemar, from Holmgarth in the east. The mother of King Harald was Queen Gyda the

Old, the daughter of Harald Godwinson, King of England. The mother of Malmfrid was Kristin, the daughter of the Swede-king Ingi, the son of Steinkel. The sister of Malmfrid was Ingibiorg, whom Knut the Lord had to wife, who was the son of the Dane-king, Eric the Good, the son of Svein Wolfson. The children of Knut and Ingibiorg were : Valdemar, who took kingdom in Denmark after Svein Ericson, Margret, Kristin, and Katrin. Stig Whiteleather had Margret to wife, and their daughter was Kristin, whom the Swede-king Karl, son of Sorkvir, had to wife.

CHAPTER XXII. HERE BEGINS THE TALE OF THE THINGS.

SIGURD HRANISON fell out with King Sigurd. He had had Fin-fare on behalf of the kings for the sake of his affinity and long friendship, and many good deeds which Sigurd had done to the kings, and he was a man most of mark, and most befriended. But now it came to pass, as often will be, that evil men, and sick with envy rather than full with goodness, bore it into King Sigurd's ears that Sigurd Hranison would make his own out of the Fin-scat more than befitted fair measure; and on this matter they harp, until King Sigurd laid enmity on him, and sent for him, and, when he came to meet the king, the king spake: "I looked not for this, that thou wouldst so reward me," said he, "for a great fief and honours, as to make mine thine, and have for thyself a greater share thereof than what is allowed

to thee." Said Sigurd: "It is not true what has been said to thee hereof; such a share thereof have I had as thy leave allows."

The king said: "This alone will not avail thee. The matter will have to be talked over first more stoutly, ere it be left." And thereat they parted.

A little after, the king, by the talking over of his friends, took the case to a mote in Biorgvin, and would make Sigurd Hranison outlaw.

Now when things had come to such a pass, and a trouble so mickle, then fares he to find King Eystein, and tells him with what mickle fierceness King Sigurd would carry on the case against him, and craveth him his overlooking. King Eystein said it was a troublesome matter to bid him to gainsay his own brother; said there was long way between his backing up of the case and going against it; and said that they would both be owners, he and King Sigurd. "But for the sake of thy need and our affinity I may put in some words."

So he met King Sigurd, and prayed him for peace for the man; told him the affinity there was between them, in that Sigurd Hranison had to wife Skialdvor, their father's sister, and told him that he would boot what misliked the king, though he held not that he was soothly guilty; and he bade the king call to mind their long-standing friendship.

King Sigurd said it showed more of rule to punish such matters.

Then said King Eystein: "If, brother, thou

wilt follow up the law, and punish such a matter after the ordinances of the land, then it would be rightest that Sigurd should avail him of his witnesses, and this is a matter to doom at a Thing, not at a Mote ; for the case looks to the land's-law, not to Birchisle-right."

Then spake King Sigurd : " Maybe the case is due, King Eystein, even as thou sayest, and if this be not law, then we shall plead the case at a Thing."

Thereupon the kings parted ; each of them thought hereof his own way. Then King Sigurd summoned this case to the Erness Thing, and is minded to have the case through there. King Eystein also came thither, and sought to the Thing, and when the case fared forth to doom, then went thereto King Eystein before the case should fall on Sigurd Hranison. Then King Sigurd called on the lawmen to lay down their doom. But King Eystein answered in this way : " That deem I, that there will be here men so wise and well learned in the laws of Norway as to know, that it behoves not to doom a landed-man outlaw at this Thing. And flitteth now the case according to law, so that to all it seemeth soothly."

Then King Sigurd said : " Mickle of championship layest thou on this case, King Eystein, and it may be that more toil is before us ere it be gone through, than was deemed thereof ; yet, none the less, shall we hold on with it ; and fain would I now that he be beguiled in the homeland of his birth."

Then King Eystein spake : " Few will the matters be which shall not be carried through, if thou wilt

follow them up, so many great things as thou hast wrought ; and here is it to be looked for, that but few men will stand against thee, and small."

At this Thing they parted, so that nothing was done in the case.

After that King Sigurd summons Gula-Thing together, and seeks thither himself. King Eystein also seeks the Thing, and now many meetings are summoned and held of wise men, and the case ransacked before lawmen. Now King Eystein flitteth forth this, that all the men who were charged with guilts were in the Frosta-Thing's law, and the deeds had been done in Halogaland. And he voids the case, and thereat they parted, and were much wroth. Then King Eystein fares north to Throndheim ; but King Sigurd summons to him all landed-men and landed-men's house-carles, and calls out from every folkland much folk of the bonders, all from the south-country, and a mickle host drew to him, and he brings the folk north along the land, and seeks rightaway north to Halogaland, and will so fiercely go through with it, as to make Sigurd Hranison an outlaw north there in his kinland, and he summoneth all Halogalanders and Naumdale folk to a Thing in Hrafnista.

King Eystein arrayed himself together from Cheaping with much folk, and seeks to the Thing. He then took over by handfast from Sigurd Hranison plaint and defence in the case. At this Thing both sides flitted forth their case. Then seeks King Eystein of the lawmen where those Things were in Norway whereat it was lawful for bonders

to doom the cases of kings, if one king brought a suit against the other. "I bring forth that case with witnesses, that King Sigurd has the case against me, and not against Sigurd Hranison."

The lawmen say that kings' suits must be dealt with at the Ere-Thing in Nidoyce. King Eystein said: "That deemed I that so it would be, and thitherward the case must turn;" and said the king that even there he would try for a right doom in the case of Sigurd Hranison.

Spake King Sigurd: "So much as thou wilt make matters heavy and unhandy for me, so much shall I follow them up stoutly." And with things thus standing they part.

Seek now both sides south to Cheaping, and there was summoned an eight-folks' Thing. King Eystein was then in the town, and had a right mickle company, but King Sigurd lay aboard his ships. But when folk should go to the Thing, then truce was set up; folk had come in, and the case should be pleaded. Then stood up Berghthor, son of Svein Bridgefoot, and brought forward witness that Sigurd Hranison had hidden away some of the Finscat. Then stood up King Eystein, and said: "Although this charge which thou now bearest forth be true, yet I know not, however, for a truth what sort of witness this is; and though it should be, that that be full-proven, yet has this case been brought to nought already at three Law-Things, and at a Mote for a fourth; so now I call upon the men of the Lawcourt to doom Sigurd sackless of the guilt." And so it was done.

Then spake King Sigurd: "See I that King Eystein has brought forward law-quibbles, about which I know nothing. Now there is that one plaint left unto which I am more wont than King Eystein, and that one shall now be pleaded."

And he turns away now, and to his ships, and let strike the tilts, and laid all the host out to the Holm, and held a Thing there, and told the host that the next morning they shall make for Ilawall, and go ashore and fight with King Eystein.

But in the evening, whenas King Sigurd sat at the meat-board on his ship, then was he ware of nought ere a man fell down on the deck in the fore-room and took him by the foot, and, lo, there was Sigurd Hranison! and he bade King Sigurd to deal with his matter even as he would. Then Bishop Magni came forth, and Queen Malmfrid, and many other chieftains, and prayed for life and limb for Sigurd Hranison; and for their prayer King Sigurd took him up, and took bail from him, and set him amongst his men, and had him with him south into the land. In the autumn King Sigurd gave leave to Sigurd Hranison to fare north to his home, and King Sigurd gave him a shrievalty on his own behalf, and was his friend ever afterwards.

After this was never much dealing betwixt the two brethren, nor blitheness, or any loving-kindness.

CHAPTER XXIII. THE DEATH OF KING OLAF.

KING OLAF took a sickness which led him to bane, and he is buried in Christ-church in Nidoyce, and he was most be-moaned. Sithence the two kings, Eystein and Sigurd, ruled over the land ; but before these three brethren had been kings together for twelve winters ; for five winters sithence King Sigurd came back to the land, for seven winters before. King Olaf was of seventeen winters when he died, and that was on the ninth of the kalends of January.

CHAPTER XXIV. MAGNUS THE BLIND BORN.

WHENAS King Eystein had been for one winter east in the land, and King Sigurd in the north, King Eystein sat long in the wintertide in Sarpsburg. There was a mighty bonder hight Olaf o'Dale, a wealthy man ; he dwelt in Aumord in Mickle-dale, and had two children. His son was hight Hakon Fauk, and his daughter Borghild, the fairest of women, a wise woman, and of mickle lore. Olaf and his children were long in the wintertide at Burg, and Borghild was ever a-talking with the king, and folk would be speaking things much apart as to their friendship. But in the summer after King Eystein went north into the land, but King Sigurd fared east ; and the next winter thereafter King Sigurd spent east in the land, and sat mostly at

King's Rock, and much furthered that cheaping-stead. There did he a mickle castle, and let dig about a mickle dyke; it was made of turf and stone. He let house within the castle, and do there a church. The holy cross he let be at King's Rock, wherein he did not keep the oaths he had sworn in Jerusalem-land; but he put forward the tithe, and most all other matters he had sworn to. But whereas he set up the cross east at the Land's End, he thought that would be ward of all the land; yet was that the most unredy to set that holy relic so much under the power of heathen men, as was proven sithence.

Borghild, the daughter of Olaf, heard the twitter, how that men spake evil about her and King Eystein concerning their talk and their friendship; so she went to Burg and fasted there unto iron, and bore iron for this matter, and was well cleared.

But when King Sigurd heard this, he rode that in one day which was a mickle two days' ride, and came down upon Dale to Olaf, and was there through the night. And he took Borghild and dealt with her as a concubine, and had her away with him. Their son was Magnus; he was soon sent for fostering north into Halogaland to Vidkunn, son of Jon, and there he grew up. Magnus was of all men the fairest, and swift of growth and strength.

CHAPTER XXV. MAN-MATCHING BETWEEN THE KINGS.

KING EYSTEIN and King Sigurd were both on a winter a-feasting in the Uplands, and each had there his own stead. But as there was but a short way betwixt the steads whereas the kings should take feast, then did men that rede, that they should both be together at the banquets, each at the other's stead, turn and turn about; and for the first time they were both together at a stead owned of King Eystein. Now in the evening, when men took to drinking, then was the ale nought good, and men were hushed. Then spake King Eystein: "Though men be hushed, it is more of ale-wont for men to make them glee; get we some ale-joyance, that will yet take root for the pastime of men. Brother Sigurd, that will seem to all men most meet that we heave up some gamesome talk."

King Sigurd answered somewhat shortly: "Be thou as talksome as it pleases thee, but let me hold my peace for thee."

Then spake King Eystein: "That ale-wont hath oft been, that men should match them with men, and so will I let it be here."

Then King Sigurd held his peace. "I see," said King Eystein, "that I must begin this joyance, and I shall take thee, brother, for my match; and this is my reason thereto, that we have both an equal name, equal land, and I make no difference between our kindred or our breeding."

Then answered King Sigurd: "Mindest thou

not that I used to throw thee on thy back, when I would, and thou wert a year older?"

Said King Eystein: "I mind me no less, that thou never couldst play such game wherein was nimbleness."

Spake King Sigurd then: "Mindest thou how it fared in the swimming with us? I might have drowned thee if I had willed."

King Eystein answered: "I swam not shorter than thou, nor was I worse a diving-swimmer. I also knew how to fare on ice-bones, so that no one did I know who could champion me therein, but thou knewest it no more than a neat."

King Sigurd answered: "A more lordly sport and a more useful I deem it, to ken well the bow. I am minded to think that thou canst not draw my bow, though thou spurn thy foot therein."

Answered King Eystein: "As bow-strong as thou I am not; but less sundereth our straight shooting. And much better can I on snow-shoes than thou, and that has been called, time ago at least, a good sport."

King Sigurd said: "This deem I the lordlier matter by a great deal, that he, who shall be over-man over other men, be mickle in the flock, strong, and weapon-deft better than other men, and easy to see, and easy to ken whereas most are together."

King Eystein said: "That is no less a thing to be known by, that a man be fair, and such an one is easily kenned in a man-throng, and that also methinks lordly, for fairness fits the best array. Can I also law much better than thou, and on

whatsoever we have to talk, I am much the more smooth-spoken."

King Sigurd said : " Maybe thou hast mastered more law-quibbles, for I had then other things to do ; and no one taunts thee of smooth-speech ; but this say a many, that thou art not right fast of word, and that little is to mark what thou mayst behight, that thou speakest according to them who may be near beside ; and that is nought kingly."

King Eystein said : " Causeth it, that when men bear their cases before me, that think I of this first, so to make an end of each man's case as best may like him ; but then comes oft the other, who has the case against the first ; then often things are drawn in that make matters middling to the liking of both. Oft it is, that I promise what I am bidden ; for that I will that all should fare fain from the finding of me. I see another choice, if I would have it, as thou dost, to promise ill to all, for I hear no one taunt thee for not keeping thy promises."

King Sigurd said : " That has been the talk of men, that the journey on which I fared out of the land was somewhat lordly ; but thou sattest at home meanwhile, as a daughter of thy father."

King Eystein answers : " Now thou didst nip the boil. I should not have waked this talk, if I had known nought how to answer this. Near to this, it seemed to me, that I dowered thee from home as my sister, ere thou wert boun for the journey."

King Sigurd said : " Thou must have heard it that I had battles right many in Serkland, which thou must have heard tell of, and that I won the

victory in all, and many kind of precious things, the like whereof never before came hither to the land. I was thought of most worshipful there, whereas I met the noblest men; but I think that thou hast not yet cast off the home-laggard."

King Eysteijn said: "I have heard it, that thou hadst sundry battles in the outlands, but more profitable for our land was it that I was doing meantime. Five churches I reared from the groundsel, and I made a haven at Agdirness which erst was desert, though every man's way lay there when he fared north or south along the land; I made withal the tower in Sinholmsound, and the hall in Bergen, while thou wert brittling Bluemen for the fiend in Serkland. I deem that of little gain for our realm."

King Sigurd said: "I fared in this faring the longest out to Jordan, and swam over the river; but out on the bank there is a copse; and there in the copse I tied a knot, and spoke thereover words, that thou shouldst loose it, brother, or have else such-like spell-words as thereon were laid."

King Eystein said: "Nought will I loose that knot which thou didst tie for me; but I might have tied thee such a knot as much less wouldst thou have loosed, when thou sailedst in one ship amidst of my host, whenas thou camest into the land."

After that both held their peace, and were wroth either of them.

More things there were in the dealings of the brothers from which might be seen how each drew

himself forward and his case, and how each would be greater than the other; yet peace held betwixt them, while both lived.

CHAPTER XXVI. OF KING SIGURD'S SICKNESS.

KING SIGURD was, in the Uplands at a certain feast, and a bath was made for him. But when the king was in the bath, and the tub was tilted over, then thought he that a fish swam in the bath beside him, and he was smitten with laughter so mickle, that there followed wandering of mind, and afterwards this came upon him much often.

Ragnhild, the daughter of King Magnus Bare-foot, her brethren gave to Harald Kesia; he was the son of Eric the Good, the Dane-king, and their sons were Magnus, Olaf, Knut, and Harald.

CHAPTER XXVII. THE DEATH OF KING EYSTEIN.

KING EYSTEIN let do a mickle ship in Nidoyce; it was made both as to size and fashion after that as the Long Worm had been, which King Olaf Tryggvison had let build. There was also a dragon's head afore, and a crook aft, and either done with gold. The ship was mickle of board, but stem and stern were deemed to be somewhat less than had borne the best. He also let build there in Nidoyce ship-sheds, both so

big that therein they were peerless, and done withal of the best stuff, and smithied nobly well.

King Eystein was at a feast at Stim at Housestead, and there he gat a sudden sickness that led him to bane. He died on the fourth of the kalends of September, and his body was flitted north to Cheaping, and there is he laid in earth in Christchurch. And that is the tale of men that over no man's body has ever such a many of men in Norway stood in sorrow as over King Eystein's, since the death of King Magnus, the son of King Olaf the Holy. King Eystein was king for twenty winters in Norway. And after the death of King Eystein, Sigurd was sole king in the land while he lived.

CHAPTER XXVIII. THE SMALLANDS CHRISTENED.

NICOLAS, the Dane-king, the son of Svein, the son of Wolf, gat sithence Margret, the daughter of Ingi, whom formerly King Magnus Barefoot had had, and their sons were hight Nicolas and Magnus the Strong. King Nicolas sent words to King Sigurd the Jerusalem-farer, and bade him give him all help and strength from his realm to fare with King Nicolas to the east, round Swede-realm to the Smallands, for to christen folk there; for they who dwelt there held not to christendom, though some had taken christening. There was at this time in the Swede-realm much folk heathen, and much ill-christened, whereas there were then

certain kings such as cast away christendom and upheld the blood-offerings, even as did Blot-Svein, or sithence Eric the Year-seely.

King Sigurd behight the faring, and the two kings made tryst in Eresound. Sithence King Sigurd bade out all-men-host from all Norway both of folk and ships. And when that host came together he had fully three hundreds of ships.

King Nicolas was by far the first at the trysting, and abode long there; then the Danes made ill-murmur, and said that the Northmen would not come. Sithence they brake up the hosting; fared the king away and all the host. Sithence came King Sigurd there, and it liked him ill; but they held east to Svimr-oyce, and had there a house-thing, and King Sigurd spoke of the loosewordedness of King Nicolas, and they were all of one mind, that they should do some war-work in his land, for that sake. Then lifted they that thorp, which is hight Tumathorp, that lies a short way from Lund, and afterwards held thence east to the cheaping-stead hight Kalmar, and harried there, and so to the Smallands, and laid victual-fine on the Smallands, fifteen hundreds of neat, and the Smalland folk took christendom. Sithence King Sigurd turns his host back, and came into his realm with many big, dear things, and much plunder, which he had gathered in that journey, and this hosting was called Kalmar Hosting. This was one summer before the mickle mirk. This one only hosting King Sigurd rowed while he was king.

CHAPTER XXIX. OF THORARIN CURTFELL.

THAT befell on a time that King Sigurd went from a guild-house to evensong, and men were drunk and much merry. They sat outside the church and sang the evensong, and the singing was unhandy, and the king said : " What carle is that who there sits by the church clad but in a fell ? " They said they knew not. The king said :

He makes wild all the wisdom,
That wields the fell-clad carle there.

Then the carle comes forward and says :

Deem I folk here may know us
In a fell that somewhat curt is,
But this thing all uncomely
Now do I let befit me.
What should I have save tatters ?
Thou, king, wouldst yet be bounteous,
If me thou now wouldst honour
With a cloak were somewhat fairer.

The king said : " Come to me to-morrow, where I shall be at the drink."

And so the night wears. Next morning the Iclander, who sithence was called Thorarin Curtfell, fared to the drinking chamber, but a man stood outside the chamber, and had a horn in his hand, and spake : " Iclander, that spake the king, that thou shouldst make a ditty before thou wentest inside, if thou wouldst get any friendly gift from him, and sing about that man, who highteth Hakon Serkson, and who is called Suet-neck, and tell thereof in the ditty."

The man who talked to Thorarin was called Arni Foreshore-skew. Thereupon both walked in, and Thorarin walked up to the king and sang :

O fight-strong king of Thrand-folk,
Some gift thou me behighest,
When met we, could I do thee
Some stave upon Serk's kinsman.
Fee-bounteous king, thou toldest
That Hakon Neck-of-suet
He hight ; but me behoves it
To tell of that full clearly.

The king spoke : " That said I never, and thou wilt be mocked, and that is rede, that Hakon shape thee wite hereto, so fare thou into his company." Hakon said : " Welcome shall he be amongst us ; and I see whence this cometh." So he seats the Iclander amongst them, and now were they all-merry. But as the day wore, and the drink began somewhat to take hold on them, Hakon said : " Deemest thou, Iclander, thou owest me some boot ? or didst thou not think that they set somewhat of a wily trick on thee ? " He answers : " Certes, I deem it that I owe thee boot." Hakon answers : " Then we shall be at one again if thou work another ditty on Arni." He said he was all ready for that. And then they go over to where sat Arni, and Thorarin sang :

The foul-mouthed Skew-of-foreshore
Songs wide mid folk hath wafted,
And eagerly hath cast forth
The clay of the erne the ancient.
Thou Skew of words a-wary,
Scarce didst thou feed one crow there
In Serkland : there thou baredst
Afraid the hood of Hogni.

Arni leapt up straightway, and drew his sword, and would fall on him. Hakon spake it that he should forbear, and said that he might look to it that he should bear the lower lot, if they were to deal together.

Then went Thorarin before the king, and told him he had wrought a drapa on him, and bade him hearken it; and that the king granted him, and that is called the drapa of Curtfell. Then the king asked him what he was minded to do, himself, and he said he had purposed to go south to Rome; and the king gave him much money, and bade him come see him, when he came back, and said he would then do honour to him.

CHAPTER XXX. OF KING SIGURD AND OTTAR BRIGHTLING.

IT is told that on a high-tide, Whitsunday to wit, King Sigurd sat with a great throng of men and many of his friends; but whenas he came into his high-seat, saw men that he sat with a great faintness upon him, and a heavy countenance; and many men were afraid what way this might go. The king looked over the folk, glared with his eyes, and looked about on the benches; then he took the book, the dear, which he had had into the land; all written it was in golden letters, and nought more precious had ever come into the land in one book. Now the queen sat beside him.

Then spake King Sigurd: "Much may shift in man's life," says he. "I had two things

which methought best when I came into the land; that was this book here, and the queen; and now methinks each is worse than the other; and of all things that are mine own these seem to me the very worst. The queen knows not how she is, for a goat's horn stands out of her head, and the better I deemed her aforetime, so much the worse I find her now."

Therewith he cast the book forth into the fire that had been made, and smote the queen a cheek-clout. She wept the king's woe more than her own grief.

Stood that man before the king who hight Ottar Brightling, a bonder's son and candle-swain, and should be a-serving; black of hair he was, little and nimble, dark of hue, and courteous withal. He ran thereto and takes the book, which the king had cast into the fire, and held it up and said: "Unlike to these were those days, lord, when thou sailedst in pride and fairness to Norway, and all thy friends were fain and ran to meet thee, and yeasaid thee for king with the most of worship. For now are come to thee to-day a many of thy friends, and may not be merry for the sake of thy woe and lack of strength. Be now so kind, good king, and take this wholesome rede: first, gladden the queen, against whom thou hast done mickle amiss, and then all thy friends around."

Then said King Sigurd: "What, wilt thou learn me rede, thou, the wretchedest cot-carle's son, thou of the littlest kin?" And therewith he sprang to his feet, and drew his sword and made as if he would hew him down. He stood straight

and flinched not in any way. But the king turned the sword flatlings as it came down towards the head ; and then first he reared it with both hands, and then slapped it flat on the flank of him.

Sithence he held his peace and sat down in the high-seat ; and then all men withal held their peace.

Then the king looked about, and milder than erst, and spake sithence : “ Late may one prove men what like they be,” says the king ; “ here sat my friends, landed-men, and marshals, table-swains and all the best men in the land, and none did to me so well as he did ; little worth as ye may think him beside you, he it was who now loved me best, even Ottar Brightling ; whereas, when I came in here, a wood man, and would spoil mine own dearling, he bettered that to me, and, on the other hand, dreaded nought his bane. Sithence a fair errand he said ; and in such wise dight his words, in that they were to the worship of me, but those matters he told not whereby my anger might be eked ; all that he dropped adown : and yet might he soothfully have uttered it ; yet withal his speech was so frank as none so wise a man was at hand as might have spoken defter. Sithence, I leapt up a-witless, and made as I would hew him down, but so greatheart he was, as if there were nought to fear, and when I saw that, I let the deed go by, so unmeet as he was thereto. Now shall ye, my friends, know wherewith I shall reward him. Hitherto he has been a candle-page, but now he shall be my landed-man ; and that withal will follow it, which shall be no lesser a matter, that in

a while he will be a man most of mark amongst my landed-men. Go thou into the seat beside the landed-men, and serve no longer."

Sithence he became one of the most renowned men in Norway for many good matters and glorious.

CHAPTER XXXI. KING SIGURD'S DREAM.

KING SIGURD was on a time feasting at some stead of his. But in the morning when the king was clad, he was few-spoken and unmerry, and his friends were adread lest once more there would be wandering come on him. But his steward was a wise man and bold, and craved speech of the king, and asked if he had heard any tidings so big that they stood in the way of his gladness, or whether it were that the feast liked him ill, or if there were any other of such matters as men might better.

King Sigurd said that none of those things he had spoken of brought it about. "But what brings it about," says he, "is that I have in mind the dream which came before me last night."

"Lord," says he, "would that that dream were a good one! but I would fain hear it."

The king said: "Methought I was out of doors here in Jadar, and I looked out on to the main, and there I saw mickle darkness, and there were goings on therein, and when it drew nigh hither, it seemed to me that that was one mickle tree, and the limbs waded aloft, and the roots in the sea.

But when the tree came aland, then it brake, and drave away, and drifted wide about the land, both about the mainland, and the out-isles, skerries, and strands; and then sight was given to me, and methought I saw over all Norway outward along the sea, and I saw that in every creek were driven fragments of this tree, and they were most small, but some bigger."

Then answered the steward: "This dream it is most like that thou wilt thyself deal best therewith, and we would fain hear thine areding."

Then said the king: "That meseems liketh, that it will betoken the coming of some man into this land who shall make him fast here, and that his offspring will be drifted wide about this land, and be very much uneven in greatness."

CHAPTER XXXII. OF ASLAK COCK.

SO it befell on a time that King Sigurd sat with many good men and noble, and was hard of mood; that was Friday eve, and the steward asked what meat should be dighted. The king answered: "What but flesh?" But so great an awe there was of him, that none dared gainsay him. Now were all unmerry. Men got ready for the board, and in came the service, hot flesh-meat, and all men were hushed, and sorrowed the king's harm. But ere the meat was signed, a man took up the word hight Aslak Cock. He had been with King Sigurd in his outland-fare; no man was he of great kin; quick he was, and little of body. And when he saw that no man would answer the

king, he spake : " Lord," said he, " what reeks on the dish before thee ? "

The king answers : " What wouldst thou it were, Aslak Cock, or what seemeth it to thee ? "

He answers : " That meseems, what I would not it were, flesh-meat to wit."

The king said : " What though it be, Aslak Cock ? "

He answers : " Grievous is suchlike to wot, that so sorely should see amiss that king who so mickle honour has gotten for his journey in the world. Otherwise behightest thou then, when thou steppedst out of Jordan, and hadst bathed in that same water as God Himself, and hadst a palm in thine hand and a cross on thy breast, than to eat flesh-meat on a Friday. And if smaller men did such, it would be to them for big punishment ; and nought so well is the court manned as is to be looked for, whereas none cometh forth but I, a little man, to speak out on such a matter."

The king was hushed, and took not then of the meat, and as the meat-meal wore, the king bade take away the flesh-meat dish. Then came in the meat which behoved him well, and the king took to be somewhat gladder as the meat-meal wore, and he drank.

Men spake that Aslak should look to himself, but he said that nought such he would do. " I know not what that will avail, for sooth to say it is good to die now, that I have brought it about to stave the king off from a wickedness ; but he is free to slay me."

In the evening the king called him to him

and said: "Who egged thee on, Aslak Cock, to speak such bare-words to me amidst a throng of men?"

"Lord," said he, "none but I myself."

The king said: "Now wilt thou want to know what thou shalt have in return for thy boldness, or what thou deemest thyself worthy of."

He answers: "Wilt thou reward it well, lord, then am I fain; if it be otherwise, then is it thy matter."

Then said the king: "Thou shalt have less reward therefor than thou art worthy of. I shall give thee three manors; but that way things went then as might be deemed the unlikelier, that thou shouldst save me from a great unhap rather than my landed-men, from whom I was worthy of much good."

So ended this affair.

CHAPTER XXXIII. A WOMAN BROUGHT TO THE KING ON YULE-EVE.

SO befell on a time on Yule-eve, as the king sat in the hall and the boards were set, that the king said: "Fetch me flesh-meat." "Lord," said they, "it is not wont in Norway to eat flesh-meat on Yule-eve." He answered: "If it be not the wont, then will I have it the wont."

So they came and had in porpoise. The king stuck his knife into it, but took not thereof.

Then said the king: "Fetch me a woman into the hall." They came thither and had a woman with them, and she was coifed wide and side. The

king laid his hand to her head, and looked on her and said : "An ill-favoured woman is this, yet not so that one may not endure her." Then he looked at her hand, and said : "An ungoodly hand and ill-waxen, yet one must endure it." Then he bade her reach forth her foot ; he looked thereon, and said : "A foot monstrous and mickle much ; but one may give no heed thereto ; such must be put up with." Then he bade them lift up the kirtle, and now he saw the leg, and said : "Fie on thy leg ! it is both blue and thick, and a mere whore must thou be." And he bade them take her out, "for I will not have her."

CHAPTER XXXIV. HARALD GILLI CAME INTO NORWAY.

HALLKELL HUNCH, the son of Jon Butter-Bear, was a landed-man in Mere ; he fared west over sea, and all the way to the South-isles, where came to meet him west from Ireland he who hight Gilchrist, who said that he was the son of King Magnus Barefoot ; his mother followed him, and said that he hight Harald by another name. Hallkell took these folk to him and flitted them over to Norway with him, and fared straightway with Harald and his mother to meet King Sigurd, and they bare forth their errand before the king. King Sigurd set this matter forth before the lords, that each might lay word thereto after his mind, but they all bade him have his own way in the matter.

Then let King Sigurd call Harald before him,

and told him he will not gainsay him proving his fatherhood by ordeal; but on such terms that Harald shall let that be made fast, that though that fatherhood turn out as he saith, he (Harald) shall crave not the kingdom while King Sigurd, or Magnus, the king's son, be alive; and this bond fared forth with oaths sworn. King Sigurd said that Harald should tread bars for his fatherhood, and that ordeal was deemed somewhat hard, whereas it was to be gone through but for the fatherhood, not for the kingdom, which he had already forsworn. But Harald yeasaid it.

He fasted unto iron, and that ordeal was done, which is the greatest that ever has been done in Norway, whereas nine glowing plough-shares were laid down, and Harald walked them bare-foot, and was led by two bishops. Three days thereafter the ordeal was proven, and his feet were unburnt.

After that King Sigurd took kindly to the kinship of Harald, but Magnus his son had much ill-will to him, and many lords turned after him in the matter. King Sigurd trusted so much in his friendship with all the folk of the land, that he bade this, that all should swear that his son Magnus should be king after him; and he gat that oath sworn by all the land's-folk.

CHAPTER XXXV. OF THE WAGER OF HARALD AND MAGNUS.

HARALD GILLI was a tall man and slender of build, long-necked, somewhat long-faced, black-eyed, dark of hair, quick and swift of gait, and much wore the Irish raiment, being short-clad and light-clad. The northern tongue was stiff for him, and he fumbled much over the words, and many men had that for mockery. Harald sat on a time at the drink with another man, and told tales from the west of Ireland; and this was in his speech that in Ireland there were men so swift-foot that no horse might catch them up at a gallop. Magnus, the king's son, overheard that and said: "Now is he lying again, as he is wont."

Harald answers: "True is this, that," says he, "those men may be found in Ireland whom no horse in Norway shall outrun."

On this they had some words and both were drunk. Then said Magnus: "Now here shalt thou wager thine head, if thou run not as hard as I ride my horse, but I will lay down against it my gold ring."

Harald answers: "I say not that I run so hard, but I shall find those men in Ireland who so will run, and on that may I wager."

Magnus, the king's son, answers: "I shall not be faring to Ireland; here shall we have the wager, and not there."

Harald then went to bed and would have nought more to do with him. This was in Oslo.

But the next morning when matins were over, Magnus rode up unto the highway and sent word to Harald to come thither ; and when he came he was so dight that he had on a shirt and breeches with footsole bands, a short cloak, an Irish hat on his head, and a spear-shaft in hand.

Now Magnus marked out the run. Harald says : " Overlong art thou minded to have the run." Magnus forthwith marked it off much longer and said that even so it was over-short.

There were many folk thereby. Then took they to the running, and Harald ever kept at the withers.

But when they came to the end of the run, said Magnus : " Thou holdest by the girth, and the horse drew thee." Magnus had a Gautland horse full-swift. They took again another run back, and then Harald ran all the course before the horse. And when they came to the end of the run, Harald asked : " Held I by the girth now ?" Magnus answers : " Thou didst take off first."

Then Magnus let the horse breathe a while ; and when he was ready, he smote the horse with his spurs, and he came swiftly to the gallop. Then Harold stood still, and Magnus looked back and called : " Run now," says he. Then Harald swiftly overran the horse, and far ahead, and so to the run's end ; and came home so much the first, that he laid him down, and sprang up and hailed Magnus when he came. Thereupon they went back home to the town. But King Sigurd had been meanwhile at mass, and knew nought of this till after meat that day. Then spake he in wrath to Magnus : " Ye call Harald a fool, but methinks

thou art the fool, whereas thou knowest not the manners of outland men. Didst thou not know before, that outland men train themselves at other sports than filling their paunches with drink, or making themselves mad and fit for nought, and knowing nothing of a man ? Hand over to Harald his ring, and never ape him again while my head is above mould."

CHAPTER XXXVI. SKILL IN SWIMMING.

ONCE when King Sigurd was out on his ships, they were lying in harbour, and beside them was a certain chapman, an Iceland keel. Harald Gilli was in the foreroom of the king's ship, but next to him, further forward, lay Svein, son of Rimhild ; he was son of Knut, son of Svein of Jadar. Sigurd Sigurdson was a landed-man of renown who steered a ship there. That was a fair-weather day and hot sunshine, and many men fared a-swimming, both from the longships and the chapman. A certain Icелander who was a-swimming made a game of shoving down those men who were worser at swimming. Thereat men laughed. King Sigurd saw that and heard ; so he cast off his clothes from him, and leapt out a-swimming and made for the Icелander, grips him, and thrusts him down and held him under. And the next time that the Icелander came up, straightway the king shoved him down again, and so time after time. Then Sigurd Sigurdson said : " Shall we let the king slay the man ? " A man said that no

one was full eager to go. Sigurd said, there would be a man thereto if Day Eilifson were here. So therewith Sigurd leapt overboard and swam to the king, took hold of him, and said : " Tyne not the man, lord ; all men may see now that thou art much the best swimmer." The king said : " Let me loose, Sigurd ; I shall bring him to bane ; he wills to drown our men." Sigurd answered : " We two shall play together first ; but thou, Icclander, strike out for the land ;" and so he did. But the king let Sigurd loose, and swam to his ship, and so withal fared Sigurd. But the king spake and bade Sigurd never be so bold as to come into his sight. This was told to Sigurd, so he went up aland.

CHAPTER XXXVII. OF HARALD AND SVEIN RIMHILDSON.

IN the evening, when men fared to sleep, some men were ashore playing. Harald was at the play, and bade his swain fare out on to the ship and dight his bed, and bide him there. The swain did so. The king was gone to bed. But when the page thought the time was long, he laid him on Harald's bed. Then Svein Rimhildson said : " A shame it is for doughty men to fare away from their homes for this, to drag their knaves up here as high as themselves." The swain answered, saying that Harald had sent him thither. Svein Rimhildson answered : " We deem it nought so over-good a hap that Harald should lie here, though he drag not up thralls here, or staff-carles." And therewith he gripped a cudgel

and smote the lad on the head, so that blood fell over him. The swain ran straightway up aland, and tells Harald what has befallen. Harald went straightway up on to the ship, and aft into the fore-room, and smote with his hand-axe at Svein, and gave him a great wound on the arm; and straightway Harald went up aland again. Svein ran up aland after him, and drifted thereto his kinsmen, and laid hands on Harald, and were minded to hang him.

But while they were making things ready, then went Sigurd Sigurdson on board King Sigurd's ship and waked him. But when King Sigurd opened his eyes and knew Sigurd, he said: "For this same shalt thou die, that thou hast come into my sight, for I banned it thee." And the king leapt up.

Sigurd spake: "That choice thou mayst have as soon as thou wilt, king; but other business now is first more due. Fare at thy swiftest up aland and help Harald thy brother, for now the Rogalanders will hang him."

Then spake the king: "God heed it now, Sigurd. Call now the horn-swain, and let blow the folk up after me."

The king ran ashore, and all who knew him followed him even to where the gallows was dight. Forthwith he took Harald to him, and all the folk rushed straightway to the king all-weaponed, whenas the horn had called out. Then said the king that Svein and all his fellows should fare as outlaws. But at the bidding of all men, it was gotten of the king that they should have land-

dwelling and their goods, but the wound should be unatoned. Then asked Sigurd Sigurdson if the king would that he should fare away then. "That I will not," said the king; "never may I be without thee."

CHAPTER XXXVIII. MIRACLE OF KING OLAF WROUGHT ON A MAN WHOSE TONGUE WAS CUT OUT.

KOLBEIN hight a young man and a poor; but Thora, the mother of King Sigurd Jerusalem-farer, let shear the tongue from the head of him, for no greater guilt than that this young man, Kolbein, had had a morsel out of the dish of the king's mother, and said that the cook had given it him; as he dared not take that on himself because of her. Sithence fared this man speechless a long while. This Einar Skulison sets forth in the drapa of Olaf:

The noble Horn of whiting
For a young man's guilt but-little
Let from the head be shorn out
The tongue of poor wealth-craver.
All guileless we beheld him,
Hoard-breaker reft of speaking,
A few weeks later, whenas
We were whereas 'tis Lithe hight.

Sithence he sought to Thrandheim and Nidoyce, and waked at Christchurch. But at matin-song, on the second vigil of Olaf, he fell asleep, and thought he saw Olaf the Holy come to him, and betake his hand to the stump of the tongue and

draw it. But when he awoke he was whole, and faintly thanked our Lord and King Olaf, from whom he had gotten healing and mercy. He had fared thither speechless afore, and sought to his holy shrine, and thence fared he whole with a clear speech.

CHAPTER XXXIX. MIRACLE OF KING OLAF ON A WAR-TAKEN MAN.

THE Heathen men took captive a certain young man, a Dane of kin, and flitted him to Wendland, and had him there in bonds with other war-taken men. Now was he by daytime in irons alone and unguarded, but at night was the son of the master in fetters with him, lest he should run away from him. But this poor man gat never sleep nor rest for grief's sake and sorrow ; in many ways he would be thinking what help there might be for him ; much he dreaded thralldom, and feared both of hunger and torment. Yet no ransom could he hope for from his kinsmen, for the reason that they had set him loose twice before from heathen lands with money ; so he deemed he knew that now they would think it both too great a matter and too costly to undergo it a third time. Well is the man who does not abide all the evil in this world which he deemed now he had abided.

Now there was nothing for him but to run away and to get off, if that might be fated him. So next he takes rede in the dead of night, and slays the son of the master, and hews the foot from him,

and so makes away to the wood with his fetters. But the next morning, when it lightened, they are ware of this, and fare after him with two hounds, who were wont to this, to scent out whosoever ran away, and they find him in a wood whereas he lay hid from them. So now they lay hands on him, and beat him, and baste him, and play with him all kind of ill. Sithence they drag him home, and leave him but bare life, and show him no other mercy. They drag him to the pains, and set him straightway into a mirk chamber, wherein were already sixteen men, all Christian. There they bound him both with irons and other bonds, the fastest they might. So he deemed those woes and pains which he had had before as if they were but a shadow of all the evil which then he had. No man set an eye upon him in this prison who prayed for mercy for him; no man thought pity of that wretch, save the Christians who lay there in bonds with him. They grieved and greeted for his woe, and their thralldom and mishap.

But on a day they laid this rede before him, and bade him behight him to the holy King Olaf, and give him to service in the house of his glory, if he might get him by God's mercy and his prayers from that prison. This he yeasaid fain, and gave himself forthwith to the place they bade him.

The next night he thought he saw in his sleep a man nought high stand there anigh him and speak to him on this wise: "Hearken, thou wretched man," says he, "why risest thou not up?" He answers: "My lord, what man art thou?"

He answers: "I am King Olaf, on whom thou

didst call." "Oho, good my lord," says he, "I would fain rise up if I might; but I lie bound in irons, and withal chained in fetters to those men who sit herein bound."

Then the man calls on him, and speaks thus in words: "Stand thou up swiftly, and bewail thee not, for of a surety thou art now loose."

Next to this he awoke, and told his fellowship what had been borne before him. So they bade him stand up, and try if it were true. Upstandeth he, and kenned that he was loose. Now said his other companions, and spake it, that this would come to nothing for him, for the door was locked without and within.

Then laid word thereto an old man, who sat there in the most woeful plight, and bade him not distrust the mercy of this man by whom he had already got him loose; and so said he: "For he must have done a token on thee, that thou mayst enjoy his mercy, and be free henceforth, and not for more wretchedness and torment to thee. Now show thyself deft," says he, "and seek the door, and if thou mayst get out thou art holpen." So he did, finds the door open straightway, and runs out forthwith and off to the wood.

So soon as they were ware of this, then they lay on their hounds, and fared after him at their swiftest; but he lieth and hideth him, and sees clearly, wretched carle, where they fare after him. Now the hounds go astray from the spoor, as they draw nigh him, and they all got bewildered of sight, so that no one might find him, and yet there he lay before their very feet. So they wend them

home thence, and bewailed much and sorrowed that they should not have happened on him.

King Olaf let him not be undone, but when he had got into the wood gave him hearing and all health, whereas they had before beaten all the head of him, and bruised it till he was deafened.

Next hereto he got into a ship with two Christians who had been long pined there, and all of them they made use of that craft to the utmost, and thus were flitted their ways from that path of flight. Sithence he sought to the house of this holy man, and was then grown whole and fightworthy. But then he rued his behest and broke his word to that merciful king, and ran away one day and came at evening to a bonder, who for God's sake gave him harbour. Sithence in the night, when he was asleep, he saw three maidens come to him, fair and goodly of array, who cast words at him at once, browbeating him with heavy wyte for being so over-bold to run away from that good king who had shown him so mickle mercy; first that he loosed him from the irons, and then altogether out of the prison, and to keep aloof from that sweet lord under whose hand he had gone. Next thereto he awoke, full of fear, and stood up so soon as it dawned, and told this to the master; and that good bonder would allow no otherwise for him but to wend home back to that holy stead. This miracle was first written by him who himself saw that man, and the marks of the irons on him.

CHAPTER XL. KING SIGURD TAKES CECILIA TO WIFE.

WHENAS King Sigurd's lifetime wore, this new hap befell his rede, that he will leave the queen alone and get him that woman hight Cecilia, the daughter of a mighty man; he was minded to dight the bridal in Biorgvin, and let array a mickle feast and glorious. But when Bishop Magni heard that, then was he unmerry; and on a day goeth the bishop to the hall, and with him his priest, who was hight Sigurd, and was sithence bishop in Biorgvin. They come to the hall, and the bishop bids the king come out, and he did so, came out with a drawn sword. The king gave good welcome to the bishop, and bids him come to the drink with him. He said that other was his errand. "Is it true, lord, that thou art minded to marry and to leave the queen alone?" The king said: "That is true."

Thereat the bishop began to swell mickle, and said: "How does it seem good to thee, lord, to do this within our bishopric, and to put to shame God's right and holy Church, and thy kingdom? Now shall I do that which I am bound to, to ban thee this unrede on God's behalf, and the holy King Olaf, and the apostle Peter, and all holy saints."

While he spoke he stood straight up, and as if he stretched forth his neck in case the king should let the sword sweep down. And so has said Sigurd sithence, who was bishop thereafter, that the heavens seemed no bigger to him than a calf's skin, so awful did the king show to him.

Sithence went the king back into the hall, but the bishop went home, and was so gay, that every child he greeted laughing, and played with his fingers.

Then spake priest Sigurd : " Ye are merry forsooth, lord. Cometh it not into thy mind now, that the king may lay his wrath on thee, and that it would be likelier to seek away ? "

Then said the bishop : " Likelier meseemeth that he will not do that, but how might my death-day be better than to die for holy Church, banning that which is not to be endured. Now am I merry that I have done that which I ought to do. "

Sithence was there to do in the town, and the king's men arrayed them for departure with much corn and malt and honey. And now the king maketh south for Stavanger, and there arrays the feast. And when the bishop who bore rule there heard thereof, he meets the king, and asks if it be true that he is minded to marry, the queen yet living. The king said that so it was. The bishop answers : " If that be so, lord, thou mayst well see how much that is banned to the smaller folk. Now it is not unlike thou mayst deem it free, whereas thou hast more might, to let such things beseem thee ; but yet is that much against the right, and nought wot I why thou wilt do that within our bishopric, to the shame thereby of God's commandments and holy Church and our bishopdom. Now, therefore, thou wilt lay down somewhat big in moneys to this stead, and so boot God and us. "

Then said the king : " There, take the money ! Wondrous unlike are ye, thou and Bishop Magni."

And away went the king, no better pleased with this one than the other, who laid forbidding thereon. Sithence he gat this woman for wife, and loved her mickle.

CHAPTER XLI. THE FURTHERING OF THE CHEAPING-STEAD AT KING'S ROCK.

KING SIGURD let so much further the cheaping-stead of King's Rock, that there was none richer in Norway, and he sat there mostly for the guarding of the land. He let house the king's garth in the castle. He laid it on all the countrysides which were anigh the cheaping-stead, and on the townsfolk withal, that every twelve-month each man of nine winters old and upwards should bring to the castle five weapon-stones or five beams else, and these should be done sharp at one end, and be of five ells' height. There within the castle let King Sigurd do Cross Church. It was a treen church, and done with much care both of stuff and fashion. Whenas Sigurd had been king for four-and-twenty winters then was hallowed this Cross Church. Then let King Sigurd be there the Holy Cross and many other holy relics. This church was called Castle Church. There before the altar he set up an altar-table which he had let make in Greekland ; it was done of brass and of silver, and fairly begilded and beset with smalts and gemstones. There was a shrine which Eric Everminded,

the Dane-king, had sent to King Sigurd, and a Plenary written in golden letters, which the patriarch had given to King Sigurd.

CHAPTER XLII. THE DEATH OF KING SIGURD.

THREE winters after the hallowing of Cross Church, King Sigurd gat a sickness whenas he was staying in Oslo, and there he died one night after Marymass in autumn. He was buried at Hallwards Church, and was laid in the stone wall out from the choir on the south side. Magnus, the son of King Sigurd, was then in the town, and he took straightway all the king's treasures when the king died. Sigurd was king over Norway for seven-and-twenty winters; he was forty years of age. His times were good for the land's-folk; there was both good increase and peace withal.