

[PART II, CHAPTER XIII.]

the hand of Helga, his sister; then Kimbi caused Blig to be smitten with a sand sod. From this arose the quarrel between the Eyrbyggjar and the sons of Thorbrand and Snorri the godi. They fought in Swanfirth, and upon Vigrafirth.

There was a man named Thorberg; he went from Stelifirth, in Norway, to Iceland, and settled both* the Langdales, and dwelt in the outer; his son was Aslacr, who had for wife Arnleif, daughter of Thord the Yeller; their children were these: Illugi the Mighty, and Gunnhild, whom Breid married first, and afterwards Halldor, of Holmlatr. Illugi the Mighty married Gudleif, daughter of Ketil Smithy Log=anvil stock; their sons were Eyjolf and Endridi, Koll and Gellir; their daughters were: Herthrud, whom Thorgrim, the son of Vermund, had for wife, and Fridgerd, whom Odd, the son of Drafla, had for wife; and Gudrid, whom Bergthor, the son of Thormod, the son of Thorlak, married first, and afterwards Jorund, in Skorradale, further, Jodis, who married Mar, the son of Illugi, the son of Ari, and Arnleif, who married Koll, the son of Thord Blig. From Illugi are the Langdalers come. Stein the Much-Sailing, the son of Vigbjod, the brother of Thorir Harvest-Mirk, settled Shawstrand, till it marched or met with the settlement of Thorberg, and up to the Salmon river; he dwelt at Breidabolstead. His son was Thorhadd, in Hitriverdale, and Thorgest, who married Arnora, the daughter of Thord the Yeller; their sons were: Stein the Lawspeaker and Asmund, and Hafliði and Thorhadd.

Discovery, A.D. 982, and settlement, A.D. 986, of Greenland by Eirik the Red.

CHAPTER XIV. Thorvald, the son of Asvald, the son

* Hvarntveggja Langdale=both the Langdales, i.e., the outer and the inner. Compare the Langdales in Westmorland, implying two dales: Little Langdale and Great Langdale.

[PART II, CHAPTER XIV.]

of Ulf, the son of Ox-Thorir, and Eirek the Red, his son, went from Jadar* for the sake of manslaughters, and settled land on the Hornstrands, and built at Drangar, where Thorvald died. Eirek married, when there, Thjodhild, the daughter of Jorund, the son of Atli, and of Thorbjorg knarrarbringu=the ship's breast, whom at this time Thorbjorn of Hauksdale had for wife; Eirek then went from the north and cleared land† in Hawkdale, he dwelt at Eirekstead, near Vatnshorn. There the thralls of Eirek let fall a rock-slip upon the dwelling of Valthjof, at Valthjofstead, but Eyjolf Saur, his kinsman, slew the thralls at Skeidsbrekka, up from Vatnshorn. For that sake Eirek slew Eyjolf Saur; he also slew Holmgang-Hrafn at Leik-Scales. Geirstein and Odd, at Jorvi, the kinsmen of Eyjolf, took up the blood-suit after him; then was Eirek exiled from Hawkdale; he then settled Brokey and Oxey, and dwelt at Tradir, in the Southey, the first winter. Then he left seat-beams of his house with Thorgest; afterwards Eirek went to Oxey, and dwelt at Eirekstead; then he claimed his seat-beams, and could not obtain them; Eirek took the seat-beams from Breidabolstead, and Thorgest went after him; they fought a short distance from the fence at Drangar, there fell two sons of Thorgest, and some other men besides; thereupon both sides sat at home, amidst an armed company. Styrr sided with Eirek, and Eyjolf from Sviney, and the sons of Thorbrand from Swanfirth, and Thorbjorn, the son of Vifil; and with Thorgest sided the sons of Thord the Yeller, and Thorgeir from Hitriverdale, Aslak from Langdale, and Illugi, his son. Eirek and his party were outlawed at the Thorsness Thing. Then he fitted out a ship in Eireksvag, but

* Jaddarr, the local name of a district in Norway, literally "The Borderland."

† The Norse word is ruddi=to clear, and this word is still used with the same meaning of clearing a wood in Lakeland.

Eyjolf

[PART II, CHAPTER XIV.]

Eyjolf hid him in Dimunvag, while Thorgest and his party were seeking him about the islands. Thorbjorn and Eyjolf and Styr followed Eirek out beyond the islands; he told them that he purposed to seek that land which Gunnbjorn, the son of Ulf Crow, saw when being driven west, beyond Iceland (by a storm), he found there Gunnbjorn's skerries. Eirek said that if he discovered land he would afterwards re-visit his friends. Eirek sailed from off Snæfellness, and he came out at Midjokul, at the place which is now called Blueserk; he went thence to the south, along the land, to see if that it could be settled. He was the first winter in Eirek's Island, nigh to the middle of the western settlement, and the next spring he went to Eireks-firth, and took there for himself a dwelling. He went that summer into the western wastes, and wide about there he assigned names to places. He was the next winter at Eireksholmes, near to Hvarfsgnipa. But the third summer he went north as far as Snæfell, and came to Hrafnfirth. Then he felt sure he had got round the extremity of Eireksfirth; he sailed from thence back, and was the third winter in Eirek's Island, at the opening of Eireksfirth. Later in the summer, he went to Iceland, and came to Broadfirth; he was for that winter at Holmlatr with Ingolf. In spring Thorgest and Eirek engaged in battle, and Eirek had the worst of it; after that they were reconciled. That summer Eirek went to settle that land which he had found, and which he callèd Greenland,* for he said that

*Greenland, an extensive region stretching, so far as we know, from 59 45° to 83½° north lat., and from 17° to 73° west long.; its north-western extremity, however, being not yet accurately defined. It is an island of almost continental size, surrounded by smaller islands. Its area may be estimated at 512,000 or at 320,000 square miles, according as it takes in or leaves out islands and fjords running inland which average 60 miles in length. It was first discovered, as noted above, by Eirek the Red, one of the earliest settlers of Iceland, after having been before sighted by Gunnbjorn. After having explored it, Eirek founded there in the year 986 two colonies—Osterbygd and Westerbygd—Eastern and Western Settlements. The colonies afterwards came under the dominion of

many

[PART II, CHAPTER XIV.]

many men would desire to visit it if he gave the land a good name.

So men of lore say that that summer twenty-five ships went to Greenland from Broadfirth and Borgfirth, and that fourteen got through to the west, that certain of them were driven back, and some were lost. This took place fifteen years before Christian faith was made law in Iceland.

There was a man named Herjolf, the son of Bard, the son of Herjolf, the friend of Ingolf the Settler. Ingolf gave land to Herjolf and his between Vag and Reykjanes. Herjolf the younger went to Greenland, when Eirek the Red settled the land. With him in the ship was a man from the Hebrides, a Christian. He composed the poem called 'Hafgerdingadrapa' in which the following verse occurs:

This the harm-free¹ monks' controller²
Pray I, that he speed my journey;
Let the Lord of earth's high hall-roof,³
Hold o'er me the stall of falcon!⁴

Herjolf settled Herjolfsfirth and dwelt at Herjolfness. He was a most noble man.

Norway, but were neglected and suffered from disaster and privation. Finally the Westerbygd was attacked and destroyed by the Eskimo intruders from the north, some years after 1340. Subsequently the connection with Europe gradually grew less and less, until, according to obscure accounts, it wholly ceased after 1448, and Greenland almost passed into oblivion. When discovered in 1585 the Eskimo were its only inhabitants. Corroborating, however, the above passage in the Landnama, remarkable ruins of undoubted Scandinavian origin were early discovered on two points of the west coast, one in the present district of Julianehaab, between 60 and 61° north lat., and the other in Godthaab, between 64 and 65°. In each case the ruins lay scattered over an area of some hundred square miles, occupying small, flat and fertile spots round the heads of the fjords. The southern group contains about 100 such spots, each with ruins of from two or three up to thirty houses; the northern group is much poorer. For latest information see Nansen's account of his expedition across Greenland in 1888.

- (1) Good, full of mercy.
- (2) Christ, as head of his Church.
- (3) Lord of heaven, God.
- (4) The falcon's stall, or the perch whereon it sits.

Eirek

[PART II, CHAPTER XIV.]

Eirek afterwards settled Eireksfirth and dwelt in Brat-tahlid, and Leif, his son after him. These men took land in Greenland who had gone out then with Eirek, namely, Herjolf, Herjolfsfirth: he dwelt at Herjolfsness; Ketil, Ketilsfirth: Hrafn, Hrafnfirth: Solvi, Solvisdale: Snorri, the son of Thorbrand, Swanfirth, Thorbjorn Gloga, Siglufirth: Einar, Einarfirth: Hafgrim, Hafgrimsfirth and Vatnahverfi: Arnlaug, Arnlaugsfirth: but certain went to the western settlement.

There was a man named Thorkell Farserk, the sister son of Eirek the Red; he went to Greenland with Eirek, he settled Hvalseyfirth, and most places between Eireksfirth and Einarsfirth, and dwelt at Hvalseyfirth; from him the Hvalseyfirthers are descended. He was of exceeding strength. He swam out to Hvalsey=Whale Island, after an old ox, and brought it from the island on his back, when he wanted to give good cheer to his kinsman, Eirek, and there was not a seaworthy vessel at hand; that was a distance of half a sea knot or mile=vika.* Thorkell was interred in the (tun) enclosure at Hvalseyfirth, and his ghost has ever since haunted the place.

Olave the White King of Dublin marries Aud, daughter of Ketil Flatnose. Thorstein their son and Sigurd conquer more than half of Scotland. Thorstein falls in battle.

CHAPTER XV. Ingolf the strong settled land in from the Salmon river to Skraumuhlaups river, and dwelt at Holmlatr. His brother was Thorvald, the father of Thorleif, who dwelt there afterwards.

Oleif the White was the name of a war-lord, he was the

*Vika. This word meant a sea knot or mile, or what would now be called a geographical mile, and corresponded to a röst on land. The term seems to have been derived from vik, a *small bay*, denoting the distance from ness to ness, and referring to a time when ships coasted along the sea shore. The word is still in almost exclusive use in Iceland.