

# TALES

OF

## THE SCOTISH WARS.

---

### INVASION OF THE DANES.\*

IN the eighth century, during what is termed the Pictish period of Scottish history, the then singularly constituted governments of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, produced the celebrated Pirate Kings of the Northern Seas, called the *Vikingr*, perhaps unexampled in the annals of Europe. As the Goths, the Huns, and the Vandals, were the scourges of the human race by land, the Pirate Kings were long the scourges of the ocean, infesting almost every country, and plundering every vessel which fell into their hands. "Till the eighth century, however," observes a learned historian, "the Vikingr confined their odious piracies to the Baltic. They now pursued their destructive courses on every sea and on every shore in Europe. They first appeared distinctly on the east coast of England during A.D. 787.

---

\* Gordon's *Itinerarium Septentrionale*; Statistical Account of Scotland; Annals of Ulster; Chalmers' *Caledonia*; Buchanan's *History of Scotland*; Cordiner's *Antiquities*; Pennant's *Tour in the Highlands*; Shaw's *History of the Province of Moray*; Ware's *Antiq. Hibern.* • Abercrombie's *Martial Achievements of the Scottish Nation.*

They were felt on the Caledonian shores some years afterwards. They made the Hebrides deplore their barbarities throughout the ninth century, while they burned the religious houses which the pious hands of the Columbans [the disciples of St Columba] had built. In A.D. 839, the Vikingr landed among the Picts. Uen their King hastened to defend his people. A bloody conflict ensued, and the gallant Uen fell in defending his country against those ferocious invaders; with him also fell his only brother Bran, and many of the Pictish chiefs."

A Danish leader named Halfdene is mentioned by the old chroniclers as ravaging the country lying between the Picts and the Strathclyde Britons in A.D. 875. The Vikingr had previously settled on the Irish shores, and thence found an easy passage into the Frith of Clyde. In A.D. 870, the Vikingr had besieged Aldcluyd, which they took and plundered after a blockade of four months. Aldcluyd signifies in the ancient British language *the rocky height on the Clyde*, and was applied to the celebrated conical rock on which the castle of Dumbarton is built. During the year in which the vale of the Clyde was ravaged by Halfdene, the Vikingr sailed from Northumberland and wasted Galloway. So severe were their inroads felt by the inhabitants, that they resolved to emigrate to Wales, and in A.D. 870, a large body of them departed, under a chief called Constantine, who was encountered and slain at Lochmaben. But his followers succeeded in repulsing the assailants, and forced their way into Wales. There they were assigned a district, which they defended with valour, when they assisted the Welsh to defeat the Saxons in the battle of Cymrid. The descendants of those Strathclyde Britons are a distinct people in North Wales at the present time. They inhabit Flintshire and the vale of Cluyd. According to the author of CALEDONIA, they are "distinguished from their neighbours by a remarkable

difference of person and speech. They are a people taller, more slender, with longer visages; their voices are smaller, and more shrill; they have many varieties of dialect, and generally their pronunciation is less open and broad than what is heard among the Welsh, who live to the westward of them."

Kenneth, the son of Alpin, achieved the union and amalgamation of the Scots and Picts, and established both people and their territories under one government. This enabled the Scots to offer a powerful resistance to the Pirate chiefs of the Northern Seas. During Kenneth's reign those Pirate chiefs landed in Scotland, and advanced into the country as far as Clunie, in the division of Perthshire called Stormont, and the ancient episcopal city of Dunkeld. Ragnar Lodbrog was the name of the Danish leader, and the sole purpose of this invasion was as usual plunder and blood. Of his ravages on this occasion little is known, but he was soon afterwards killed in Northumberland.

The Danish rovers were now yearly increasing in power, and their settlements in Ireland were important and prosperous. They had considerable establishments at Waterford, and they possessed commodious harbours on the east and north coast of the island, at Wexford, Strangford, in Belfast Loch, and in Loch Foyle; but Dublin, before they were driven from that city by the Irish, was the usual seat of their power and their plunder, as it also was of their dissensions. From these commodious stations on the north of Ireland the Danish pirates were enabled to attack the western coasts of Scotland. They found the river Clyde a commodious inlet into the country, and the Moray Frith, the river Tay, and the Frith of Forth, offered their attractive harbours on the east. The towns, such as they were in the tenth and eleventh centuries, the residences of the King and the chiefs, and the religious houses, were generally the objects of their attack and plunder. In the reign of

Constantine II., the son of Kenneth, in A.D. 866, the Danes from Ireland, under a ferocious chief named Aulaf, who had arrived in that country with a numerous fleet and many adventurers in A.D. 753, ravaged the Scottish coasts, and returned to their Irish retreats loaded with plunder. The success of this expedition induced them to prepare for a second voyage, and in A.D. 870, the Pirates sailed from Dublin for the Clyde with augmented numbers. Their leaders, Andd, Aulaf, and Ivar, besieged Dumbarton, which they took at the end of four months by blockade rather than by assault. After plundering the country they returned to Dublin in 871, with great booty and many captives. In A.D. 872, Aulaf led another expedition into Scotland, where he met his fate from the hand of Constantine. Such was now the frequency of the Danish invasions that the country was never at rest. In A.D. 875, Ostin, the son of Aulaf, defeated the Scots; but he did not long enjoy his victory, for he was soon afterwards treacherously slain by his own countrymen. The Danish Pirates again invaded Scotland in A.D. 876, and remained in the country amid bloody conflicts several months. In A.D. 881, there was another invasion of the odious foe, and Constantine advanced against the pirates in person. He encountered them on the shores of the Frith of Forth, and this ancient Scottish King fell gallantly fighting for his people. During this disastrous inroad of the Pirates upon the coast of Fife, several of the Scottish ecclesiastics, who had taken refuge on the Island of May, were slain by the Pagan adventurers, for the Danish rovers were not then converted to Christianity. The several conflicts which the inhabitants of the south-east of Fife had to maintain is still remembered by tradition. Near the mansion of Lundin, in the parish of Largo, are three remarkable stones in the middle of a plain standing upright in the ground, each measuring eighteen feet in height, and supposed to be as much below the surface. There are

also fragments of a fourth, which seems to have been of equal magnitude with the other three. These are the well known *Standing Stones of Lundin*. There is no inscription, and no vestige of any ciphering is to be found upon them. Though they may have been erected for different purposes, and in more ancient times, the general tradition is that they mark the graves of some Danish chiefs who fell in battle during this invasion in the reign of Constantine II. Skeletons in stone coffins have been found upon the shore, from the entry of the river Leven into the Frith of Forth to the eastern extremity of Largo Bay at Kinraig Point, and these are also supposed to be the remains of the slain. The scene of the death of Constantine is still pointed out near Crail, at the very south-eastern extremity of the county, from which it would appear that a kind of running fight had commenced in the parish of Largo, and that the Danish rovers had been driven back to their galleys near Fifeness. In a cave near the site of the old mansion of Balcomie, the King, who was taken prisoner in a skirmish, as the rovers retreated, is said to have been sacrificed to the manes of the Danish leaders. Nor must the *Danes' Dyke*, as it is still called, near the cave, be forgotten. It is the remains of a bulwark of dry stones raised in one night by the Danes after their defeat at the mouth of the Leven, when they retired to the extreme point of Fife, which they fortified in this manner to defend themselves against the Scots, until they could safely embark in their galleys, which were hovering in the Frith of Forth. This mound is quite overgrown with grass, but it can be distinctly traced a considerable distance. Such is the testimony of tradition, though the large space which it encloses, and some other circumstances, might justify some degree of scepticism on the subject.

In the reign of Donald IV., the son of Constantine, the Northmen again invaded Scotland, and, landing in the Tay, they advanced up the river with the intention of invading

either Forteviot or Dunkeld. The King met the Pirates in the neighbourhood of Scone, and a bloody battle ensued, in which the Scots were victorious. But this defeat nothing disheartened the Danish rovers. In A.D. 904, they again appeared in Scotland on the western coast under Ivar O'Ivar, and penetrated into the country eastward, with a view of plundering Dunkeld, then a royal residence of the Scottish, as it had formerly been of the Pictish kings. They were encountered in their progress by Donald, and were defeated with the loss of their leader, but the King himself was slain while gallantly defending his harassed people.

The reign of Donald's successor, Constantine III., is noted for a fierce invasion of the Danish pirates from Ireland. In A.D. 907, they made a general ravage, and advanced as far as Dunkeld, which they plundered before they could be opposed by Constantine. But the King, the chiefs, and a gallant people, attacked them in an attempt against Forteviot, and drove them from the country. This defeat secured peace several years, but in A.D. 918, according to the Annals of Ulster, another and most formidable invasion was made from Ireland by the Danes under Reginald their king, who steered his fleet into the Clyde. Constantine summoned his forces to repel the Pirates, and assisted, it is said, by some of the Northern Saxons, or inhabitants of Northumberland, he gave battle to the Danes at a place called Tinmore, the precise locality of which is uncertain. The rovers arrayed themselves in four divisions—the first conducted by Godfrey O'Ivar, the second and third by sundry earls and chiefs, the fourth by Reginald in person; and as this division was the reserve, he appears to have placed it in ambush. The divisions were unable to withstand the assault of the Scots, which was well directed by Constantine, and the ambuscade was unsuccessful. The Pirates retreated during the night, and left the field in pos-

session of the Scots, whose victory was the more important, as no leader or person of distinction on their side was slain, while two Danish chiefs, Otter and Gragava, are mentioned as having fallen in this battle. They commanded a party of whom the Scots made great havoc.

Reginald, the king or ruler of the Irish Danes, was induced to conduct the Vikingr, Sitric and Godfrey to the shores of Cowal, a peninsula or point of land stretching between the Frith of Clyde and Lochfine. In A.D. 921 he was slain, and was succeeded by his brother Godfrey, who is traditionally said to have been infamous for his cruelty even among the ferocious Vikingr.

In the reign of Kenneth III. was fought the battle of Luncarty, as related in a previous narrative. Various other invasions were made on the east and west coast of Scotland, and the country was kept in a state of distraction by these Pirates. Malcolm II. the son of Kenneth III., and the third king in succession after him, contrived to turn into distant channels the devastations of the Danes, who had now deluged England with blood; yet parties of them still continued to roam through the Northern Seas, and plunder every shore. They seized in the reign of Malcolm the burgh head of Moray, where they found a commodious harbour and a secure retreat. The Orkneys, Shetland, and the Hebrides, were ravaged by the ferocious Vikingr, but it was near the coasts of the Moray Frith that the Danes and Norwegians collected plunder from a wide extent of country. Sigurd, Earl of Orkney, one of the Vikingr, carried on his depredations along the shores of this Frith in the end of the tenth and beginning of the eleventh century. He married the daughter of Malcolm, but this was no restraint upon his piracies, and in the eyes of a Vikingr friends and foes were equally the objects of his plunder.

In A.D. 1009, the Danes made a fierce descent upon the

province of Moray, and in 1010 they were met in the midst of their destructive ravages by Malcolm at Forres. According to tradition, Sueno, son of Harold, king of Denmark, having defeated the English, and driven Ethelred their king out of the kingdom, resolved to revenge themselves on the Scots, who had aided their Southern neighbours. Sueno sent a considerable force into Scotland under Olaus and Enecus, who landed in Moray, and committed great ravages. Malcolm marched against them, and a battle ensued near the royal burgh of Forres, but the inexperienced Scots, rushing on with more courage than prudence, rendered the victory easy to the Danes, who followed it up by cruelty and bloodshed. The castles of Forres, Elgin, and Nairn, were soon reduced, and they resolved to colonize and possess the province they had conquered.

When their families arrived they fortified the promontory already mentioned, under the name of the *burgh head* of Moray. This promontory, designated by our old historians *Burgus*, is in the parish of Duffus, and juts out into the Moray Frith, rising about sixteen yards above low water. It is a perpendicular rock on the west and north; on the east the ascent is steep, and covered with grass; on the south the ascent is easy. The surface is upwards of one hundred yards in length, and in breadth about thirty. This area they surrounded with a strong rampart of oak laid deep in the ground, of which pieces have often been dug up, and some remains are still visible. By cutting a trench they brought the sea round the promontory, and rendered the whole secure by ramparts and other fortifications. This fort was intended as a place of arms, for a safe retreat if defeated, and for an asylum to their wives and children; and it guarded the harbour at the base of the rocks where their galleys were moored. The Danes gave it the name of *Burgh*, which it still retains, and is called the *Burgh Sea*, or surrounded by the sea, but it is no longer an artificial island.



Though defeated at Forres, the Scots were resolved never to allow the Danes a permanent footing in the country. Malcolm raised a powerful army in the southern counties, and in A.D. 1010, he marched to expel the invaders. The Danes, who had certain intelligence of the King's motions, moved to meet him, wisely choosing to fight him at some distance from their projected settlement. In the neighbourhood of a house called Carron there are vestiges of a camp, which, it is thought, was occupied by the Pirates till their scouts informed them of the King's approach. They then marched to Mortlach in Banffshire, while the Scots approached Achindun, little more than two miles from the enemy. The King is alleged to have used a stratagem by damming up the rivulet of Dullan, on both sides of which the Danes lay. About a mile above the church of Mortlach the rivulet runs in a narrow channel between high rocks. Here its course was stopped and made to flow back into a plain, the Scots having attacked the enemy about daybreak, the dam was ordered to be broken up, and the torrent separated the two parts of the Danish army, so that the one could not assist the other, and those on the south, who were the smaller number, were all cut off.

But whatever credit may be assigned to this stratagem, the armies first saw each other near the parish church of Mortlach, and a little to the north of it they engaged. The numbers of the contending parties are not stated, but a fierce and bloody conflict ensued. At the commencement of the attack, while pushing forward with too ardent impetuosity, Kenneth, Thane of the Isles, Dunbar, Thane of Lothian, and Græme, Thane of Stratherne, were slain, and the loss of those leaders struck the Scots with consternation. The contest was now less than doubtful, for the Scots were thrown into confusion, and the issue was too likely to be decisive on the part of the Danes. Malcolm was carried reluctantly along with the retreating crowd, till

he was opposite the church, then a chapel dedicated to a holy saint who was distinguished by the name of Molocus. The passage being here narrow, the retreating Scots had leisure to recover, and were all collected together. At this crisis Malcolm was seized with a devotional impulse, when his eye rested on the walls of the chapel dedicated to the holy saint. Fervently praying, and, as was the custom of those times, rendering homage to the Virgin Mary and the saint, he made a particular vow that if successful he would erect a religious edifice, to evince his gratitude to Heaven. Inspired with confidence he addressed his soldiers in an animated speech, and leading them to the attack, he struck down the Danish leader Enecus with his own hand, and killed him. The Scots renewed the charge with vigour, and the Northmen, after defending themselves with their usual obstinacy of valour, were obliged to yield the bloody contest to the bravery of their assailants. This second and decisive conflict after rallying happened a few hundred yards to the south-west of the Castle of Balveny, and it is conjectured that the ancient part of that building was then in existence, as a fort is mentioned near the field of battle. Malcolm, in gratitude for his victory, founded the bishopric of Mortlach, which was confirmed by Pope Benedict, who filled the Pontifical Chair from A.D. 1012 to A.D. 1024. An ecclesiastic named Bein was consecrated the first bishop, who died about thirty years afterwards, and his effigy, cut in stone, was placed on the walls of the church of Mortlach. This episcopal seat, it is well known, was subsequently removed to Aberdeen in A.D. 1139.

Various traditional and other memorials are preserved and pointed out. There still remain the vestiges of an encampment, very distinct, on the summit of the little Conval hill, and known in the neighbourhood as the *Danish Camp*. Numbers of tumuli or cairns exist, supposed to have cover-

ed the bodies of the slain. The grave of Enecus was formerly, it is said, distinguished by a huge round stone now rolled a little distance from its position over the sepulchre. It has received the eccentric soubriquet of the *Aquavita Stone*. "To account for this," quaintly observes the author of the Statistical Account of Mortlach, "and to prevent antiquarians from puzzling their brains with dark and learned hypothesis in time to come, it may not be improper to tell, that the men whose brawny strength removed this venerable tenant, finding it rather a hard piece of work, got as a solace for their toil a pint of whisky, out of which immediately around the stone they took a hearty dram."

A square piece of ground is pointed out where a large pit was dug, and multitudes of the dead were thrown into it. This is near the north-west corner of the fir park of Tomnamuid, and about one hundred and twenty yards from the stone now mentioned. There is a standing stone on the parish minister's glebe, containing some unintelligible sculpture. Human bones, broken sabres, and pieces of military armour, have been at different times discovered; and in ploughing the glebe about the middle of the eighteenth century a chain of gold was discovered, which from its antique formation is supposed to have been worn by one of the chiefs.

The celebrated monument called *Forres Pillar* is supposed to commemorate this battle. It is adorned with rude sculptures, now unintelligible, representing warlike trophies and marches. A writer indeed asks—"Why should there be erected at Forres a monument of a battle fought more than twelve miles distant from it?" But the answer is obvious. The place might have been selected as the most central and convenient site to commemorate the final dislodgment of the Danes from a district in ancient times remarkable, as it still is, for its fertility, and of which they contrived to maintain possession or render tributary. Yet the

traditional language of the district connects this ~~the obelisk~~ with a Danish leader called Sueno, and it is consequently designated *King Sueno's Stone*.

The hostile invasions of the Danes were not confined to the shores of the Moray Frith. The coasts of Forfarshire and the district of Buchan experienced their ravages. They were encountered and repulsed at Aberlemno in Forfarshire, and two sculptured obelisks or pillars, one in the churchyard, and the other on the road from Brechin to Forfar, are memorials of the conflict. These pillars are about nine feet in height, and proportionably sunk in the ground. One writer mentions that in his time there were five obelisks, which were popularly known as the *Danish Stones of Aberlemmy*. Near the two existing pillars a few tumuli have been opened, wherein were found rudely formed stone coffins, containing black earth and mouldering bones.

The repeated and disastrous defeats of the Northmen at length induced Sueno to send a fresh body of warriors into Scotland under the command of Camus. Landing on the coast of Forfarshire near the village of Panbride, the Danes marched into the interior, but before they had advanced many miles they were attacked and entirely defeated by the Scots. Camus, in attempting to retreat northward, was pursued and slain on the spot where a monumental stone, called *Camus' Stone*, indicates the scene of his overthrow. The conflict in which he fell was maintained hand to hand, and the skull of Camus was cleft by the deadly blow of a battle-axe. Near *Camus' Cross* a sepulchre was laid open, inclosed with four stones, and a gigantic skeleton was dug up about A.D. 1610, supposed to have been that of Camus, and part of the skull was cut away. About two miles from Panbride, in the parish of Monikie, there is a farm-steading called *Camuston*, another near it is known as *Camuston Cross*, and a third place is designated *Camuston Den*. All these localities are connected by tradition with the Danish

rovers. In this quarter, near the eighth milestone from Dundee, there is a ridge of small eminences called the Cur-hills, where several stone coffins have been found. In the vicinity have been discovered urns inclosed with broad flag stones, below which were ashes, supposed to have been human bodies reduced to that state by fire.

But the persevering Pirates were not yet discouraged by their losses and defeats. They again landed on the Buchan coast of Aberdeenshire, in the parish of Cruden, about a mile west from Slaines Castle, the family seat of the Earl of Errol. The Danes were commanded by Canute, son of Sueno, afterwards the celebrated King of England, Denmark, Norway, and part of Sweden. The contending armies met upon a plain in the bottom of the Bay of Arden-draught, near which the Danes had then a castle, some remains of which are still visible. A considerable portion of the Earl of Errol's estate is called the Barony of Arden-draught, a name said to signify the *Old Danish Camp*. Even the name of the parish, *Cruden* or *Crudane*, originated from this battle. The Pirates were overthrown, and on the morning after the battle, while both parties lay at a small distance from each other, the appearance of the field turned their thoughts from war to peace. Conditions were proposed and accepted, which were—that the Danes and Norwegians should withdraw themselves from Scotland—that during the lives of the kings, Malcolm and Sueno, all hostilities were to cease—that the field of battle should be consecrated, and made a burying-place for the dead—and that the Danes, as well as the Scots, who had fallen in the conflict, should be honourably interred in it. Malcolm and Canute swore to the observance of the articles, and faithfully performed their respective obligations. Canute and his followers left Scotland, and Malcolm not only caused the dead bodies of the Danes to be interred with decency, but built a chapel on the spot, which he dedicated to

Olaus, the tutelar saint of Denmark and Norway. The village near which this chapel was erected was called *Croju-Dane*, or *Cruden*, which signifies *Kill the Dane*, and there is a tradition that during the confusion of the battle the Danish military chest was concealed near the place, but it has never yet been found. No vestige of the chapel of St Olaus or of the village now remains, but the locality is well known, and bones have been repeatedly dug up in several places. In the churchyard of Cruden, which is about a mile westward from the scene of battle, there is a black marble gravestone, said to have been sent over by the Danish king to mark the sepulchre of some of his officers slain in the battle.

Scotland was now freed from the invasions of the Northern Pirates, who do not appear to have ravaged the coasts until the time of their expedition under Haco, when they were finally defeated at the battle of Largs. Their proceedings in the Orkney and Shetland Islands, the Hebrides, and other islands "far amid the melancholy main," are elsewhere narrated.

Many memorials of those celebrated Northern Pirates, and their hostile invasions, still remain throughout Scotland. Some of these are already noticed. In the parish of Innerwick, in the county of Haddington, there is a small Danish encampment on Blackcastle Hill, and near it are several cairns or burial places. The churchyard of Ruthwell in Dumfries-shire contains a true Danish monument, which seems to be the only Runic remains in North Britain. It was when entire in the form of an obelisk, and about eighteen feet in length, the side of each square being ornamented with figures taken from sacred history. This curious pillar, which may have been erected by some of the followers of Halfdene the Dane, was ordered to be calapidated as a *monument of idolatry* by the General Assembly! A more degrading fate attended a curiously carved Danish

stone in the parish of Neilston in Renfrewshire. It once stood on the lands of Hawkhead, but it was made a humble bridge over a small rivulet between that property and Arthurlie. There is also an obelisk in the parish of Kirkden in Forfarshire, on which are represented some imperfect figures of horses, supposed to have been erected upon the defeat of the Danes by Malcolm II. about the same time with the Cross at Camuston.

In the Island of Lismore there is an old castle, with a fusee and drawbridge, said to have been built by the Northern Pirates. There are six Danish signal places in the parish of Kilmuir in the Island of Skye, and though the Gaelic language is principally spoken by the inhabitants, most of the names of places in that Island are derived from the Danish or Norwegian. There are two ruins, called castles, of Danish forts in the parish of Loudon in Ayrshire, one of which is surrounded by a deep ditch, which was crossed by a drawbridge. Bracadale, in Inverness-shire, contains several Danish forts, the outer wall of one of which is still entire, constructed of large dry stones without mortar or any kind of cement, but very regularly and artificially laid together. About a mile from Forgan in Perthshire, there is a place called *Castlelaw*, on the summit of a conical hill, which was defended on all sides by a stone wall, the vestiges of which still remain. The general opinion is that this was a Danish fortification. This place commands a most extensive prospect to the mouth of the Tay on the east, all Strathearn to the Grampians on the west, a great part of the counties of Perth and Forfar on the north and north-east, and the top of the Lomond Hills on the south.

There are several Danish forts, or places of observation, in the united parishes of Larbert and Dunipace in Stirlingshire—particularly one at Larbert, a second at Braes, and a third at Upper Torwood. On the western shores of Argyle, and in the north-eastern counties of Scotland, these

memorials are numerous. The Danes furnish the only memorials of antiquity in the parish of Barrie in Forfarshire, and these are connected with their misfortunes. There are numerous tumuli, the traces of a camp in the neighbourhood, and Carnoustie, or the *Cairn of Heroes*, is the name of a village and estate, in the vicinity of which is a rivulet which was coloured with blood for three days. These tumuli are the graves of the marauders who fell in the desperate engagement near Panbride.

In the parish of Falkland in Fife, between the towns of Falkland and Auchtermuchty, on the south side of the Eden, there are the remains of a Danish camp. A neighbouring village is still called *Dunshelt*, supposed to be a corruption of *Danes Halt*. This camp is of a circular form.—On Kaimes Hill and South Platt Hill, in the parish of Ratho, were two Danish encampments, and the latter position was probably selected from the extensive prospect it commands, as there is a full view of the Forth from Stirling to the Island of May, the coasts of Fife, Mid-Lothian, and Haddington, and the hills in the counties of Perth, Stirling, and Dumbarton, as far as the “lofty Ben-Lomond.”—An hieroglyphical column, which stands conspicuous on the moor of Rhynie in Aberdeenshire, is another memorial of a conflict with the odious Danes.—At Sandwick, in the parish of Nigg, on the east shore of Ross, there is an obelisk with sculptures of beasts and a cross, and here, according to tradition, three sons of a Danish king were interred. A similar stone in the churchyard is ascribed to the Danes.—An obelisk about ten feet high, with carved figures, in the parish of Eddeston in Ross-shire, is said to mark the place of the interment of a Danish prince.—One of a similar description is near the parish church of Criech in the county of Sutherland, and at the parish church of Farr, in the same county, is a large sculptured stone which intimates the grave of a Danish chief



who rested quietly here after all his savage deeds. At Wick, in Caithness, there is a large stone with hieroglyphic characters, which is said to mark the grave of a Danish princess, the wife of one of the piratical Vikingr.

In the parish of Craignish, in the county of Argyle, there are the remains of many Danish fortified eminences. These must have been reared without lime or mortar of any kind, and from their construction striking proofs are given of the strength and perseverance, though none of the taste and genius, of the Pirate invaders. Many grey stones also rear their heads in the heath, and mark the graves of the warriors of ancient times. A cluster of these rude obelisks is to be seen near the mansion of Craignish, which the proprietor has allowed to stand unmolested. Farther up the valley, towards the mountains, there was erected one of a more than ordinary size, to distinguish the grave of a warrior who fell in the pursuit, and remains of cairns, which covered the graves where the ashes of the dead were deposited, are to be seen. Tradition represents this as the locality of a bloody engagement between the Danes and the natives, in which Olaus, a son of the King of Denmark, was slain. Near the field of battle there is a little mount, which is called *Dunan Aula*, or the *Little Hill of Olaus*. During the eighteenth century, while some workmen were employed in inclosing this spot, after removing some loose stones they discovered a grave composed of four flags. A minute inspection disclosed to them an ancient urn. Expecting to find a treasure they broke the urn, and found nothing but the ashes of Olaus!

In the parish of Culross there are still the remains of two Danish camps of the usual oval form, one near a place called Burrowan, which is said to be the retreat of the Danes after their defeat near Inverkeithing; the other is in Culross muir, and was occupied by the rovers before the battle near that little royal burgh. The vicinity of the

town of Cromarty contains many memorials of the invaders, who are reputed to have sustained a severe defeat in a large muir called Mullbuy. In various parishes throughout the Western Highlands and the Hebrides, Danish forts and cairns constantly occur, the purposes of which, from their peculiar situations, are obvious. It would be tedious to enumerate all these monuments of antiquity, which show the enterprising spirit of the piratical Northmen, and the determined courage of the ancient Scottish inhabitants, who constantly and successfully repelled the invaders from their shores. While England was compelled to submit for a time to the government of a Danish prince, Scotland preserved its independence, and the "stormy north" was the scene of many a sanguinary conflict. These battles are inseparably connected with the traditions of the country, and the localities are still pointed out with the utmost accuracy. It may easily be inferred that the terror which the invasions of the roving Vikings excited throughout the country was intense, and that it required the most desperate exertions of the ancient Scots to repel an enemy whose career was marked by desolation and blood