

never again allow that mass of fair hair of his to be cut until he had become sole master and King of Norway. He kept his word, and won his kingdom and his bride, and got his hair cut. Thus it came about, curiously enough, that what is now called America, first became known to the forefathers of the fair-skinned race who now rule this continent.

That result came about in this way. A large proportion of the haughty and hitherto independent Norsemen entertained very decided objections to Harald's proceedings, for he not only insisted upon being sole monarch of Norway; he further insisted upon keeping his kingdom in order, and especially in putting down the *Viking* occupation or piracy, especially upon the coast of his own domains. As this was not only the principal means of amusement, but a large source of profit to the more irrepressible Jarls and their congenial followers, it was but natural that they should resent such an unheard of innovation on Harald's part. He was not a king, however, with whom many of the disaffected were desirous of contending openly and face to face. So there came into vogue amongst this class a variety of rebellion which seems a novelty to our modern conceptions, but which was not uncommon in long-past centuries, and especially among Asiatic peoples. That is, they rebelled by summarily packing themselves on board their ships—being pre-eminently a sea-faring people—hauling up anchor and taking their departure to other and strange lands, where they could do as they pleased.

Divers were the countries to which these impatient Norsemen hied in their search for what they considered free and independent homes. There was one of these chieftains of men, and a thorough Viking, too, whose headquarters had been in and about the three Vigten Islands, on the mid-Norway coast, named Rollo, or Rolf. He was also surnamed *The Ganger*—

probably from the very determined, expeditious, and effective way in which he gathered up his followers, and 'ganged' out of Norway, and into what was found to be a much more pleasant country. However that may be, Rolf the Ganger and his followers, in the year A.D. 876, sailed down from their native fiords in force, and, with but little ado about it, pounced upon the Northern coast of what we now call France. There they extended themselves, and conquered, and gave their name to the tract of country which they appropriated; and thus Rolf, or Rollo, became the first Duke of Normandy.

Others of these Norsemen who resented Harald Haarfagr's rule, went out and colonized the Faroe Islands, said to have been previously inhabited. Others went to the Shetlands, the Orkneys, and the Hebrides, of all of which they had, doubtless, known something before. But the immigration in which we are most interested just now, is that of the daring Norse adventurers who made their way to the still more distant Iceland. That island had been discovered by some of these restless and fearless explorers a few years before. They had found it uninhabited at the time; but they also found there certain utensils employed in Christian rites and other remains, clearly indicating that this remote region had already been the abodes, for a time, of some Irish monks. To Iceland, then, boldly steered those whom we may fairly suppose to have been the most unmanageable and implacable of the Norsemen whom Harald Haarfagr sought to reduce to his rule. There, in that far-remote and only too-well named region, they might well suppose that they would be safe, without the reach of the conquering arms and detested laws of the self-made king—Harald Haarfagr.

This migration from Norway to Iceland was no combined expedition and hostile invasion, such as that which went forth from the Vigten Is-