

KING OLAF OF NORWAY.

THE Saga of King Olaf Tryggveson, of Norway, which includes the narrative of the establishment of Christianity in the island of Iceland, by public act, in the year 1000, as in Norway several years before, has preserved for this age the names of the mariners who in 1001, and between that year and 1012, made voyages to Wineland, the great land in the West, since named America. They who doubt the authenticity of the Saga because it relates to maritime adventures of which they had not otherwise been informed, forget that it also relates occurrences which happened elsewhere, and are recorded in English Saxon Chronicles, such as Olaf Tryggveson's expedition to England, when he pulled down London Bridge, and his detention in Ireland as a prisoner of war, where he was beloved by an Irish princess, was converted to Christianity and baptized. Although these olden 'Noroway' voyagers made no permanent settlement on the American coast, it is no idle theme to trace them thither. From their race the modern sea-coast population of Holland, Flanders, Northern France and Britain inherit the instincts of maritime adventure and the art of ship building. To this day the names of the parts of a ship, as keel, futtocks, helm, deck, mast, boom, bowsprit, anchor, the flukes of the anchor; cable-tow, and the act of towing, and many more such terms, as the 'dog-watch, remain in use, testifying by their Scandinavian etymology that modern navigation is inherited from the North.

Along the coast of England, in parts of Scotland and Ireland, names of Norwegian places and persons may be traced. So also social habits and popular amusements. The whittling of a piece of wood by a person indulging in thoughtful reverie, or by two persons at a trading contract, in which exchange (or 'swapping'—a Norwegian word) is an element, may be seen among the east coast fishermen of England and of Scotland to this day, as well as among the people of New England, in America.

From the Norwegian Thorwald, the name of the second of the Ericsons, Norman navigators, who visited the coast of America in the year 1003, and was killed, probably, at Fall river in Massachusetts, in the third winter of residence there, came the name Thorold to the counties of Lincoln and Norfolk in England in the early middle ages; and from old England to New England in America; and from thence with the United Empire Loyalists to Canada, at the time of the American revolution in 1779-1780; and thus is traced the name of Thorold in the county of Lincoln, Canada West. There also, is the county of Welland and the Welland canal, named from Welland, in England, which is a mis-writing of the old Scandinavian word Helland, (Stoneland) the name given by one of the first Norman mariners to the island since called Newfoundland, in the year 1001, and to the coast of Labrador, by Thorwald Ericson and his companions in 1003. The chief city of New England, Boston, was founded and named by the descendants of Scandinavian settlers on the shores of Lincolnshire in England. The Saga of Olaf, first Christian king of Norway, already referred to, relates that being seated with his attendants on a Sunday, he became thoughtful, and taking a knife and piece of wood began whittling 'spunks.' He had ordered that the Christian Sabbath was to be religiously observed; no amusements to be indulged in; no work done that might be avoided. Fearing to offend his royal master an attendant thought to remind him of the offence he was committing by an indirect hint. 'Sire,' said he, 'to-morrow is Monday.' The king continued to whittle. The courtier tried again. 'May it please your majesty, to-morrow is Monday.' Then king Olaf comprehended the hint so respectfully conveyed; and causing the whittlings to be gathered carefully and placed on his open hand, they were set on fire and burned there. And this he did in the name of justice, so that none might complain that they suffered