

invasion of a more developed and superior class of people, as very few traces have been found of a transition period, such as in other countries marks the change from a lower to a higher culture. For centuries the inhabitants of "Skandia," as Pliny names it, dwelt in their northern land, almost unknown to the other citizens of the world. While Greece was elaborating its philosophy and its religion of the beautiful and the Roman legions were conquering the world, there dwelt men beyond their influence and power in the unexplored north, who, at a later period, were to come forth, and in a certain sense carry on the work which intellect and law had begun.

THE VIKING AGE.

The commonplace idea that a man's religion forms the greater part of his life is well illustrated in the life and work of the ancient Northmen. Their beliefs regarding the eternal world were influenced to a very large degree by the conditions existing among them, where the struggle for existence was unceasing and keen. The elements warred against them day by day; the wild inhospitable land had to be conquered. The Vikings were the result. It is well to remember that they were thrust forth into lives of adventure, discovery and bloodshed by their religion. Strength was idolized, war glorified as