

## ENGLAND BEFORE THE CONQUEST

their work that much of it remains to this day. In A.D. 410 the Roman legions were recalled from Britain to defend their own country. The people had become accustomed to Roman rule; they had not been allowed to bear arms, and they had forgotten how to defend themselves. They were soon quarrelling one with another, when they should have united in all their strength to oppose fresh foes who now threatened to wrest their island from them.



Saxon Drinking Horn

At that time there were living in the north of Germany two tribes, the Angles and the Saxons, a fierce people who had never bowed to Roman rule. They were sea-rovers, and in their pirate boats pushed forth to seek fresh lands to conquer.

In A.D. 450 Hengest and Horsa, leaders of these Viking tribes, invited by the Southern Britons to help them to fight the Picts and Scots from the North,



Saxon Sword

landed at Ebbsfleet. That day was the beginning of English history. The men who came to "aid" the Britons began to rob them of their own land, and they were quickly followed by a host of their kinsmen, who seized the country to the East and South. Before the Saxon conquest was completed the Britons had to go through terrible sufferings. They were either ruthlessly massacred, for no quarter was given after a battle, or were driven to the wild mountainous regions of Wales