THE VIKINGS.

By Dr. Oscar Montelius.

During the second century emigration from Scandinavia was noticeable and the Viking period of the ninth and tenth centuries was a continuation of this emigration, but by different means and in other directions. The spirit of travel is not yet dead in the Swedes, and they have peopled large portions of the present United States. The earlier migrations had been to the south, by the transcontinental route through Germany and Austria, those of the Vikings included northern Germany, England, Scotland, Normandy and Russia.

In the earlier times the Scandinavians were much at home in northern Germany, for they were akin in blood to the people, but such was the admixture of southerners with the Germans in the earlier centuries of the Christian era that they found themselves in a way in a foreign country. Some of these travels were truly remarkable. The Vikings, skilled in the handling of their boats, which had sails, crossed the Baltic, sailed up the Dwina river, till at a convenient place there was a short "carry" to the Dnieper which they followed down to the Black Sea. Coasting Crimea into the sea of Azof, they followed up the Don to another convenient place across which they transported their boats to the Volga, down which they sailed to the Caspian. When one considers the times and the means, such journeys were wonderful, and betoken remarkable knowledge of the geography of eastern Europe.

In Russia the Vikings met the Arabs, just as one may meet to-day at Nizhni-Novgorod the people from the south, and many Arab coins came into the possession of the Scandinavians. As many as 20,000 such coins have been exhumed in Sweden, and it is thought that from the stock of money all the silver was produced which these people used for their ornaments. The quantity of silver and number of coins are evidences of the great amount of the trade. One of the interesting items relating to this journeying is the story of an Arab, Ibn, Fozlan, who in the tenth century describes the death of a Scandinavian merchant in the interior of Russia and tells how he was buried with ceremonies in his ship, a close confirmation of the customs that have been observed so often in so many of the graves of Sweden.

It was a comparatively simple matter for the Vikings to coast and hence it is not strange that they skirted Norway to the northern ocean and into the White Sea, where they made landings at Archangel. Swedes and Norwegians together went to England, to Scotland and to the Isle of Man. A rune speaks of a Swede who had been to England and had returned. There were many of these emigrants to Northumberland. They occupied Scotland and Ireland, and were in the Manxland for two centuries, taking with them possibly that form of the Swastika which is to-day the emblem of the island, the three running legs, the trisule. In all of these countries there are many evidences of the occupation of them by the Scandinavians. As they had coasted to the north, so the Vikings skirted the shore to the south, settling in Normandy, passing Gibraltar and even to the Adriatic. A lion that guards the arsenal in Venice has carved on his side a Scandinavian rune, showing the presence there a thousand years ago of men from the north. It is said, indeed, that the Vikings went once on an expedition to conquer Rome, but someone misinformed them as to the location of the Imperial City, so that it was only one of the smaller places they got for their pains. A rune tells of a man with five sons; one died in Greece and others lived in Constantinople.

From Ireland to Iceland was only a short distance for these skilled sailors, and the Scandinavians settled the country, which before that time had been merely the retreat for a few religious recluses. From Iceland to Greenland and thence to Vinland were the further voyages of the Vikings.—The American Antiquarian and Oriental Journal.

COURTESY.

A new and rather awkward statesman, still unused to the life about him, was taking tea at the house of a lady, and was suddenly overwhelmed with mortification by breaking the beautiful Sevres cup from which he had been drinking. But before he could frame an apology its mate met with an accident in the hand of the hostess, and she turned to the servant with a quiet order: "Never put these cups on again; they're too brittle for use." She considered the sacrifice of a costly cup, nothing in comparison with the comfort and self-respect of a guest; and yet many persons seem to think that bringing the blunders and ignorance f others into notice is a proof of their own superiority. The democracy that teaches the finest and truest courtesy is Christianity.

AUTUMN LEAVES.

In the hush and the lonely silence
Of the chill October night
Some wizard has worked his magic
With fairy fingers light.
The leaves of the sturdy oak trees
Are splendid with crimson and red,
And the golden flags of the maple
Are fluttering overhead.

Through the tangle of faded grasses
There are trailing vines ablaze,
And the glory of warmth and color
Gleams through the autumn haze
Like banners of marching armies
That farther and farther go;
Down the winding roads and valleys
The boughs of the sumacs glow.

So open your eyes, little children,
And open your hearts as well,
Till the charm of the bright October
Shall fold you in its spell.

ON RAINY DAYS.

"I've fixed up for the children," apologized a friend when I happened in one rainy day, and found her arrayed as if for a party. "They have got so they expect it now; it is as much a matter of pride to them as a new dress for themselves would be. When a rainy day fairly sets in I don my party gown and hold a reception for the children. Occasionally I allow them to invite several of their little friends to supper, and at these times I plan an entertainment a trifle out of the ordinary, and allow the children also to 'fix up,' as they call it. A rainy day is never a dull one in our home; in fact, I think it is rather looked forward to by all of us."

This idea of dressing up for the sake of one's children is an excellent one, as it not only gives them a sense of pride in their mother, but also teaches them to practice those little acts of courtesy learned nowhere so readily as in the home.

The mother who allows herself to drop into disorderly, untidy habits of dress, and employs a rainy day, when no company is expected, to wear shabby apparel, or fail to arrange her hair becomingly; in a word, the mother who wears her working regalia all day because it is a little less trouble, will soon find her children developing equally lax habits. Mother sets the example which all observing children are bound in time to follow.

The custom of dressing up only when company is expected, or when the weather is fine, is a bad one to get into. It fosters a feeling of disrespect in the children for the mother who has so little consideration for those of her own household as to allow them to view her in clothes in which she would be ashamed to have her next door neighbor see her arrayed.—Helen M. Richardson, in The Housekeeper.

SAFETY FOR CHILDREN.

Mothers should never give their little ones a medicine that they do not know to be absolutely safe and harmless. The so-called soothing medicines contain opiates that stupify the child without curing its ailments. An over dose of these medicines may kill the child. Baby's Own Tablets is the only child's medicine that gives the mother the guarantee of a government analyst that it contains no poisonous opiate or harmful drug. The Tablets cure constipation, indigestion, wind colic, diarrhoea, destroy worms, break up colds, and make teething easy. Sold by all medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

MAY OR MUST.

Elsie had brought an acquaintance home from school with her, and Mrs. Parkin heard them talking together over their dolls.

"Will you plase see what time it is?" asked Corinne, the little visitor.

"Oh, it isn't time for you to go yet!" answered Elsie.

"Well, I want to be home by half-past five," was the reply, "because if I am, mamma is going to let me set the table and help her get tea."

"Do you like housework?" asked Elsie. "I just hate it!"

"Oh, I love to dust and set table and make beds! Mamma let me make her bed yesterday because I stood ten in spelling."

"I thought making beds was awfully hard," returned Elsie. "I never did any but my mother said the other day that I'd got to make my own pretty soon."

"You'll like it," Elsie went on, happily. "It is fun to see how smooth you can make the bedclothes, and pat out the pillows."

"You don't like to sweep, do you?" queried Elsie. "Mamma made me run the carpet sweeper round the library last Saturday, because I got some litter on the floor, but 'twasn't any fun."

"Oh, I think that's nicer than anything!" broke out Corinne in a surprised voice. "Mamma lets me run the sweeper round all the rooms Saturday morning, if I've been real good. Sometimes I play I'm taking my little baby sister out to ride. It is fun to see how much brighter the carpet is where you've been, too. Last time I played I was mowing the lawn, and the bright streaks I made was where the grass had been cut."

"Maybe I'd like that," responded Elsie.

The doorbell put an end to the talk as far as Mrs. Parkin was concerned, and the little visitor soon went home.

Elsie's mother thought things over that evening and resolved that she would say "may" oftener and "must" less. "It never occurred to me to treat little household duties as privileges," she said to herself.

The next Friday Elsie brought home an unusually good school report. Now was Mrs. Parkin's chance.

"You have been such a good scholar this week," she said, "I am going to let you help me bake to-morrow." She smiled, yet she wondered how her little girl would take the proffered reward. She need not have feared.

"Oh, and may I stir the molasses into the gingerbread and cut out the cookies?" Elsie cried.

"Yes."

"Oh, goody!" was the response.

The "helping" was really a hindering but Mrs. Parkin overlooked that part of it, feeling that she had made a gain in the right direction. Afterward when Elsie was "allowed" to use the carpet sweeper in the sewing-room, and went to her task with alacrity, her mother was thankful for the unconscious assistance of little Corinne.