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## FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS

**How the Sea Rovers Came to Iceland a Thousand Years Ago**



MORE than a thousand years ago there was a king in Norway named Harald. He made up his mind that he would subdue all the turbulent sea-rovers and chieftains who lived in the land, and he took an oath that he would neither comb nor cut his hair until he had succeeded. He took twelve years to accomplish his task, and his hair grew very thick and long. But when at last he had it combed and trimmed, he looked such a fine fellow that he was called Harald hinn Harfagra, or Harald the Fairhaired.

was very little wood for fuel.

Nevertheless, the discontented subjects of King Harald resolved to go to this new and uncomfortable country; anything seemed better than Harald's stern government.

The first to set forth to try his fortune in the unknown land was a man named Floki. Before he started he made a great sacrifice, consecrated three ravens to the heathen gods and took them to guide him on his journey.

He touched at the Shetlands and the Faroe Islands, and then when he was some way out to sea, he let loose one of the birds. Up, up flew the raven, then paused, then flew straight back to the Faroe Islands.

But Floki who did not at all wish to return now that he had once started, de-



FIND THE CHIEFTAIN INGOLF SEEKS

But he was such a severe king that many of his subjects could not bear his rule, and made up their minds that they would go away to some other land where they could do as they liked. They were especially enraged because when they went out on pirating expeditions, they were no longer allowed to attack the homes and fields of their own countrymen, but only those of their enemies; for King Harald found it a hard task to put down piracy, when the pirates were his own subjects.

Now, just before this time Iceland had been discovered. It could not have been a very attractive place to make a colony in, for it consisted of wild, barren mountains, some of them active volcanoes, and desolate plains and valleys.

Here and there along the coast were small stretches of good land; but even on these spots corn would not ripen on account of the cold, and the hay would often be frozen in the summer, and there

decided that the bird had only flown to the nearest land, and that it was no guide at all; so on he went.

Then he let loose the second raven, but that returned to the ship again, proving that land must still be far out of sight. But when at last, he let loose the third raven, it flew northward, and Floki guided his ship by its course, until at last, he reached the coast of Iceland.

But he did not have a very happy time in the new country, for all his cattle died during the winter, and the spring was colder even than usual; so in the summer he returned to Norway, having given the land the name of Iceland.

Soon after Floki's failure, two chiefs, named Hiorleif and Ingolf, made another attempt. Ingolf had wintered in the island, and, somehow managed to be pleased with it; he and his friends, therefore, made grand preparations to go and settle there.

First, they held a "blotveisla"—that is

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