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AMERICA

DISCOVERED

IN THE

TENTH CENTURY.

By CHARLES C. RAFN,

SECRETARY TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ANTIQUARIES,

COPENHAGEN.

NEW YORK:

WILLIAM JACKSON, 102 BROADWAY.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE ANTE-COLUMBIAN HISTORY OF AMERICA has of late, more than formerly, been favoured with public attention. Facts which shed an unexpected light on this remote period, formerly supposed to be wrapped in Cimmerian darkness, have been gathered from various sources. We have been repeatedly surprised by many a hint, nay more, by many an incontestable sign, presented to us, and now at length we rely with increased confidence on those researches whose object is to brighten up and illustrate the obscure recesses of antiquity.

The discovery of America in the tenth century may justly be considered as one of the very remarkable events in the history of the world; and discerning posterity will not refuse to the hardy Scandinavians who effected it, that place in the world's annals, to which their achievements have given them an irrefragable title. Here, however, nothing is to be expected beyond a concise and summary view of the ancient historical events which occurred in America proper, and of such notices respecting the geography, hydrography, and natural history of that part of the world, as are preserved in the ancient records of

Scandinavia, now published in the "ANTIQUITATES AMERICANÆ." In the remote age now alluded to, Greenland had a considerable European population, forming a distinct diocese. But the great mass of records which relate to this polar region of America, could not be noticed. It is to be remembered, that the discovery of Iceland about the middle of the ninth century, the settlement there made by Ingolf, in the year 874, and the subsequent complete colonization of the country, which, in the course of a century, was effected by some of the most powerful and wealthy families of the North, were occurrences preceding the discovery of America. But then the seas about Iceland having been navigated in all directions for a considerable time, Greenland could not remain undiscovered; and, glancing at the vast number of original records extant, relative to the history of the Icelandic settlement, and observing the stir and bustle which at that time agitated this remote island, the discovery of America will appear almost as an inevitable consequence of the natural course of things, or at least as an event easily accounted for.

The author of the following pages will with confidence abide the verdict of discerning readers, as to the question, whether the validity of the title be established by their contents.

AN ABSTRACT

OF THE

HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

CONTAINED IN THE

"ANTIQUITATES AMERICANÆ."

BIARNE HERIULFSON'S VOYAGE IN THE YEAR 986.

ERIC THE RED, in the spring of 986, emigrated from Iceland to Greenland, formed a settlement there, and fixed his residence at Brattalid in Ericsfiord. Among others who accompanied him was Heriulf Bardson, who established himself at Heriulfsnes. BIARNE, the son of the latter, was at that time absent on a trading voyage to Norway; but in the course of the summer returning to Eyrar, in Iceland, and finding that his father had taken his departure, this bold navigator resolved "still to spend the following winter, like all the preceding ones, with his father," although neither he nor any of his people had ever navigated the Greenland sea. They set sail, but met with northerly winds and fogs, and, after many days sailing, knew not whither they had been carried. At length, when the weather again cleared up, they saw a land which was without mountains, overgrown with wood, and having many gentle elevations. As this land did not correspond to the descriptions of Greenland, they left it on the larboard hand, and continued sailing two days, when they saw another land which was flat, and overgrown with wood. From thence they stood out to sea, and sailed three days

with a S.W. wind, when they saw a third land, which was high and mountainous, and covered with icebergs (*glaciers ;*) they coasted along the shore, and saw that it was an island. They did not go on shore, as Biarne did not find the country to be inviting. Bearing away from this island, they stood out to sea with the same wind, and after four days sailing with fresh gales, they reached Heriulsfnes, in Greenland.

DISCOVERIES OF LEIF ERICSON, AND FIRST SETTLEMENT OF VINELAND.

Some time after this, probably in the year 994, Biarne paid a visit to Eric, earl of Norway, and told him of his voyage, and of the unknown lands he had discovered. He was blamed by many for not having examined these countries more accurately. On his return to Greenland there was much talk about undertaking a voyage of discovery. LEIF, a son of Eric the Red, bought Biarne's ship, and equipped it with a crew of thirty-five men, among whom was a German, of the name of TYRKER, who had long resided with his father, and who had been very fond of Leif in his childhood. In the year 1000 they commenced the projected voyage, and came first to the land which Biarne had seen last. They cast anchor and went on shore. No grass was seen ; but every where in this country were vast ice-mountains (*glaciers,*) and the intermediate space between these and the shore was, as it were, one uniform plain of slate (*hella :*) the country appearing to them destitute of good qualities, they called it **HELLU-LAND.** They put out to sea, and came to another land where they also went on shore. The country was level (*slètt,*) and covered with woods, and wheresoever they went, there were cliffs of white sand (*sand-ar hvítir,*) and a low coast (*ó-sæ-bratt ;*) they called the country **MARK-LAND** (*Woodland.*) From

thence they again stood out to sea, with a N.E. wind, and continued sailing for two days, before they made land again. They then came to an island which lay to the eastward of the mainland, and entered a channel between this island and a promontory projecting in an easterly (and northerly) direction from the mainland. They sailed westward in waters where there was much ground left dry at ebb-tide. Afterwards they went on shore at a place where a river, issuing from a lake, fell into the sea. They brought their ship into the river, and from thence into the lake, where they cast anchor. Here they constructed some temporary log-huts; but, afterwards, when they had made up their mind to winter there, they built large houses, afterwards called **LEIFS-BUÐIR** (*Leifsbooths.*) When the buildings were completed, Leif divided his people into two companies, who were by turns employed in keeping watch at the houses, and in making small excursions for the purpose of exploring the country in the vicinity: his instructions to them were, that they should not go to a greater distance than that they might return in the course of the same evening, and that they should not separate from one another. Leif took his turn also, joining the exploring party the one day, and remaining at the houses the other. It so happened that one day the German, Tyrker, was missing. Leif accordingly went out with twelve men in search of him, but they had not gone far from their houses, when they met him coming towards them. When Leif enquired why he had been so long absent, he at first answered in German, but they did not understand what he said. He then said to them in the Norse tongue: "I did not go much farther, yet I have a discovery to acquaint you with; I have found vines and grapes." He added, by way of confirmation, that he had been born in a country where there was plenty of vines. They had now two occupations, viz., to hew timber for loading the ship, and collect grapes; with these last they filled the ship's long

boat. Leif gave a name to the country, and called it VÍN-LAND (*Vineland.*) In the spring they sailed again from thence, and returned to Greenland.

THORWALD ERICSON'S EXPEDITION TO MORE SOUTHERN REGIONS.

Leif's Vineland voyage was now a subject of frequent conversation in Greenland, and his brother THORWALD was of opinion that the country had not been sufficiently explored. He accordingly borrowed Leif's ship, and, aided by his brother's counsel and directions, commenced a voyage in the year 1002. He arrived at Leifsbooths, in Vineland, where they spent the winter, he and his crew employing themselves in fishing. In the spring of 1003 Thorwald sent a party in the ship's long-boat on a voyage of discovery southwards. They found the country beautiful and well wooded, with but little space between the woods and the sea; there were likewise extensive ranges of white sand, and many islands and shallows. They found no traces of men having been there before them, excepting on an island lying to the westward, where they found a wooden shed. They did not return to Leifsbooths until the fall. In the following summer, 1004, Thorwald sailed eastward with the large ship, and then northward past a remarkable headland enclosing a bay, and which was opposite to another headland. They called it KIAL-AR-NES (*Keel Cape.*) From thence they sailed along the eastern coast of the land, into the nearest firths, to a promontory which there projected, and which was every where overgrown with wood. There Thorwald went ashore with all his companions. He was so pleased with this place, that he exclaimed: "This is beautiful! and here I should like well to fix my dwelling!" Afterwards,

when they were preparing to go on board, they observed on the sandy beach, within the promontory, three hillocks, and repairing thither, they found three canoes, under each of which were three Skrellings (Esquimaux;) they came to blows with the latter, and killed eight, but the ninth escaped with his canoe. Afterwards a countless number issued forth against them from the interior of the bay. They endeavoured to protect themselves by raising battle screens on the ship's side. The Skrellings continued shooting at them for a while, and then retired. Thorwald was wounded by an arrow under the arm, and finding that the wound was mortal, he said, "I now advise you to prepare for your departure as soon as possible, but me ye shall bring to the promontory, where I thought it good to dwell; it may be that it was a prophetic word that fell from my mouth about my abiding there for a season; there shall ye bury me, and plant a cross at my head, and another at my feet, and call the place KROSS-A-NES (*Crossness*) in all time coming." He died, and they did as he had ordered. Afterwards, they returned to their companions at Leifsbooths, and spent the winter there; but, in the spring of 1005, they sailed again to Greenland, having important intelligence to communicate to Leif.

UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT OF THORSTEIN ERICSON.

Thorstein, Eric's third son, had resolved to proceed to Vineland to fetch his brother's body. He fitted out the same ship, and selected twenty-five strong and able-bodied men for his crew: his wife Gudrida also went along with him. They were tossed about the ocean during the whole summer, and knew not whither they were driven; but at the close of the first week of winter they landed at Ly-

sufiord, in the western settlement of Greenland. There Thorstein died during the winter; and, in the spring, Gudrida returned again to Ericsfiord.

SETTLEMENT EFFECTED IN VINELAND, BY THORFINN.

In the following summer, 1006, there arrived in Greenland two ships from Iceland; the one was commanded by THORFINN, having the very significant surname of KARLSEFNE (i. e. one who promises or is destined to be an able or great man,) a wealthy and powerful man, of illustrious lineage, and sprung from Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Irish, and Scottish ancestors, some of whom were kings or of royal descent. He was accompanied by SNORRE THORBRANDSON, who was also a man of distinguished lineage. The other ship was commanded by BIARNE GRIMOLFSON, of Breidefiord, and THORHALL GAMLASON, of Austfiord. They kept the festival of Yule, or Christmas, at Brattalid. Thorfin became enamoured of Gudrida, and obtained the consent of her brother-in-law, Leif; and their marriage was celebrated in the course of the winter. On this, as on former occasions, the voyage to Vineland formed a favorite theme of conversation, and Thorfin was urged both by his wife and others to undertake such a voyage. It was accordingly resolved on. In the spring of 1007 Karlsefne and Snorre fitted out their ship, and Biarne and Thorhall likewise equipped theirs. A third ship (being that in which Gudrida's father, Thorbiörn, had formerly come to Greenland) was commanded by THORWARD, who was married to FREYDISA, a natural daughter of Eric the Red; and on board the ship was also a man of the name of THORHALL, who had long served Eric as huntsman in summer, and as house-steward in winter, and who had

much acquaintance with the uncolonized parts of Greenland. The whole expedition consisted of one hundred and sixty men; and they took with them all kinds of live stock, it being their intention to establish a colony, if possible. They sailed first to the Westerbygd, and afterwards to Biarney (*Disco.*) From thence they sailed in a southerly direction to **HELLU-LAND**, where they found may foxes; and again two days in a southerly direction to **MARK-LAND**, a country overgrown with wood, and plentifully stocked with animals. Leaving this, they continued in a S.W. direction for a long time, having the land to starboard, until they at length came to **KIAL-AR-NES**, where there were trackless deserts and long beaches and sands, called by them **FURÐU-STRAND-IR.** Passing these, they found the land indented by inlets. They had two Scots with them, HAKE and HEKIA, whom Leif had formerly received from the Norwegian king, Olaf Tryggvason, and who were very swift of foot. They put them on shore, recommending them to proceed in a S.W. direction, and explore the country. After the lapse of three days they returned; bringing with them some grapes and some ears of wheat, which grew wild in that region. They continued their course until they came to a place where a firth penetrated far into the country. Off the mouth of it was an island, past which there ran strong currents, which was also the case farther up the firth. On the island there were an immense number of eyderducks, so that it was scarcely possible to walk without treading on their eggs. They called the island **STRAUM-EY** (*Stream Isle,*) and the firth, **SRAUM-FIÖRÐR** (*Stream Firth.*) They landed on the shore of this firth, and made preparations for their winter residence. The country was extremely beautiful. They confined their operations to exploring the country. Thorhall afterwards wished to proceed in a N. direction in quest of Vineland. Karlsefne chose rather to go to the S.W. Thorhall, and eight men with him,

quitted them, and sailed past Furðustrander and Kialarnes; but they were driven by westerly gales to the coast of Ireland, where, according to the accounts of some traders, they were beaten and made slaves. Karlsefne, together with Snorre and Biarne, and the rest of the ships' companies, in all 131 (CXXXI) men, sailed southwards, and arrived at the place where a river falls into the sea from a lake. Opposite to the mouth of the river were large islands. They steered into the lake, and called the place HÓP (*i Hópe.*) On the low grounds they found fields of wheat growing wild, and on the rising ground, vines. While looking about one morning, they observed a great number of canoes. As they exhibited friendly signals, the canoes approached nearer to them, and the natives looked with astonishment at those they met there. These people were sallow, and ill-looking: had ugly heads of hair, large eyes, and broad cheeks. After they had gazed at them for awhile, they rowed away again to the S.W. past the cape. Karlsefne and his company had erected their dwelling houses a little above the bay, and there they spent the winter. No snow fell, and the cattle found their food in the open field. One morning early, in the beginning of 1008, they descried a number of canoes coming from the S. W. past the cape. Karlsefne having held up a white shield as a friendly signal, they drew nigh, and immediately commenced bartering. These people chose in preference red cloth, and gave furs and squirrel skins in exchange. They would fain also have bought swords and spears, but these Karlsefne and Snorre prohibited their people from selling. In exchange for a skin, entirely gray, the Skrellings took a piece of cloth of a span in breadth, and bound it round their heads. Their barter was carried on in this way for some time. The Northmen found that their cloth was beginning to grow scarce, whereupon they cut it up in smaller pieces, not broader than a finger's breadth; yet the Skrellings gave as much for these smaller pieces as they had

formerly given for the larger ones, or even more. Kärlsefne also caused the women to make and pour out milk soup, and the Skrellings relishing the taste of it, they desired to buy it in preference to every thing else; so they wound up their traffic by carrying away their bargains in their stomachs. Whilst this trade was going on, it happened that a bull, which Karlsefne had brought along with him, came out of the wood and bellowed loudly. At this the Skrellings became terrified, rushed to their canoes, and rowed away southwards. About this time Gudrida, Karlsefne's wife, gave birth to a son, who received the name of SNORRE. In the beginning of the following winter the Skrellings came again in much greater numbers; they showed symptoms of hostility, setting up loud yells. Karlsefne caused the red shield to be borne against them, whereupon they advanced against each other, and a battle commenced. There was a galling discharge of missiles. The Skrellings had a sort of war slings; they elevated on a pole a tremendously large ball, almost the size of a sheep's stomach, and of a bluish colour; this they swung from the pole upon land over Karlsefne's people, and it descended with a fearful crash. This struck terror into the Northmen, and they fled along the river. Freydisa came out, and seeing them flying, she exclaimed: "How can stout men like you fly from these miserable caitiffs, whom I thought you could knock down like cattle! If I had only a weapon, I ween I could fight better than any of you!" They heeded not her words. She tried to keep pace with them, but the advanced state of her pregnancy retarded her: she however followed them into the wood. There she encountered a dead body: it was THORBRAND SNORRASON; a flat stone was sticking fast in his head, and his naked sword lay by his side; this she took up, and prepared to defend herself. She uncovered her bosom, and struck it with the naked sword. At this sight the Skrellings became terrified, and ran off to their canoes.

Karlsefne and the rest now came up to her, and praised her courage. They were now become aware that, although the country held out many advantages, still the life that they would have to lead here, would be one of constant alarm from the hostile attacks of the natives. They therefore made preparations for departure, with the resolution of returning to their own country. Sailing eastward, they arrived in Streamfirth. Karlsefne then took one of the ships, and sailed in quest of Thorhall, while the rest remained behind. They proceeded northwards round Kialarnes, and, after that, were carried to the north-west. The land lay to the larboard of them; there were thick forests in all directions, as far as they could see, with scarcely any open space. They considered the hills at Hope, and those which they now saw, as forming part of one continued range. They spent the third winter at Streamfirth. Karlsefne's son, Snorre, was now three years of age. When they sailed from Vineland, they had southerly wind, and came to Markland, where they met with five Skrellings. They caught two of them (two boys,) whom they carried away with them, and taught them the Norse language, and baptized them. These children said that their mother was called VETHILLDI, and their father UVÆGE; they said that the Skrellings were ruled by chieftains (kings,) one of whom was called AVALLDAMON, and the other VALDIDIDA; that there were no houses in the country, but that the people dwelt in holes and caverns. Biarne Grimolfson was driven into the Irish Ocean, and came into waters that were so infested with worms that their ship was in consequence reduced to a sinking state. Some of the crew, however, were saved in the boat, as it had been smeared with seal-oil tar, which is a preventive against the attack of worms. Karlsefne continued his voyage to Greenland, and arrived at Ericsfiord.

VOYAGE OF FREYDISA, HELGE AND FINNBOGE; THORFINN SETTLES IN ICELAND.

During the same summer, 1011, there arrived in Greenland a ship from Norway, commanded by two brothers, from Austfiord in Iceland, HELGE and FINNBOGE, who passed the following winter in Greenland. FREYDISA went to them, and proposed a voyage to Vineland, on the condition that they should share equally with her in all the profits which the voyage might yield: to this they assented. Freydisa and these brothers entered into a mutual agreement that each party should have thirty able-bodied men on board their ship, besides women; but Freydisa immediately deviated from the agreement, and took with her five additional men, whom she concealed. In 1012 they arrived at Leifsbooths, where they spent the following winter. The conduct of Freydisa occasioned a coolness and distance between the parties; and by her subtle arts she ultimately prevailed on her husband to massacre the brothers and their followers. After the perpetration of this base deed, they, in the spring of 1013, returned to Greenland, where Thorfinn lay ready to sail for Norway, and was waiting for a fair wind: the ship he commanded was so richly laden, that it was generally admitted, that a more valuable cargo had never left Greenland. As soon as the wind became favourable he sailed to Norway, where he spent the following winter, and sold his goods. Next year, when he was ready to sail for Iceland, there came a German from Bremen, who wanted to buy a piece of wood from him: he gave for it half a marc of gold: it was the wood of the Mazer tree, from Vineland. Karlsefne went to Iceland, and, in the following year, 1015, he bought the Glaumbœ estate, in Skagefiord, in the northland quarter,

where he resided during the remainder of his life: his son Snorre, who had been born in America, was his successor on this estate. When the latter married, his mother made a pilgrimage to Rome, and afterwards returned to her son's house at Glaumbœ, where he had in the mean time ordered a church to be built. The mother lived long as a religious recluse. A numerous and illustrious race descended from Karlsefne, among whom may be mentioned the learned bishop Thorlak Runolfson, born in 1085, of Snorre's daughter, Halfrida, to whom we are principally indebted for the oldest ecclesiastical Code of Iceland, published in the year 1123; it is also probable that the accounts of the voyages here mentioned, were originally compiled by him.

A SURVEY OF THE PRECEDING EVIDENCE.

I.—GEOGRAPHY AND HYDROGRAPHY.

It is a fortunate circumstance that these ancient accounts have preserved not only *geographical*, but also *nautical*, and *astronomical facts*, that may serve in fixing the position of the lands and places named. The *nautical facts* are of special importance, although hitherto they have not been sufficiently attended to; these consist in statements of the course steered and the distance sailed in a day. From data in the Landnama and several other ancient Icelandic geographical works, we may gather, that the distance of a day's sailing was estimated at 27 to 30 geographical miles (German or Danish, of which fifteen are equal to a degree: each of these being, accordingly, equal to four English sea-miles.) From the island of HELLU-LAND, afterwards called little Helluland, Biarne sailed to Heriulfsnes (*Iki-geit*,) in Greenland, with strong

south-westerly gales, in four days. The distance between that cape and *Newfoundland* is about one hundred and fifty miles, which will correspond, when we take into consideration the strong gales. In modern descriptions it is stated that this land partly consists of naked rocky flats, where no tree, nor even a shrub, can grow, and which are therefore usually called *Barrens;* thus answering completely to the *hell-ur* of the ancient Northmen, from which they named the country.

MARKLAND was situate to the south-west of Helluland, distant about three days' sail, or from eighty to ninety miles. Here then we have *Nova Scotia*, of which the descriptions given by later writers answer to that given by the ancient Northmen of Markland: "the land is low in general;" "the coast to the sea-ward being level and low, and the shores marked with white rocks;" "the land is low, with white sandy cliffs, particularly visible at sea," says the new 'North American Pilot,' by J. W. Norie, and another American sailor: "on the shore are some cliffs of exceedingly white sand." Here '*level*' corresponds completely to the Icelandic '*slètt*,' '*low to the sea-ward*' to the short expression '*ó-sæ-bratt*,' and '*white sandy cliffs*' to the '*hvít-ir sand-ar*' of the Northmen. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Lower Canada, situate more in-land, which probably may be considered as all belonging to the Markland of the Northmen, are almost everywhere covered with immense forests.

VÍNLAND was situate at the distance of two days' sail, consequently from fifty-four to sixty miles, in a south-westerly direction from Markland. The distance from Cape Sable to Cape Cod is stated in nautical works as being W. by S. about seventy leagues, that is, about two hundred miles. Biarne's description of the coast is very accurate, and in the island situate to the eastward, (between which and the promontory that stretches to eastward and northward Leif sailed) we recognize Nantucket.

The ancient Northmen found there many shallows (*grunn-sœfui mik-it* ;) modern navigators make mention at the same place "of numerous reefs and other shoals," and say "that the whole presents an aspect of drowned land."

KIALARNES (from *kiölr*, a keel, and *nes*, a cape, most likely so named on account of its striking resemblance to the keel of a ship, particularly of one of the long ships of the ancient Northmen) must consequently be *Cape Cod*, the NAUSET of the Indians, which modern geographers have sometimes likened to a Horn, and sometimes to a Sickle, or Scythe. The ancient Northmen found here trackless deserts, (*ör-œfi*) and long narrow beaches and sand-hills, or sands (*strand-ir láng-ar ok sand-ar*) of a very peculiar appearance, on which account they called them FURÐU-STRAND-IR (*Wonder-strands*, from *furð-a*, res miranda, and *strönd*, strand, beach.) Compare the description given of this Cape by a modern author, Hitchcock: "The *Dunes*, or *sand-hills*, which are often nearly or quite barren of vegetation, and of snowy whiteness, *forcibly attract the attention on account of their peculiarity.* As we approach the extremity of the Cape, the sand and barrenness increase; and in not a few places it would need only a party of Bedouin Arabs to cross the traveller's path, to make him feel that he was in the depths of *an Arabian or Lybian desert.*" A remarkable natural phenomenon, which is observed there, has also most probably had a share in giving rise to that peculiar name. It is thus described by the same author: "In crossing *the sands* of the Cape, I noticed *a singular mirage* or deception. In Orleans, for instance, we seemed to be ascending at an angle of three or four degrees; nor was I convinced that such was not the case, until turning about I perceived that a similar ascent appeared in the road just passed over. I shall not attempt to explain this optical deception; but merely remark, that it is probably of the same kind as that observed by Humboldt on the Pampas of Venezuela; "all

around us, says he, the plains seemed to ascend towards the sky." Thus we observe that the appellation given by the ancient Northmen to the three strands, or tracts of coast, *Nauset Beach, Chatham Beach, and Monomoy Beach,* is remarkably appropriate.

The great *Gulf Stream,* as it is called, which issues from the Gulf of Mexico, and runs between Florida, Cuba, and the Bahama Isles, and so northwards in a direction parallel to the eastern coast of North America, and of which the channel, in ancient times, is said to have approached still nearer to the coast, occasions great currents precisely at this place, inasmuch as the peninsula of Barnstaple offers opposition to the stream, as it comes from the southward. The **STRAUM-FIÖRÐR** of the ancient Northmen is supposed to be *Buzzard's Bay;* and **STRAUM-EY,** *Martha's Vineyard;* although the accounts of the many eggs found there would seem more precisely to correspond to the island which lies off the entrance of Vineyard Sound, and which, to this day, is called *Egg Island.*

KROSS-A-NES, is probably *Gurnet Point.* It must have been somewhat to the northward of this, that Karlsefne landed, when he saw the mountain range, (*The Blue Hills,*) which he considered as forming part of the same range, that extends to the region, where we recognize the place named Hóp (*í Hóp-e.*)

The word **HÓP,** in Icelandic, may either denote a small recess, or bay, formed by a river from the interior, falling into an inlet from the sea, or the land bordering on such a bay. To this Mount Hope's Bay, or MONT HAUF's Bay, as the Indians term it, corresponds, through which the Taunton River flows, and, by means of the very narrow, yet navigable, Pocasset River, meets the approaching water of the Ocean at its exit at Seaconnet. It was at this Hópe that Leifsbooths were situate; it was above it, and therefore most probably on the beautiful elevation

called afterwards by the Indians, MONT HAUP, that Thorfinn Karlsefne erected his dwelling-houses.

II.—CLIMATE AND SOIL.

Concerning the climate of the country, and the quality of the soil, and also concerning some of its productions, the ancient writings contain sundry illustrative remarks. The climate was so mild, that it appeared the cattle did not require winter fodder; for there came no snow, and the grass was but slightly withered. Warden uses similar expressions respecting this region: "La température est si douce que *la végétation souffre rarement du froid ou de la sécheresse.* On l'appelle *le paradis de l'Amérique* parce qu'elle l'emporte sur les autres lieux par sa situation, son sol et son climat.." "An excursion from Taunton to Newport, Rhode Island, down Taunton River and Mount Hope Bay, conducts the traveller among scenery of great beauty and loveliness," says Hitchcock; and when he adds, "that the beautiful appearance of the country, and the interesting historical associations connected with that region, conspire to keep the attention alive, and to gratify the taste," he will find that this last remark is applicable to times much more remote than he thought of, when he gave expression to the above sentiment.

A country of such a nature might well deserve the appellation of "THE GOOD," which was the epithet the ancient Northmen bestowed on it; especially as it yielded productions whereon they set a high value, and of which their colder native land was for the most part destitute

III.—PRODUCE AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Vines grew there spontaneously; a circumstance which Adam of Bremen—a foreign writer of the same (that is of the eleventh) century— mentions that he had learned,

not from conjecture, but from authentic accounts furnished by Danes. As his authority on this occasion, he cites the Danish king, Sveyn Estrithson, a nephew of Canute the Great. It is well know that vines still grow in that region in great abundance.

Spontaneously growing wheat (*sjálf-sán-ir hveiti-akrar.*)

At the subsequent arrival of the Europeans, Maize, or Indian corn, as it is called, was found growing here; this the natives reaped without having sowed, and they preserved it in holes in the earth, as it constituted one of their most valuable articles of food. Honeydew was found on the island which lies off it, as is also still the case.

Mazer (*mausur,*) a species of wood of remarkable beauty, probably a species of the Acer rubrum, or Acer saccharinum, which grows here, and which is called "bird's eye," or "curled maple." Wood for building was also obtained here.

A great number of forest animals of all kinds. It is understood that the Indians chose this region in preference, for their abode, chiefly on account of the excellent hunting.

At present the forests are for the most part cut down, and the animals have withdrawn to the interior and woodland regions. From the natives the Northmen bought squirrel skins, and all kinds of peltries, which are still to be found in abundance in this district.

Eyderducks and other *birds* were found in great numbers on the adjacent islands, as is also at present the case, on which account some of them have the name of Egg Islands.

Every river was full of *fish*, among which are mentioned excellent *salmon.* On the coast was also caught a great quantity of fish. The Northmen dug ditches along the shore, within the high water-mark, and when the tide receded, they found *halibuts* in the ditches. On the coast they also caught *whales*, and among these the *reiðr* (Balæna physalus.) In the modern descriptions of this region

it is stated, that "all the rivers are full of fish;" and of the waters in that neighbourhood it is said, "il y a une grande abondance de poissons de presque toutes les espèces." Salmon may be mentioned as one of these. Not long ago, the whale fishery was, in that very region, an important branch of industry; especially for the inhabitants of the adjacent islands. Very possibly the adjacent Whale Rock has its name from the same circumstances.

IV.—ASTRONOMICAL EVIDENCE.

Besides the nautical and geographical statements, one of the most ancient writings has preserved an *astronomical* notice, where it was said, that here the days were of more equal length than in Iceland or Greenland; that, on the shortest day, the sun rose at half past seven o'clock, and set at half past four; which makes the shortest day nine hours. This astronomical observation gives for the place, latitude 41° 24′ 10″. The latitude of Seaconnet Point, and of the southernmost promontory of the Island of Conanni-cut, is 41° 26′ north; and that of Point Judith, 41° 23′. These three headlands form the entrance boundaries of the modern Mount Hope Bay, which the ancients, according to the analogy of their language, no doubt, called Hópsvatn. We thus see that this statement corresponds exactly with the other data, and indicates precisely the same region.

DISCOVERIES OF MORE SOUTHERN REGIONS.

The party sent by Thorwald Ericson in the year 1003, from Leifsbooths, to explore the southern coasts, employed from four to five months in the expedition; they therefore most likely examined the coasts of Connecticut and New York,—probably also those of New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland. The description of this range of coast is accurate.

ARE MARSON'S SOJOURN IN GREAT IRELAND.

In those times the Esquimaux inhabited more southerly regions than they do at present. This is both evident from the ancient accounts, and seems besides to gain corroboration from ancient skeletons which have been dug up in regions even more southerly than those in question; a circumstance which, however, merits a more accurate examination. In the neighbourhood of Vineland, opposite the country inhabited by the Esquimaux, there dwelled, according to their reports, people who wore white dresses, and had poles borne before them, on which were fastened lappets, and who shouted with a loud voice. This country was supposed to be **HVÍTRA-MANN-A-LAND**, as it was called (*the Land of the White Men,*) otherwise called **ÍR-LAND IT MIKLA** (*Great Ireland,*) being probably that part of the coast of North America which extends southwards from Chesapeak Bay, including North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Among the Sha-

wanese Indians, who some years ago emigrated from Florida, and are now settled in Ohio, there is preserved a tradition which seems of importance here; viz. that Florida was once inhabited by white people, who were in possession of iron implements. Judging from the ancient accounts, this must have been an Irish christian people, who, previous to the year 1000, were settled in this region. The powerful chieftain, ARE MARSON, of Reykianes, in Iceland, was, in the year 903, driven thither by storms, and there received baptism. The first author of this account was his contemporary, Rafa, surnamed the Limerick-trader, he having long resided at Limerick, in Ireland. The illustrious Icelandic sage, Are Frode, the first compiler of the Landnama, who was himself a descendant in the fourth degree from Are Marson, states on this subject, that his uncle, Thorkell Gellerson (whose testimony he on another occasion declares to be worthy of all credit) had been informed by Icelanders, who had their information from Thorfinn Sigurdson, Earl of Orkney, that Are had been recognized in Hvitramannaland, and could not get away from thence, but was there held in high respect. This statement therefore shows, that in those times there was an occasional intercourse between the western European countries (the Orkneys and Ireland,) and this part of America.

VOYAGES OF BIÖRN ASBRANDSON, AND GUDLEIF GUDLAUGSON.

It must have been in this same country that BIÖRN AS-BRANDSON, surnamed BREID-VÍK-ÍNGA-KAPPI, spent the latter part of his life. He had been adopted into the celebrated band of Jomsburg warriors, under Palnatoke, and

took part with them in the battle of Fyrisval, in Sweden. His illicit amatory connexion with Thurida of Frodo, in Iceland, a sister of the powerful Snorre Gode, drew upon him the enmity and persecution of the latter; in consequence of which, he found himself obliged to quit the country for ever, and, in the year 999, he set sail from Hraunhöfn, in Sniófelsnes, with a N. E. wind. GUDLEIF GUDLAUGSON, brother of Thorfinn, the ancestor of the celebrated historian, Snorre Sturluson, had made a trading voyage to Dublin; but when he left that place again, with the intention of sailing round Ireland, and returning to Iceland, he met with long continued north-easterly winds, which drove him far out of his course to the south-west, and late in the season he, along with his company, at last made land; the country was very extensive, but they knew not what country it was. On their landing, a crowd of the natives, amounting to several hundreds in number, came against them, overpowered, and bound them. They did not know any body in the crowd, but it seemed to them that their language resembled Irish. The natives now took counsel whether they should kill the strangers, or make slaves of them. While they were deliberating, a large company approached, displaying a banner, close to which rode a man of distinguished appearance, who was far advanced in years, and had gray hair. The matter under deliberation was referred to his decision. He was the aforesaid Biörn Asbrandson. He caused Gudleif to be brought before him, and, addressing him in the Norse language, he asked him whence he came. As he replied that he was an Icelander, Biörn made many enquiries about his acquaintance in Iceland, particularly about his beloved Thurida, of Frodo, and about her son Kiartan, supposed to be his own son, and who at that time was the proprietor of the estate of Frodo. In the meantime, the natives becoming impatient, and demanding a decision, Biörn selected twelve

of his company as counsellors; he took them aside, and some time after, he went towards Gudleif and his companions, and told them that the natives had left the matter to his decision. He thereupon gave them their liberty, and advised them, although the summer was already far advanced, to depart immediately, because the natives were not to be depended on, and were difficult to deal with; and, moreover, conceived that an infringement on their laws had been committed to their disadvantage. He gave them a gold ring for Thurida, and a sword for Kiartan, and told them to charge his friends and relations not to come over to him, as he was now become old, and might daily expect that old age would get the better of him; that the country was large, having but few harbours, and that strangers must everywhere expect a hostile reception. They accordingly set sail again, and found their way back to Dublin, where they spent the winter; but next summer they repaired to Iceland and delivered the presents; and all were convinced that it was really Biörn Asbrandson whom they had met with in that country.

BISHOP ERIC'S VOYAGE TO VINELAND.

It may be considered as certain that the intercourse between Vineland and Greenland was maintained for a considerable period after this, although the scanty notices about Greenland contained in the ancient manuscripts do not furnish us with any satisfactory information on this head. It is however recorded, that the Greenland bishop, ERIC, impelled probably by a christian zeal either of converting the colonists, or of animating them to perseverance in the faith, went over to Vineland in the the year 1121. As we have no information of the result of his voyage, but

can merely gather from the above expression that he reached his destination, we must presume that he fixed his permanent residence in Vineland. His voyage, however, goes to corroborate the supposition of a lengthened intercourse having been kept up between the countries.

DISCOVERIES IN THE ARCTIC REGIONS OF AMERICA.

The next event in chronological order, of which accounts have been preserved in ancient records, is a voyage of discovery in the Arctic regions of America, performed during the year 1266, under the auspices of some clergymen of the bishopric of Garðar, in Greenland. The account of it is taken from a letter, addressed by a clergyman of the name of Halldor, to another clergyman, named Arnold, formerly established in Greenland, but who had then become chaplain to the Norwegian king, Magnus Lagabæter. At that time all men of any consequence in Greenland possessed large vessels, built for the purpose of being dispatched northwards, in hunting and fishing expeditions. The northern regions which they visited were called Norðr-set-ur; the chief stations were Greipar and Króks-fiarð-ar-heiði. The first of these stations is supposed to have been situate immediately to the southward of Disco; but that the ancient Northmen went much farther north on this coast may be inferred from a very remarkable runic stone, found in the year 1824, on the island of Kin-gik-tór-soak, lying in the latitude of 72° 55′ N. The latter-mentioned station was to the north of the former. The object of the voyage is stated to have been, to explore regions lying more to the northward than those they had hitherto been accustomed to visit, con-

sequently lying farther north than **KRÓKS-FIARÐ-AR-HEIÐI**, where they had their summer quarters (*set-ur*,) and which they were therefore regularly accustomed to visit. The following particulars are mentioned relating to this voyage of discovery. They sailed *out of* Króks-fiarð-ar-heiði ; and, after that, encountered southerly winds, accompanied by thick weather, which obliged them to let the ship go before the wind. On the weather clearing up, they saw many islands, and all kinds of prey, both seals and whales, and a great many bears. They penetrated into the innermost part of the gulf, and had icebergs (*glaciers*) lying also to the southward as far as the eye could reach. They observed some vesitges indicating that the Skrellings had in former times inhabited these regions, but they could not land on account of the bears. They then put about and sailed back during three days ; and, now again, they found traces of the Skrellings having been on some islands lying to the southward of a mountain, by them called Sniofell. After this (on St. James's day) they proceeded southwards, a great day's rowing. It froze during the night in those regions, but the sun was above the horizon both night and day ; and when on the meridian, in the south, he was not higher than that when a man lay down across a six-oared boat, stretched out towards the gunwale, the shadow formed by the side of the boat nearest the sun reached his face : but at midnight the sun was as high as when it was (highest) in the northwest, in the Greenland colony. Afterwards they sailed back again to their home at Garðar. Króks-fiarð-ar-heiði, as we have observed above, had been for some time previous regularly visited by the Greenlanders. The name shows that the firth was surrounded by barren highlands (*heið-i* ;) and the description of the voyage shows that it was a firth of considerable extent, in and through which there was room for several days' sail. It is stated, for instance, that they sailed *out of* this firth or sound into another sea,

and into the innermost part of a gulf, and that their returning voyage occupied several days. As to the two observations mentioned as having been taken on St. James's day, the first of them leads to no certain result, as we have no sure means of ascertaining the depth of the boat, or rather the relative depth of the man's position, as he lay across the boat, in reference to the height of the side of the same, so as to enable us to deduce the angle formed by the upper edge of the boat's side and the man's face, which is the angle measuring the sun's altitude at noon on St. James's day, or the 25th of July. If we assume, as we may do with probability, that it was somewhat less than 33°, and yet very near that measure, the place must have been situate near north latitude 75°. There seems no probability that it was a larger angle, and consequently that the place lay more to the southward. The result obtained from the other observation is however more satisfactory. In the thirteenth century, on the 25th of July,

the Sun's declination was + 17° 54′.
Inclination of the Ecliptic 23° 32′.

If we now assume that the colony, and particularly the episcopal seat of Garðar, was situate on the north side of Igaliko Firth, where the ruins of a large church and of many other buildings indicate the site of a principal settlement of the ancient colony, consequently, in 60° 55′ north lat., then, at the summer solstice, the height of the sun there, when in the north-west, was = 3° 40′, equivalent to the midnight altitude of the sun on St. James's day in the parallel of 75° 46′, which falls a little to the north of Barrow's Strait, being in the latitude of Wellington's Channel, or close to the northward of the same. The voyage of discovery undertaken by the Greenland clergymen was therefore carried to regions, which, in our days, have been more accurately explored, and their geographical position determined by Sir William Parry, Sir John

Ross and Capt. James Clark Ross, and other British navigators, in the no less daring and dangerous expeditions conducted by them.

NEWFOUNDLAND RE-DISCOVERED FROM ICELAND.

The discovery next recorded was made by the Iceland clergymen ADALBRAND and THORWALD HELGASON, well known in the history of Iceland as having been involved in the disputes at that time prevailing between the Norwegian king, Eric Priesthater, and the clergy, and which in Iceland were chiefly headed by the governor, Rafa Oddson, and Arne Thorlakson, bishop of Skalholt. Accounts drawn up by contemporaries contain merely the brief notice, that in the year 1285 the above-mentioned clergymen discovered a new land to the westward of Iceland, (*fundu nýja land.*) This land, to which by command of King Eric Priesthater a voyage was some years afterwards projected by Landa-Rolf, is supposed to have been *Newfoundland.*

A VOYAGE TO MARKLAND IN THE YEAR 1347.

The last piece of information respecting America, which our ancient manuscripts have preserved, refers to a voyage in the year 1347, from Greenland to MARK-LAND, performed in a vessel having a crew of seventeen men, being probably undertaken for the purpose of bringing home

building-timber and other supplies from that country. On the voyage homeward from Markland, the ship was driven out of her course by storms, and arrived with loss of anchors at Straumfiord, in the west of Iceland. From the accounts—scanty as they are, of this voyage, written by a contemporary nine years after the event, it would appear, that the intercourse between Greenland and America proper had been kept up to so late a date as the year above mentioned; for it is expressly said that the ship went to Markland, which is thus named as a country that in those days was still known and visited.

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After having perused the authentic documents themselves, which are now accessible to all, every one will acknowledge the truth of the historical fact, that during the tenth and eleventh centuries, the ancient Northmen discovered and visited a great extent of the eastern coasts of North America; and will besides be led to the conviction, that during the centuries immediately following, the intercourse never was entirely discontinued. The main fact is certain and indisputable. On the other hand, there are in these as in all other ancient writings, certain portions of the narrative which are obscure, and which subsequent disquisitions and new interpretations may serve to clear up. On this account it seems of importance that the original sources of information should be published in the ancient language, so that every one may have it in his power to consult them, and to form his own judgment as to the accuracy of the interpretations given.

With regard to such traces of the residence and settlement of the ancient Northmen as, it is presumed, are still to be met with in Massachusetts and Rhode Island (the countries which formed the destination of their earliest American expeditions,) we shall content ourselves for the

present with referring to the hints, which are contained in the "ANTIQUITATES AMERICANÆ." This matter will continue to form a subject for the accurate investigation of the COMMITTEE of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries ON THE ANTE-COLUMBIAN HISTORY OF AMERICA; and the result of this investigation, together with such additional elucidations of the ancient manuscripts as we may have it in our power to furnish, shall be communicated in the ANNALS and MEMOIRS of the Society.

SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE
DES ANTIQUAIRES DU NORD
A COPENHAGUE.

SÉANCE ANNUELLE DU 26 JANVIER 1837.

Le Président, M. Werlauff, Conseiller privé d'État, ouvre la séance par la lecture d'un aperçu général sur l'état de la Société et sur ses opérations pendant l'année 1836.

Fidèle au but qu'elle s'est proposé, la Société a dans le cours de l'année dernière publié les volumes suivants des anciens manuscrits de la littérature du Nord:

FORNMANNA SÖGUR, VOL. XII,
OLDNORDISKE SAGAER, VOL. XII,
SCRIPTA HISTORICA ISLANDORUM, VOL. VII.

Les deux premiers volumes terminent le texte islandais et la traduction danoise de la première série des sagas historiques contenant les évènements passés hors d'Islande. Voici le contenu de ces volumes: 1°. Un aperçu de la chronologie, c'est-à-dire des années du règne des rois de Norvége depuis Harald à la belle chevelure jusqu'à Magnus Lagabæter, et de celui des rois de Danemark depuis Gorm le Vieux jusqu'à Erik Glipping, avec un tableau chronologique de tout l'ouvrage, depuis 851 jusqu'à 1273. 2°. Un registre géographique, en résumé avec indication de la situation des lieux pour le texte original, et très détaillé avec des recherches géographiques pour la traduction danoise. Séparément pour le texte original: 3°. Un registre analytique ou table des matières. 4°. Une rédaction en prose des poèmes ou des chants épars de toutes les sagas avec une interprétation. 5°. Un vocabulaire des mots les plus inusités. Le dernier volume contient en version latine l'histoire des rois de Norvége depuis Magnus Barfod jusqu'à Magnus Erlingson (1093-1184).

Voici les ouvrages des anciens manuscrits qu'on va publier sous peu:

ANTIQUITATES AMERICANÆ, SIVE SCRIPTORES SEPTENTRIONALES RERUM ANTE-COLUMBIANARUM IN AMERICA.

GRÖNLANDS HISTORISKE MINDESMÆRKER, (Monuments historiques de Groenland), Vol. I-II.

RECHERCHES ARCHÉOLOGIQUES EN AMÉRIQUE. Il était nécessaire, pour publier le premier de ces deux ouvrages, de se mettre en rapport avec l'Amérique, afin d'en obtenir des éclaircissements. On s'est donc adressé à la Société historique de Rhode-Island à Providence, qui a formé un comité composé de MM. John R. Bartlett, Albert G. Greene et Thomas H. Webb. Ce comité a été chargé de fournir tous les renseignements qu'on demanderait, et de répondre aux questions qui lui seraient proposées. A cet effet le comité a entrepris, par les soins de la Société, plusieurs voyages dans le MASSACHUSETTS et le RHODE-ISLAND, afin de se mettre à même de remplir sa tâche de la manière la plus satisfaisante. Les rapports contenus dans les anciens manuscrits sur la nature des pays visités par les anciens navigateurs, ont provoqué des recherches sur la nature, le climat et les produits des contrées correspondantes de l'Amérique, afin d'établir entre elles un point de comparaison. En répondant aux questions qui lui avaient été adressées, le comité a fourni des renseignements détaillés qui ont servi à éclaircir les récits des manuscrits, et à prouver l'identité des lieux. Plusieurs ouvrages et cartes qu'il nous a fait parvenir, ont encore aidé à faciliter ces recherches. Le comité nous a en même temps fait connaître d'anciens monuments chargés d'inscriptions qui sont d'une conformité incontestable avec ceux qui dans l'Europe septentrionale datent du moyen âge. La première excursion du comité avait pour but l'examen de l'inscription remarquable du rocher d'ASSONET-NECK dans la province de Bristol au Massachusetts, inscription qui semble avoir été faite au commencement du 11e siècle pour ser-

vir de témoin de l'occupation de la contrée par les habitants du Nord. M. John R. Bartlett, Membre du comité, a fait avec autant de soin que d'exactitude le dessin des inscriptions et des emblèmes du rocher, et dessiné l'aspect du rocher même sur les bords de la rivière de Taunton et de ses environs. M. le docteur Webb, qui était chargé de la rédaction des réponses à nos demandes et à qui sont dus les rapports et les descriptions continuées, a fait plus tard un voyage avec M. Bartlett à l'île de Rhode-Island, où ils ont dessiné et décrit trois pierres chargées d'inscriptions sur la côte occidentale de l'île dans le district de PORTSMOUTH. De là ils sont partis pour TIVERTON, où trois autres pierres à inscriptions ont été également dessinées et décrites. Ces différents rapports sont successivement parvenus à la Société avec des notices sur plusieurs autres pierres à inscriptions qui ont été détruites dans les dernières années par les grands progrès de l'agriculture. Tous les détails ayant rapport à ce sujet sont consignés dans l'ouvrage que nous annonçons.

La mention du pays de VINLAND (pays vignoble), faite par *Adam de Brême*, auteur étranger du 11e siècle, sert à confirmer les relations islandaises sur les voyages de découverte en Amérique. Les anciennes éditions de l'ouvrage de cet auteur étant peu authentiques, on s'est adressé à M. le docteur Pertz du Hannovre, qui a pris part à une nouvelle édition d'Adam de Brême destinée à faire partie du grand ouvrage qu'on publie sous le titre de Monumenta Germaniæ historica. M. Pertz nous a fait parvenir des variantes surtout d'après un manuscrit sur parchemin de l'ouvrage d'Adam appartenant à la bibliothèque de la cour à Vienne et collationné par lui pendant son séjour dans cette ville. Afin d'obtenir encore plus de garantie, on s'est ensuite adressé à M. le comte de Dietrichstein, chef de la bibliothèque, pour se procurer un facsimile du chapître qui traite de Vinland dans cet excellent codex de parchemin, facsimile qu'il a fait faire par M. F. de Bartsch et qu'il a envoyé ensuite à la Société.

Ordericus Vitalis, autre écrivain étranger du 12e siècle, mentionne encore le pays de Vinland; mais sous un nom un peu altéré; on a jugé nécessaire de faire collationner ce passage dans les meilleurs manuscrits de son livre que l'on ait pu trouver en France. M. Dezoz de la Roquette, qui se trouvait alors à Paris, a bien voulu se charger de ce travail. Les Antiquités Américaines rendent compte du résultat de l'examen qu'il a fait dans les manuscrits que possède la Bibliothèque Royale de Paris. On y trouve encore des renseignements sur un manuscrit autographe de l'Histoire ecclésiastique d'Orderici déposé à la bibliothèque d'Alençon, et sur quelques copies manuscrites gardées à Rouen dont on doit la connaissance à M. Auguste le Prévost qui a tant fait pour l'archéologie de la Normandie.

Recherches archéologiques au Groenland. Le second ouvrage annoncé rendra un compte exact du résultat de ces recherches. L'année dernière M. Mathiesen, ancien inspecteur de la colonie de Julianehaab, présenta deux propositions d'après un plan plus ou moins étendu, pour faire entreprendre des recherches et des fouilles dans la ruine d'une église trouvée sur la branche septentrionale du golfe d'Igaliko, et dans le cimetière y attenant. La Société résolut de faire commencer une telle exploration des lieux, et M. Jörgensen, missionnaire de Julianehaab, fut chargé de ces recherches. Des ressources littéraires et plusieurs instruments et objets indispensables aux fouilles furent envoyés à M. Jörgensen par le premier navire qui au printemps fit voile pour Julianehaab. Nous avons appris que tous les envois lui sont bien parvenus. Les recherches ont probablement été faites l'automne dernier ou le seront au printemps, de sorte que la nouvelle du résultat ne pourra nous parvenir que par les prochains navires qui arriveront ici en automne.

Plusieurs rapports et mémoires ont pendant l'année révolue été adressés à la Société par des employés et des hommes de lettres établis ou voyageant au Groenland. En voici les plus importants: 1. M. Jörgensen, missionnaire, nous a adressé des notes

additionnelles à la description des ruines de KAKORTOK. Il y avait joint le plan des lieux, par lequel on aura une idée plus exacte de l'étendue et du nombre de ces ruines si remarquables. 2. M. Jörgensen a envoyé en même temps quatre morceaux de potin très épais, provenant, à en juger par la forme, d'une cloche très grande qui a été brisée; ensuite un morceau de galet qui paraît être le fragment d'un bénitier. 3. Il nous a donné encore connaissance des rapports des indigènes sur deux pierres chargées de runes qu'il tâchera de découvrir. 4. M. Vahl, botaniste, a fait part à la Société d'une description des ruines situées à NOURSOAK au Groenland septentrional, qu'on a cru être une trape aux ours. 5. Plusieurs antiquités curieuses des Esquimaux ont été envoyées à la Société par MM. Fasting, major, à Godhavn, I. Vahl, botaniste voyageur, Funch et Fleischer d'Umanak, et O. V. Kielsen de Fiskerness.

Sous la date du 13 février S. M. LE ROI a fait parvenir à la Société la suite des copies faites par M. Voigt, professeur à Koenigsberg, des *documents sur l'histoire du Nord*, que possèdent les archives secrètes de cette ville.

Le Comité pour les recherches archéologiques a présenté un rapport sur l'accroissement du MUSÉE DES ANTIQUITÉS DU NORD pendant l'année écoulée. D'après ce rapport le musée a été enrichi de 314 numéros. Les deux articles qui offrent le plus d'intérêt sont:

Une MOMIE DE FEMME trouvée dans une tourbière près de Haraldskjær en Jytland. Elle était enfoncée dans la vase, et attachée à un poteau à l'aide de tenons et de crochets. En examinant les différentes espèces de vêtements qu'elle portait, et en la comparant à d'autres trouvées dans le Nord, en Allemagne et en Irland, le Comité rapporte cette momie, avec un grand degré de probabilité, aux derniers temps du paganisme, et M. N.-M. Petersen a tâché de prouver, par un traité historique, que c'est le corps de *Gunhilda, reine de Norvége*, que le roi Harald Blaatand engagea sous promesse de mariage à venir en Dane-

mark, où il la fit tuer vers la fin de l'an 965. M. R. KEYSER, Professeur à l'université de Christiania, a fait la description des deux collections d'objets d'antiquité qu'on a découverts dans la province de Ringerige en Norvége, et qui proviennent du même temps. Les pièces de vêtement de ces deux collections sont d'une parfaite similitude.

Non loin de Frédériksbourg en Sélande des paysans ont trouvé, en labourant un champ, les principales parties d'un collier très curieux en or, composé de *12 bractéates* garnies d'agraffes. On y voit des figures qui représentent un quadrupède cornu et barbu, surmonté d'une tête, et sur quelques-unes il y a encore un oiseau et un signe dit de Thor.

Nous nommerons ici les mémoires et les dissertations historiques et archéologiques que la Société a reçus pendant l'année passée, et qui sont destinés à prendre place dans les premières livraisons des Annales et Mémoires de la Société: Remarques de Finn Magnusen sur une boucle avec deux inscriptions de runes, qu'on a trouvée près de *Largs en Écosse*, et que l'on croit avoir appartenu à Malfried, qui était d'abord reine de Norvége et ensuite de Danemark. — Description de la partie orientale de la muraille dite de *Danevirke* en Sleswick, par le docteur Manicus. — Traité sur l'ancien usage des *Hollandais* et des *Scandinaves* d'employer des os de boeuf *en guise de patins* par C.-T. Falbe et Finn Magnusen. — Sur un instrument en bronze trouvé en *Irlande*. — Sur une fibule avec une *inscription en runes anglosaxonnes*, trouvée près de Himlingoeie en Sélande, par le Comité pour les recherches archéologiques. — Description accompagnée d'estampes *d'armes et d'instruments en pierre* employés par les Indiens avec des *urnes* et des *vases* qu'on a trouvés dans les *Etats Unis de l'Amérique du Nord*, par John R. Bartlett.

M. P. W. Becker donne lecture d'un aperçu sur plusieurs documents qui ont rapport à l'histoire de Danemark et dont les archives de la Suède sont dépositaires. — M. John M'Caul présente une traduction anglaise des histoires d'Érik le Rouge et

des Groenlandais, et une autre de la Saga de Thorfin Karlsefne. — M. L. Keyper communique une traduction d'un traité sur les Sagas et leur rapport à l'histoire de la Russie, produit par M. Senkovski, dans la Bibliothèque de Lectures Russes. Le même Membre fait part d'une traduction des observations publiées dans la Bibliothèque mentionnée par le même auteur sur sa traduction russe de la Saga d'Eymund. — M. Sabinin, Prévôt de la légation de Russie à Copenhague, communique la traduction d'un mémoire sur l'origine danoise de Rurik, premier Prince Régnant de la Russie, écrit par M. le Professeur Kruse, d'après des annales franques et allemandes, et inséré dans le Journal du ministère de l'instruction de la Russie. — M. Pogodin, Professeur à Moscou, avait fait part à la Société de dessins de plusieurs inscriptions et figures, taillées sur des pierres trouvées en Russie près de Twer.

La Société a pendant l'année dernière reçu plusieurs ouvrages appartenant surtout à l'étude de *l'ancienne histoire* et *des antiquités*. Ces ouvrages lui ont été adressés par l'Académie Impériale des sciences de St. Pétersbourg, l'Académie Royale des sciences de Lisbonne, la Société littéraire de Fionie, la Société historique de Rhode-Island en Amérique, la Société asiatique de Calcutta en Bengale, par les Sociétés pour l'étude des antiquités et de l'histoire de Paris, de Londres, d'Édinbourg *(The Iona Club)*, de Kiel, de Schwerin, de Stettin, de Halle, de Minden, de Rottweil, de Franeker; ensuite par les savants et hommes de lèttres suivants: Adamson de Newcastle, Brunius de Lund, Buddingh de la Haye, Drejer de Copenhague, Eichhoff de Paris, Endlicher de Vienne, Erdmann de Kasan, Falck de Kiel, Harris de Worchester en Massachusetts, Hettema de Leuwarden, Janssen de Leyde, von Klot de Riga, von Knorring de Finstroem dans l'île d'Aland, Kopitar de Vienne, Lagerwall de Finlande, Leemans de Leyde, Malinovsky de Moskou, Morgenstern de Dorpat, Napiersky de Riga, Neumann de Bergen, Pelting de Franeker, Politi de Girgenti en Sicile, Rcy de

Paris, Schmidt de Sonderbourg, Schroeder d'Upsale, le Marquis Serra de Gênes, Wellmann de Stettin.

Les Reviseurs élus pour l'an 1836, MM. W. Cathala et A. Nielsen, ont revu et signé le compte des recettes et dépenses de l'année écoulée, rendu par le Trésorier M. J.-F. Magnus.

Dans la séance du mois d'octobre M. Finn Magnusen, Vice-Président, prononce un discours en mémoire de feu M. Schlégel, Conseiller privé d'État et Professeur en droit à l'université. Il montre combien les sciences et la Société ont perdu par la mort de cet homme si généralement aimé, qui depuis le 12 février 1831 avait été revêtu de la présidence de la Société, fonction dont il s'acquitta avec un zèle qui lui mérite l'estime et la reconnaissance des amis de la science.

Conformément aux statuts de la Société on procède dans la même séance au choix du PRÉSIDENT pour les 3 années suivantes, et l'on élit M. Werlauff, Conseiller privé d'État, Président de l'université et Directeur de la bibliothèque royale.

On élit ensuite les autres fonctionnaires de la Société pour les 3 années 1837, 1838 et 1839. À la majorité des voix on nomme: VICE-PRÉSIDENT M. Finn Magnusen; SECRÉTAIRE M. C.-C. Rafn; TRÉSORIER M. J.-F. Magnus.

DONS ET COTISATIONS PENDANT L'ANNÉE 1835.

	Rds.
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BECKER (R. von), Professeur à l'Université de Helsingfors	50
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DONS ET COTISATIONS PENDANT L'ANNÉE 1836.

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INGRAM (James), Prés. de Trinity Collége de l'Université d'Oxford .	100
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LANG (Hugh) de St. Croix, à Greenock en Écosse	100
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COMPTE DES RECETTES ET DÉPENSES DE L'ANNÉE 1836.

	Rds.	s.	Rds.	s.
Reliquat du compte de 1835	315	75		
Don annuel du Protecteur de la Société . . .	300	–		
Dons et cotisations des Membres *(vide supra)*	2346	–	5281	7
Souscriptions annuelles	1566	78		
Intérêts du fonds placé	752	46		
Appliqué à l'augmentation du fonds	2354	51		
Dépenses ordinaires	2702	80	5281	7
Restant en caisse, le 31 décembre 1836 . . .	223	65		

APERÇU DU FONDS-PERMANENT DE LA SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE DES ANTIQUAIRES DU NORD.

Nota Selon les statuts tout don de 100 Rds. (25 ducats de Hollande) et au dessus, y com ris la cotisation, est versé dans le fonds ermanent sous le nom du Membre qui en est donateur.

Fonds originaire	*Rds. en argent* 1500
Aal (Jaques), Propriétaire des usines de Nesse en Norvége . . .	100
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Bexley (Nicolas Lord), F.R.L., F.S.A., V.P.R.S.L., à Londres .	200
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Blome (Comte O.), Min. plénip. de Danemark, à St. Pétersbourg .	170
Bloudoff (Dimitrij), Ministre de l'Intérieur, à St. Pétersbourg . .	100
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Kold (Pierre), Commissionnaire de la Cour de réconciliation . . .	600
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Lang (Hugh), M.D., à Greenock en Écosse	100
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Un Homme d'État de Russie à St. Pétersbourg	100
Fonds sous la dénomination de „Groenland"	600
Fonds sous la dénomination de „Stavanger"	200
Autre augmentation du fonds permanent	9390
Total du fonds permanent, le 31 décembre 1836, *Rds. en argent*	21600

Les Reviseurs ont déclaré par écrit qu'ils avaient examiné les bons royaux qui constituent le fonds-permanent de la Société s'élevant à la somme totale de 21600 risdales, et qu'ils les avaient trouvés revêtus des signatures des Membres de l'Administration et inscrits sur les livres de la Caisse Royale, comme formant le capital inaliénable de la Société.

Tout ce que l'on envoie à la Société doit être adressé au Secrétaire, M. C.-C. Rafn, Professeur, à Copenhague, rue Kronprindsensgade n°. 40.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ANTIQUARIES.

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Works lately published.

ANTIQUITATES AMERICANÆ
SIVE
SCRIPTORES SEPTENTRIONALES RERUM ANTE-COLUMBIANARUM IN AMERICA.

ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT, who of all modern travellers has thrown the greatest light on the physical circumstances, first discovery, and earliest history of America, has admitted that the Scandinavian Northmen were the true original discoverers of the New World; a fact which several later writers of eminence have nevertheless either flatly denied, or called in question. The above mentioned great inquirer has however remarked that the information which the Public as yet possesses of that remarkable epoch in the middle ages is extremely scanty, and he has expressed a wish that the Northern Literati would collect and publish all the accounts relating to that subject. The Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries considers it a matter of duty to comply with this wish, embracing a threefold purpose: that of illustrating ancient geography and history; that of perpetuating the memory of our forefathers, and lastly that of everlastingly securing to them that honorable station in the history of the World, of Science, of Navigation, and of Commerce, to which they are justly entitled. This has appeared to the Society to be so much the more necessary, since the latest researches have rendered it in a high degree probable, that the knowledge of the previous Scandinavian discovery of America, preserved in Iceland, and communicated to COLUMBUS when he visited that island in 1477, operated as one, and doubtless as one of the most powerful of the causes which inspired the mind of that great man (whose glory cannot in any degree be impaired by the prior achievement) with that admirable zeal, which bidding defiance to every difficulty enabled him to effect the new discovery of the New World under circumstances that necessarily led to its immediate, uninterrupted, and constantly increasing colonization and occupation by the energetic and intelligent races of Europe. For this his memory will be imperishable among the nations of the earth. Yet still we Northmen ought not to forget his meritorious predecessors, our own forefathers, who in their way had difficulties to contend with not less formidable, since

without knowledge of the properties of the magnet, without aid of compass, charts, or mathematical science properly so called, they dared to navigate the great Ocean, and thus by degrees discovered and partly colonized Iceland in the ninth century, Greenland in the tenth, and subsequently several of the Islands and Coasts of America during the latter part of the tenth and beginning of the eleventh century.

It is the last of these epochs — very remarkable in the history of the world, yet not sufficiently known — that forms the subject of the work now announced. No separate work has hitherto been devoted to this subject, if we except the Vinlandia of Torfæus, published in 1705, and now extremely scarce. That work however does not contain any collection of the original statements on which the investigation must be based, and such accounts as it does communicate are but few and incomplete. This collection therefore now makes its appearance for the first time as complete as possible, compiled from the numerous and valuable MSS now extant, and accompanied by a Danish and also *a complete Latin translation;* and by prefatory remarks, archæological and geographical disquisitions, and other critical apparatus also in Latin. Of its contents we can here merely give a brief sketch, mentioning only the principal sections. Among these may be named, first the historical accounts of Erik the Red, and the Greenlanders, extracted — and now for the first time accurately published — from the celebrated Codex Flateyensis, particularly concerning BIARNE HERIULFSON's and LEIF ERICSON's first discovery of the American Islands and Coasts, and the several voyages thither, performed by Leif's brothers and sister. Next the Saga of THORFINN THORDSON surnamed KARLSEFNE, descended from Irish, Scottish, Norwegian, Swedish and Danish Ancestors, chiefly taken from two ancient MSS never before edited, and in fact not previously known to the Literati, the one of which is supposed to be partly a genuine autograph of the celebrated Hauk Erlendson, Lawman of Iceland, well known as a compiler of one of the Recensions of the Landnama-book. This very remarkable Saga contains detailed accounts of Thorfinn Karlsefne's and his company's three years voyages and residence in America, whereby an entirely new light is diffused over this subject hitherto so little known. The only knowledge that Torfæus had of this Saga, which he imagined to be lost, was derived from some corrupted extracts of it contained in the collection of materials for the history of ancient Greenland left by the Iceland Farmer Biörn Johnson of Skardso. It is now for the first time submitted to the literary world in a complete form. The work here announced moreover contains every thing else that the Society has been able to collect and discover relating to that knowledge of the New World which our forefathers obtained from the early discoveries and researches of the Northmen. Among these we may mention, 1. Adam of Bremen's accounts of VINELAND (in America), written in the eleventh century, being in fact communicated to him by the Danish King Sweyn Estrithson, and compiled from authentic accounts furnished to him by Danes, and now for the first time published from the excellent Codex in the Imperial Library at Vienna, of which a Facsimile has been transmitted to the Society by the Chief of the Library, Count Dietrichstein. 2. Are Frode's account of Vineland, written in the same or in the following century; and also 3, of the eminent Icelandic chief ARE MARSON, one of his own ancestors, who in the year 983 was driven to a part of America situate near Vineland, then called HVITRAMANNALAND OR GREAT IRELAND, whose inhabitants (of Irish origin) prevented him from returning, but at the same time treated him with great respect. 4. Other ancient accounts respecting the Icelandic hero BIÖRN ASBRANDSON, in his

day one of the Iomsburg Warriours under Palnatoke; and fighting along with them in the battle of Fyrisval in Sweden: he also in the year 999 repaired to one of the coasts of America, where he was detained in the same manner, but resided there as chief over the natives for about 30 years. 5. Account of an Icelandic mariner, GUDLEIF GUDLAUGSON, who was driven to the same coast in the year 1027, and who was rescued from death or captivity by his above mentioned countryman. 6. Extracts from the Annals of Iceland of the middle ages, in so far as they relate to America, particularly BISHOP ERIC's voyage to Vineland in 1121; the discovery of new countries by the Icelanders in the Western Ocean in 1285; an expedition from Norway and Iceland in the year 1288-90; and also a trading voyage from the ancient colony in Greenland to MARKLAND in America in 1347, as recorded by contemporaries. 7. Ancient accounts of the most northern districts of Greenland and America, chiefly visited by the Northmen for the purpose of hunting and fishing; among these a very remarkable account (from a letter of a Greenland clergyman) of A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY undertaken by some clergymen from the Bishopric of Gardar in Greenland, in the year 1266, being — as is corroborated by an astronomical observation — THROUGH LANCASTER SOUND AND BARROW'S STRAIT to regions which in our days have for the first time been made correctly known through the zealous exertions of Sir William Parry; Sir John Ross, and Capt. James Clark Ross, and other British navigators. 8. Extracts from the ancient geographical works of the Icelanders, to which is added an outline taken in the 13th century representing the earth in four inhabited quarters. 9. An ancient Faroish Qväji wherein Vineland is named, and allusion is made to its connexion with Ireland.

To which are added: I. A description accompanied by delineations and occasionally by perspective views of several *Monuments*, chiefly *Inscriptions, from the middle ages*, found partly in GREENLAND and partly in the States of MASSACHUSETTS and RHODE-ISLAND in North America, on the one hand confirming the accounts in the Sagas, and on the other illustrated by them. II. Detailed *Geographical Inquiries* lately undertaken at the instance of the Society, whereby the sites of the regions and places named in the Sagas are explored, and are pointed out under the names by which they are now commonly known, viz. NEWFOUNDLAND, BAY OF ST. LAWRENCE, NOVA SCOTIA, and especially the States of MASSACHUSETTS and RHODE-ISLAND, and even districts more to the South, probably situate in VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA, and in FLORIDA, which is supposed to be the most southerly land mentioned in the most authentic Saga-accounts, although sundry of the Northern Geographers of the middle ages would seem to intimate their knowledge of the easterly direction taken by the continent of South America. They are chiefly based on the accounts in the ancient MSS, and on the explanations of the *astronomical*, *nautical* and *geographical statements* contained in the same, which besides receive the most complete confirmation from accounts transmitted by distinguished American scholars, with whom the Society have entered into correspondence, and who, after several journeys undertaken for that object in Massachusets and Rhode-Island, have communicated accurate illustrations respecting the nature of the countries, their climate, animals, productions, etc., and have furnished the Society with descri tions and also with delineations of the ancient Monuments found there. III. *A Chronological Conspectus*, arranging under their proper dates the several voyages to America and the most important events which occurred in that quarter of the world. IV. *An Index of Persons*, in which the names of those persons (of both sexes) who took part in the American Voyages are printed in a different type. V. *A Geographical Index*, in which the same method is followed

in regard to names of places mentioned in America. VI. *An Index Rerum*, containing among other things the names of the various productions of the American countries. VII. *Genealogical Tables*, showing the lineage of the most eminent of the Northern discoverers of America, continued down to our days, whereby it is demonstrated that many persons now living in Iceland, Norway, and Denmark, as also the celebrated sculptor Thorwaldsen in Rome, do actually descend from them, that is from men, who 800 years ago were the chiefs of the American natives, or who were at that remote period born in America.

The work consists of 65 sheets large Quarto and is accompanied by *18 large engravings*, viz: 8 FACSIMILES, some of which represent entire pages of the best of the MSS employed on the present occasion, in order to give a clear and complete idea of their nature: by dint of much pains the artist has succeeded in representing them with great accuracy, both as regards the outlines of the letters, which were often much faded away and difficult to discern, and also the colour of the different parchments. Further 4 MAPS, viz: 1. One of *Ancient Iceland*, being the first ever made, representing its republican division about the year 1000, constructed by the Icelandic geographer Biörn Gunnlaugson with the aid of Finn Magnusen and other Icelandic scholars. 2. *A Map of the district of Julianehaab in Greenland*, probably compriaing the Eystribygd, as it was called, (also important in a geographical point of view), constructed for the Society by Capt. William A. Graah R. N. from observations and measurements made by him in the country itself, and from such other authorities as were available. On this map are noted the numerous sites (rudera) of churches and houses of the ancient colonists, as far as these are now known. 3. *A General Chart* of the Northern Icy Ocean, and of the *Coasts of the Atlantic* for the purpose of exhibiting a view of the voyages of discovery. Here is delineated the Eastern part of North-America, together with such names of countries, capes, firths, islands, and places, from LANCASTER-SOUND to FLORIDA, as were adopted by the ancient Northmen. 4. *A Map of Vineland*, also with the ancient Northern appellations. Finally, six ENGRAVINGS being delineations, and partly prospects of the Greenland and American monuments from the middle ages treated of in the work; several of these are very remarkable, and, for the most part, hitherto quite unknown, such as INSCRIPTIONS on Rocks in MASSACHUSETTS and RHODE-ISLAND, which from the disquisitions contained in the work, would seem to have been partly intended to indicate the *Landnam*, or the occupation of the country, effected by the ancient Northmen.

For the convenience of those who prefer reading ENGLISH to Latin, there is given *in English* a historical view of the Voyages of Discovery, accompanied by the geographical disquisitions, on which account the maps thereunto referring have also *English names*. Moreover the several communications received from the North American Members of the Society's Committee on the Ante-Columbian History of America are also inserted *in English*.

The Society considers the work now announced as so important and illustrative both of the history of the world in general and of the ancient North in particular, that both on this account and also as a well merited tribute to our forefathers, it ought in point of typography and embellishments to be published in as correct and splendid a dress as circumstances may permit. The price is proportioned to the size of the copies, and the style in which they are got up; viz. Large Vellum Paper 5 *l*, Imperial Paper 3 *l*. and Common Paper likewise 3 *l*.

The subscription for the two sets of fine paper copies being already nearly filled up, an early application is recommended to individuals who are desirous of obtaining copies on superiour paper.

GRÖNLANDS
HISTORISKE MINDESMÆRKER.

(GREENLAND'S HISTORICAL MONUMENTS.)

The rediscovery of the coasts of East-Greenland, undertaken at the cost of the Danish Government, and achieved by Captain Graah, has anew directed the public attention towards such traces and vestiges as may be still remaining of the ancient Scandinavian Colony in Greenland. Monuments and Inscriptions lately discovered in the country itself shew that the colonization and navigation of the ancient Northmen extended all the way from the southernmost extremity of the land, to its most northern coasts and islands, even farther to the northward than it has been found practicable in our days to establish Danish settlements. A commencement has been made of investigating and elucidating the numerous remains of antiquity in South Greenland, and since 1831 arrangements have been entered into by this Society for securing their more accurate examination, delineation and description. Implements and other requisites have been dispatched thither to facilitate the prosecution of journeys for the purpose of constructing maps, of making excavations in the ruins, of executing drawings of the Monuments and Inscriptions, and for accomplishing whatever else may tend to a complete elucidation of the olden time of this remote Arctic land: and the local authorities of the country itself, in addition to the services already rendered by them, have promised a continuance of their assistance towards the prosecution of these researches. In this way, and also by means of the elucidations contained in the ancient manuscripts themselves, it is hoped that we may soon arrive at a certainty as to the long disputed site of the Eystribygd, and of the ancient bishopric of Gardar, and be also able to supply much further illustrative information. The work will consist of three sections, of which,

THE FIRST SECTION will contain ancient original writings and fragments, chiefly Icelandic or composed in the ancient language common to the countries of the North, relating to the early HISTORY OF GREENLAND, with separate introductions, annexed Danish translations, and explanatory notes. To which will be added, 1. *Genealogical Tables*, continued in some instances to the present times; 2. *Chronological Lists* containing a more complete Catalogue of the bishops and official persons in Greenland than those hitherto published; 3. *Several original Diplomas*, some of them newly discovered and hitherto unpublished, with the requisite translations. These accounts and documents begin about the year 900 and reach to the middle of the 15th century. Also a collection of less authentic accounts according to which it would appear that the ancient Colony was still in existence in the beginning of the 16th century; 4. An abstract of the *legal history* of the Icelandic republic and of *the oldest Lawbook reluting to Greenland*, and in connexion therewith remarks on the administration of Justice there.

SECOND SECTION: Collection of ancient accounts relating to the GEOGRAPHICAL AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF GREENLAND, with separate introductions, annexed Danish translations, and explanatory remarks. To which will also be added other communications and extracts of alleged,

but for the most part later, voyages of Italians and others to Greenland; among which the *voyages of the Zeni*, with critical and geographical disquisitions annexed.

THIRD SECTION: Later accounts and researches respecting GREENLAND particularly with regard to the MONUMENTS OF ITS OLDEN TIME, its antiquities and early history; among which, 1. A view of the more recent literary works treating of that country; 2. the rediscovery of the west coast of Greenland, and its modern colonization with a brief view of the most important voyages undertaken for that object, concerning which documents hitherto unknown will be communicated; 3. *A Topographical Description of West-Greenland* (taken partly from the Egedès, Cranz, Thorhallesen, Dalager, Bruhn, Arctander, Mörk, Saabye, Collin, Wormskiold, Kragh, and others) particularly as regards the vestiges and remains of the churches and dwelling houses of the ancient colonists, as also other monuments and antiquities remaining from their times, such as stones with inscriptions, etc. This division will contain extracts from older writings, some of which have been printed but are now scarce, while others of them have never before been printed; also a detailed exposition of the result of the investigations undertaken under the management of the Society: 4. Later accounts furnished by Scoresby and others, partly taken from the oral statements of native Greenlanders, and which relate to the East coast and its inhabitants, and also to the various shipwrecks of Danish vessels, with the loss or preservation of their crews on the same coast, extending down to the period of Graah's voyage; 5. Remarks on the most important results of Graah's voyage, especially with respect to his rediscovery of Gunnbiarnarsker and the Cross Islands. 6. *Geographical Researches* respecting the site of the firths and other places mentioned in the ancient MSS.

The work will be accompanied by illustrative maps, also by engraved plans of the ruins, delineations of the runic stones and other remains of antiquity found in Greenland. It will consist of 3 Volumes, of which 2 have already issued from the press. Price of Vol. I. II., Large Paper 2*l.* 5*s.* Common Paper 1*l.* 10*s.*

ANNALS AND MEMOIRS

OF THE

ROYAL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ANTIQUARIES.

ENCOURAGED by the interest for Northern Antiquities, now awakened not only in our remote northern regions, but also in other countries, the Society have resolved to publish their Transactions and Researches concerning the earlier history and antiquities of Northern Europe and America in two simultaneous periodical works, to be entitled ANNALS and MEMOIRS; by which means they, no longer bounding their views by the limits of Northern Europe, hope to render the most important of their researches more easily accessible to the Public at large. In the ANNALS contributions of the above mentioned nature will be received in Danish or Swedish, (and occasionally in Icelandic); and, wherever it may appear desireable for the sake of elucidation or information, *Maps* will be given, and also *Delineations of Antiquities* and of the *Monu-*

menis of ancient times. The MEMOIRS, which are inseparably connected with the Annals, will comprize similar contributions, in *English*, *French* or *German*, either original or translated. In the Memoirs will also be given explanatory remarks on the most important of the Delineations contained in the Annals, and original contributions not elsewhere communicated in the works of the Society. In *English*, for example, there will be successively inserted the result of the continued investigations and researches of the Society's *Committees on the Historical Monuments of Greenland* and *on the Ante-Columbian History of America*, in order to throw as much light as possible on the ancient accounts contained in the two works above announced.

Of the Annals it is expected that one Number in 8vo, containing from 10 to 12 sheets, will be published yearly commencing from 1836; and that a Number of similar size will be published of the Memoirs every second year. The two first Numbers of the Annals are already published, and the first Number of the Memoirs will appear in the Summer of 1838. In each series twoNumbers will always make a Volume. The price of each Number is 3*s*. 6*d*., consequently of each volume 7*s*.

EARLIER PUBLICATIONS.

FORNMANNA SÖGUR or *the historical Sagas recording events out of Iceland*, in the original Icelandic or Old-Northern text; complete in 12 Vol.s 8vo. Price Vellum Paper 6*l*. 14*s*. Common Paper 4*l*. 9*s*.

SCRIPTA HISTORICA ISLANDORUM, the same Sagas translated into Latin, with a critical apparatus, 12 vol.s 8vo., of which the first 7 are published. Price of Vol. I-VII. Vellum Paper 3*l*. 19*s*. Common Paper 2*l*. 15*s*.

OLDNORDISKE SAGAER, the same Sagas translated into Danish; complete in 12 Vol.s 8vo. Price Common Paper 3*l*. 8*s*.

FÆREYINGA SAGA, or the history of the inhabitants of *the Faroe Islands*, in Icelandic, the Faroe dialect, and Danish, and with a Map of the islands. 8vo. Price 7*s*.

FORNALDAR SÖGUR NORDRLANDA, Vol. I-III., being a complete edition, in 8vo., of *the mytho-historical Sagas*. Price Vellum Paper 2*l*. 15*s*. Common Paper 2*l*. 2*s*.

KRAKUMAL *sive Epicedium Ragnaris Lodbroci*, or Ode on the heroic deeds and death of the Danish King Ragnar Lodbrok in England, in Icelandic, Danish, Latin, and French. 8vo. Price 8*s*.

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LONDON { Mr. JAMES BOHN, 12, King William Street, Strand.
Mr. THOMAS RODD, 2, Great Newport Street.
DUBLIN, Messrs. HODGES & SMITH, 21, College green.
PARIS, Mr. ARTHUS-BERTRAND, 23, Rue Hautefeuille.
FLORENCE, Mr. JOSEPH MOLINI, Via degli Archibusieri.
NEW YORK, Mr. WILLIAM JACKSON, 53, Cedar Street.

From the above mentioned Booksellers the latest publications of the Society are always to be had; and orders are received by them for the earlier works. In general in the course of every spring the works published by the Society in the preceding interval will be dispatched to them. It is requested that orders for such works, as well as for those earlier published, may be sent to them before the close of February each year, in order that the expense of postage may be diminished by transmitting them to Copenhagen in one List.

It is to be observed that, from not knowing the expense of Freight and Duty, it has not been possible to include these charges in the prices fixed.

Members of the Society, and other persons *paying in advance*, either by Bills on one of the larger commercial houses of Europe, or to one of the Society's Agents, can also order the works directly from the Secretary's office.

REGULATIONS
OF THE
ICELANDIC PUBLICATION FUND,
ERECTED BY
THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ANTIQUARIES.

I. The Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries has, in conformity with one of its fundamental laws, erected a Permanent Fund, the annual interest of which is intended to be devoted exclusively to the publication and interpretation of Old Icelandic MSS and to the promotion of Northern Archæology in general.

II. To the progressive augmentation of this Fund are devoted: 1) All Compositions of fifty Rix-Dollars paid by the Members on their admission. 2) All larger Donations. 3) Should it ever happen that, in any given year, the sum of these Compositions and Donations were to fall short of a fifth of the Society's whole revenue for that year, so much from the Society's other income to be added thereto as will make them equal to a said fifth part of the whole.

III. It is incumbent on the Officers of the Society to take care that these Regulations be carried every year into effect, and especially on the Treasurer to specify in his Annual Accounts that the due amount has been added to the said Fund, as well as on the Auditors of every year to attest the same, with the view that this may be inserted in the Society's Annual Report.

IV. The Funds thus laid up are not to be diminished by any future resolution of the Society, to provide against which, it is resolved that the Royal Bonds, of which the said Permanent Fund consists, or will consist, shall in conformity herewith be endorsed as inalienable by sale, or transfer.

At a Meeting of the Society held the 30th of October 1834, these Regulations have, in conformity with the Statutes of the Society, been unanimously adopted, whereunto all Members now and henceforward shall conform themselves, observing the same in all their words, clauses, and stipulations.

Separate Regulation in the Statutes: The names of Members who pay a Composition of or above 100 Rix-Dollars (11 Guineas) are inscrted in the List of the Founders. This List is to be published in all the Annual Reports of the Society.

*** The Agents receive for the Society the Compositions of the Society's Members, and of the Founders of the Icelandic Publication Fund; likewise Subscriptions and Payments for books published by the Society.

A number of Copies of the Society's Annual Reports are transmitted yearly to its Agents. In these are contained a List and Accounts of all the Compositions and Donations to the Permanent Fund received during the preceding year, so that every one has it in his power to convince himself that they have been added to the Permanent Fund. These Annual Reports are transmitted directly to the Members and Founders; and the Agents will also furnish them to Subscribers of the Society's works and to other persons wishing to be informed of the proceedings of the Society.

*** All Communications are to be addressed *to the Secretary*, Professor C. C. Rafn, 40 Crown-Prince Street, Copenhagen.