

led to practical results were the brothers Zeni, members of a noble Venetian family. The elder of them, Nicolo, started on his first voyage of discovery at the close of the fourteenth century. When he had got as far north as the Faroe Islands he was wrecked ; but he found a friend in the Earl of Orkney and Caithness, who took him into his service as pilot.

The Earl was interested in the desire of his *protégé* to reach the far north, and after a time sent him off, with his brother Antonio, on a voyage to Greenland. Mr. R. H. Major, F.S.A., one of the secretaries of the Royal Geographical Society, from the letters and journals—only partially preserved—of these courageous men, gathered that they reached their destination in safety, and found there much that interested, and doubtless astonished them. They discovered, for instance, a monastery of friars, preachers, and a church of St. Thomas, close by a volcanic hill. There was also a hot-water spring which the monks used for heating the church and the entire monastery, and by which they cooked their meat and baked their bread. By a judicious use of this hot water they raised in their small covered gardens the flowers, fruits and herbs of more temperate climates, thereby gaining much respect from their neighbours, who brought them presents of meat, chickens, etc. They were indebted,