

trustworthy. From some of the narratives of Gunnbjorn's experiences, Eric the Red had learned of the existence of the new found land of the far north; and having been put beyond the pale of decent society for killing a fellow countryman, he resolved to find out what he could of Gunnbjorn's land. This was in 983, over a century after Gunnbjorn's misadventure. With his personal followers he explored the coasts of the country and found at the head of one of the fiords, far within the water-worn, ice-bound crags of the coast, a spot for a home. It was a grassy plain, a lovely spot surrounded by icy mountains; a *green land* in the midst of "snaffels;" an oasis with all around it a desert of ice. He was a shrewd fellow was Eric, and he had already sketched out in his busy brain a definite purpose and plan. He would go to Iceland and tempt away by alluring descriptions of his green fields a sufficient number of his Vik-ing fellows to form a settlement. So he named it Greenland; for, said he, it is well to have a pleasant name if we would succeed in inducing men and women to come back with us.

With this story of a pleasant land Eric returned to Iceland and brought back in due time the first colony of European emigrants that ever settled on this western hemisphere. His two score and five vessels, loaded with people, were reduced to fourteen vessels, the others being lost. With half a thousand people he began the settlement, which in time found the original fiord too narrow, and a new settlement was formed in another fiord to which was given the name Erics-fiord. Other settlements followed, for this was no transient draft of people from Iceland. The settlements effected lasted for more than four centuries, during which time the inhabitants builded churches in which ten generations worshipped the Christian's God and endured the long winters and rejoiced in the short, hot summers when vegetation sprung to maturity by leaps and bounds. They tended their cattle; they mowed their grass fields and made the hay and carried on a flourishing trade with the Mother Isle, and the name of Greenland, originally applied to one fiord, became the name by which all the settlements were known in Iceland. Says Fiske, "the name thus given by Eric to this chosen spot has been extended by modern usage to the whole of the vast continental region north of Davis Strait, for the whole of which it is a flagrant misnomer."¹

¹ After an existence of four centuries, they provoked the enmity of those fierce little raw-meat-eaters called the Eskimo (our friends the Esquimaux under a revised name), and these attacked the settlements in Greenland and wiped them off the face of the earth so that no vestige but ruined churches and piles of stone and a few place-names remain to remind us of the Scandinavian settlement which gave Greenland its name.