

mouth of the North River, and explore it as far north as to where the city of Albany is now standing.

It was equally in their power to have found this coast by chance, as the Scandinavians in the year 1000 or thereabouts, who made a settlement at the mouth of the St. Lawrence; but more of this in due time.

To show the Romans did actually go on voyages of discovery, while in possession of Britain, we quote from the history of England, that when Julius Agricola was governor of South Britain, he sailed quite around it, and ascertained it to be an island.

This was about an hundred years after their first subduing the country, or fifty-two years after Christ.

But they may have had a knowledge of the existence of this country, prior to their invasion of Britain. And lest the reader may be alarmed at such a position, we hasten to show in what manner they might have attained it, by relating a late discovery of a planter in South America.

"In the month of December, 1827, a planter discovered in a field, a short distance from Mont-Video, a sort of *tomb stone*, upon which strange, and to him unknown signs, or characters, were engraved. He caused this stone, which covered a small excavation, formed with masonry, to be raised, in which he found two exceedingly ancient *swords*, a *helmet*, and *shield*, which had suffered much from rust, also an *earthen vessel* of large capacity.

The planter caused the swords, the helmet, and earthen *amphora*, together with the stone slab, which covered the whole, to be removed to Mont-Video, where, in spite of the effect of time, GREEK words were easily made out; which, when translated, read as follows: "During the dominion of *Alexander* the son of *Philip*, King of Macedon, in the sixty-third Olympiad, Ptolemais,"—it was impossible to decipher the rest, on account of the ravages of time, on the engraving of the stone.

On the handle of one of the swords, was the portrait of a man, supposed to be Alexander the Great. On the helmet there is sculptured work, that must have been executed by the most exquisite skill, representing *Achilles* dragging the corpse of *Hector* round the walls of Troy; an account of which is familiar to every classic scholar.