

found by the several searches, of the assumed Runic letter Thor, which holds a place on former copies." Now, whether or not Prof. Rafn found what he specially was in search of, or else some one purposely deceived him by injecting Runic characters into the copy, cannot be determined at this late date. Bitter experience has taught the antiquarian to weigh Runic well before arriving at a decision. As an illustration, the case of Prof. Finn Magnusen may be cited with profit. In the Swedish province of Bleking is a rock (called "Runamo") with a so-called Runic inscription relating to the battle between king Harold Hildetand, of Denmark, and the Swedish king Sigurd Ring, fought about the year 700 of our era. Under the auspices of the Royal Danish Academy of Science, in the year 1833, a committee of scientists were sent to visit the rock, and carefully investigate, and make a complete report in regard to it. Prof. Finn Magnusen, a member of the committee, in 1841, published an illustrated quarto work of 742 pages relating to the inscription, under the title *Runamo og Runerne*. The following is the rendering of the inscription:

Harold occupied the empire  
 Gard ead in (the runes)  
 Ole gave oath (oath of allegiance)  
 (May) Odin hallow the runes  
 (May) Ring fall  
 On this earth  
 Alfa, love gods  
 (Hate) Ole  
 Olin and Freja  
 And Aser's descendants  
 (May) Destroy our enemies  
 Grant Harold  
 A great victory."

In 1842 and 1844, the eminent Danish archæologist, J. J. A. Worsæ, visited the *Runamo Rock*, and after having carefully examined it, came to the following conclusion: "There is no Runic inscription whatever on *Runamo Rock*, and that the marks considered as runes by Finn Magnusen are simply the natural cracks on the decayed surface of a trap dyke filling up a rent in a granitic formation." It is probable that there are some still living who will continue to believe that these natural markings are runes.

The discussion of the Dighton Rock cannot be more fitly closed than in the interesting summary made by Dr. Wilson:

"The history of this inscription is scarcely surpassed, in the interest it has excited or the novel phases it has exhibited at successive epochs of theoretical speculation, by any Perusian, Eugubine, or Nilotic riddle. When the taste of American antiquaries inclined towards Phœnician relics, the Dighton inscription conformed to their opinions; and with changing tastes it has proved equally compliant. In 1783, the Rev. Ezra Stiles, D. D., President of Yale College, when preaching before