

the year 983 on the coast of a country in North America, which was then called *Hvitra Mannaland*, advanced the opinion that these inhabitants of the American country, designated as white men, were Irish Celts, who, as is shown by the conversion of Florida to Christianity, before the arrival of the Icelandic Missionaries,² had kept up a constant intercourse with Europe. Although we are not yet so far advanced in the elucidation of this point, as to be able to specify the name of the colonizing people, still the materials which go to prove a primitive colonization of America from the North-west of Europe, have lately been augmented to such a degree, that doubts of the fact are constantly diminishing, and even the period may be determined in general terms, before which the colonization must have taken place.

These materials are furnished us in the "ANCIENT MONUMENTS OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY; comprising the results of extensive Original Surveys and Explorations, by E. G. SQUIER, A.M.," forming Volume I. of the "Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge," Washington, 1848. This learned and excellent work shows that, extending from the State of New York down the valley of the Ohio and Mississippi, to the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, and onward through Mexico and Central America to Peru, and lastly to various localities to the east and south of the Alleghanies, as also west of the Rocky Mountains as far as California, there are found an immense number of primitive earth-works, stone-works, and mounds of sepulture. It then exhibits to us a great number of utensils of stone, clay, and metal, taken from the earth-works. And, lastly, we are shown a number of skulls, masks, and busts of the ancient inhabitants. If now we compare the drawings and descriptions which the author furnishes of the American structures and implements with the antiquities of this kind found in North-western Europe, that is to say, in the countries bordering on the German Ocean and the Baltic Sea, we find in some a complete coincidence, and in others a surprising similarity, (at least if we except the elevations of earth in the form of animals found in Wisconsin,) but in none a specific difference. This it is intended to demonstrate in the following pages, by considering in succession the walls and ditches, the mounds and graves, and, lastly, the implements of the primitive Americans, as compared with those of ancient Europeans, and by showing the affinity they bear to each other. We shall speak also of the intercourse of the ancient Americans with Europe, and of their physical characteristics; and will close with presenting our views as to the nation to which the primitive colonists of America belonged, as also respecting the period at which the colonization took place, and the causes that produced it.

2. *Antiquitates Americanae, sive Scriptores Septentrionales rerum ante Columbianarum in America.* Sect. 14