

the Northmen in America embraced Christianity. Churches and convents arose in different parts, rivalling those of Iceland in piety and learning. Thorwald, Thorstein, and subsequently Thorfinn, of Irish origin, visited this place, and a settlement was gradually formed. As yet all were not Christians; some still adored Thor and Woden, and missionaries left Greenland to establish religion in Vinland. Of these missionaries the most celebrated was Erik, who arrived in Greenland, and, after laboring a few years, proceeded to Vinland. Spending some years here, he returned to Iceland in 1120, and sailed to Europe to induce the establishment of a bishopric and a proper organization of the Church. Deeming Erik the most suitable person, the Scandinavian bishops selected him to found the first American see, and the missionary was consecrated at Lund, in Denmark, by Archbishop Adzar, in 1121. . . . After his consecration Erik returned to America, but, still attached to his mission, led a body of clergy and colonists to Vinland; here he found so ample a field for his labor that he resigned his bishopric and never returned to Greenland. As to the position of Vinland there can be little doubt; a careful study of the narratives of the early voyagers—narratives stamped with the imprint of truth—leaves no doubt that they turned Cape Cod and entered the waters of Narragansett Bay.