

the west no one knew. There were traditions, indeed, from very early times, that the Norse sailors, who lived in Norway and Denmark, had discovered strange countries beyond the ocean; but most people had never heard these stories, and very likely those who had did not believe them.



ERICSON'S BATTLE WITH THE INDIANS.

**The Norsemen.** There was, however, some truth in them. The restless Norsemen, sailing hither and thither in their strange beaked ships, settled about a thousand years ago in Iceland. A little later they planted a colony in Greenland, where the ruins of their buildings may be seen to this day; and once a young Norseman, Leif Ericson, sailing thither from Norway, steered too far south, and landed in a fruitful region, which he named "Wineland the Good." Some people think this was some part of New England; others that it was our own Nova Scotia. Wherever it was, the Norsemen tried