

and Ireland, it would be but reasonable to infer that the national records of the Irish would contain some account of the important discovery. The Irish annals have been relied on so much to solve historical problems, and have been of untold advantage, yet they are entirely silent upon this subject; although the Irish character entered into the very life of the western sagamen.

Saxo-Grammaticus, the most celebrated of early Danish chroniclers, who, according to his own statement, derived his knowledge of the remoter period of Danish history from old songs, runic inscriptions and the historical narratives and traditions of the Icelanders, makes no mention of this story, although he lived as late as the year 1204.

Although the Codex Flatoynensis gives a graphic and terrible picture of shipwrecked colonists in Greenland, yet is utterly silent on what must have been the sufferings of Biarne Grimolfson and his companions when driven from the coast of America to Dublin. And yet that stormy passage of nearly three thousand miles was made as though it was but a pleasant day's sail.

The ease with which the houses of Leif in Vinland were found on each succeeding voyage must be a matter of surprise to every one who has read the narratives. The ships seem to have been attracted to the spot as readily as the needle points to the pole.

Why so much space in the sagas should be taken up with endless genealogies, and the discovery of a vast continent passed over without description—vague, it is true, is given, uncertain, indefinite—as to surface, coast line, climate, or the wonders in the wilderness, must serve to dumbfound even its most voluble advocates. The animal life that existed in the forests of Massachusetts, Maine and Connecticut did not call forth any notice. True, they saw a bear, but its color or size elicited no attention, though they must have seen the polar and the Norwegian bears. Can it be possible that they were so dumb to nature as to allow its wonders to escape their attention? Minute the sagas are in minor things, is it possible the greater things caused them not to wonder?

If they landed in Massachusetts, or on any part of the eastern coast, the advantage of the situation over that of Greenland or Iceland must have been so patent as to cause a wave of immigration to have set in as would have depopulated Greenland, materially have affected Iceland, and even felt in Norway.

Norway abandoned the Greenland settlement, but did not forget there was such a place. Vinland was forgotten and the Norse discovery was not resurrected until 1570, when Ortelius, cosmographer to Philip II. of Spain, resurrected it. If the Norse discovered America, and made one or more voyages to it, and then forgot that discovery, or hid the report, then it must be to them a shame which time will fail to eradicate. To claim that the Norsemen discovered America is an impeachment of their