

ship of the invaders, &c., though, of course, at a loss to what period or what people to assign it.

Convinced that this place was too perilous for his colony, Thorfinn now broke up his encampment, and returned to his former quarters at Straum-fjord. Abundant supplies were found, and he sailed round Kialar-ness in search of the missing Thorhall, but without success. In the spring of the following year (1010) the whole, or a considerable portion of the company, in the two remaining ships, set sail for Greenland. That of Thorfinn arrived safely at Eireksfjord; but the other, commanded by Biarni Grimolfson, was driven to sea, and being riddled with worms, began to sink. Biarni, with half the ship's company, gained by lot the privilege of taking to the boat; but seeing the distress of a young Iclander left on board, relinquished his place, going back into the ship and placing the other in the boat—"for I see," he said, quietly, "that you are fond of life." This generous action, and these few words, the key of a brave and meditative spirit, are all that survive of this old Northern chief, of whom one could wish to have known more. The boat arrived in safety, but Biarni and his companions doubtless perished in their foundered vessel.

Thorfinn and his wife, having attained much fame by their adventures, proceeded to Iceland, where they took up their residence, and where, as well as in Denmark, their descendants attained high honor and consideration.

In 1011 Freydis and her husband, with some Norway merchants, made another voyage to the same region. Indeed, to quote the language of the Norse MS., "Expeditions to Vinland became now very frequent matters of consideration, for that expedition was commonly esteemed both lucrative and honorable." In these ancient records, for several centuries, repeated allusions are made to the country, whose existence appears to have been generally known to the nations of Northern Europe. In an old Faroese ballad, Holdan and Finn, two Swedish princes, are chronicled as crusaders into Vinland, for the love of Ingeborge, daughter of the king of Ireland. It is entered on the "Annals of Iceland," (a contemporaneous authority), that in 1121, Eirek, first bishop of Greenland, sailed from that country to Vinland—it may have been to exercise his spiritual offices in behalf of colonists settled there. In 1347, according to the same authority, a Greenland vessel, returning from Markland (Nova-Scotia) was driven by westerly gales to the shores of Iceland.