

even live comfortably and attain a green old age. The best island forsooth, and the most healthy one of the whole north, is situated very near to the Arctic Pole, beyond Iceland and Greenland. And Martin Frobisher, an Englishman, in his voyage into the regions of the west and north, planned and accomplished in the year 1476, unmistakably points out that in those regions most adjacent to the Arctic Pole there exist many men, barbarians, who have large, well-proportioned frames, and are yet subjected to almost perpetual cold. Nor was he silent on this point who described the navigation of Frobisher: "The ancients wandered from the truth when they believed that the two zones included within the polar circles were uninhabitable, on account of the great and continual cold and the very severe climate." For he goes on to say that "he, with his companions, through the kindness of God, had had an utterly different experience, and had become habituated to the climate; that, in short, the region was not only habitable, but inhabited by men; it is true, savage, stupid, untamed, and deficient, as it were, in the gift of reason, and although those northern regions are covered with perpetual snow and ice, and the rays of the sun, through their feebleness and not being reflected by the earth, are unable to melt these; yet, nevertheless, that an all-good and all-mighty God, who gave the earth to be inhabited by man, with