

dred years ago. A bold navigator from Norway, by the name of Other, sailed in A. D. 890 round the northern extremity of Iceland. He was the first to cross the arctic circle. This was a great voyage for a time when a ship was not as good as our shore-trading vessels; but he made no discovery. Some years afterward an Icelander, named Gunbiorn was driven off the coast of his country in a storm. Away his little bark scud before the wind, until it came in sight of a high rocky coast of an extended land. The storm had subsided, the wind changed, and so he steered for Iceland without going ashore. He reported his discovery, but nobody cared to try the stormy voyage, and for nearly a hundred years nothing more was known of it. In 982 a fierce Iceland chief became too turbulent to be esteemed by his king a safe subject, and was banished for a term of years. Being as bold as he was wicked, he wisely resolved to spend the time upon the ocean in search of unknown lands. It may be that he had heard of Gunbiorn's story. At any rate, he sailed away to the west, and came to the same great land. He stayed there with his ship's crew three years, learning all he could of its extent and character. He then returned and persuaded a colony to go to this land of promise.

This chief's name was Eric, known as Red Eric. He seems to have been a speculator in new lands—perhaps he formed a stock company; and, to make his speculation succeed, he called the new continent *Greenland*. Those whom he persuaded