

with the rest of the expedition, numbering 151 (131) men, to the south-west, to a place where a river fell into the sea from a large lake, into which they steered and wintered. Here they fell in with the natives (Skraelings), 'who had large eyes and 'broad cheeks.' No snow fell, and the cattle which they had with them found their food in the open country. In the spring of 1008 the Skraelings returned in their canoes, and a barter sprang up of cloth, food, and milk for peltries, which was interrupted by the bellowing of a bull, which terrified the Skraelings to such a degree that they sailed away. It is important to note the fact that we have cattle mentioned in this expedition, for it is one of the few cases where we have historical evidence of their putting cattle on shipboard. We have already mentioned in the pages of this review the fact that the larger breeds of cattle make their appearance in this country simultaneously with the arrival of the Angles and Saxons; here we have proof that the Northmen had in this expedition all the elements necessary for introducing their breeds of cattle into America. The idea, however, of establishing themselves was rudely dispelled by the hostility of the Skraelings, who returned in great force in the following winter, and were defeated after a most desperate fight, which resulted in the break-up of the expedition. Karlsefne took one of the two remaining ships, and sailed in quest of Thorhall to Vinland and Markland, and thence to Greenland, where he arrived about the year 1011. He brought with him two natives whom he taught the Norse language. Biarne Grimolfson with the other ship was driven into the Irish Ocean, where his ship was destroyed by the ship-worm, some of the crew being saved in a boat. The rest of the voyages of the Northmen are not sufficiently important to be mentioned in this place.

It seems to us impossible to condemn such narratives as these, which are mere records of facts, to be non-historic and mere idle tales. Their truth is proved not merely by their style, but also by the exact correspondence of the places mentioned with the distances which they record. If a settlement were once founded in Greenland, the bold seamen who found their way thither from Iceland would meet with little difficulty in exploring the unknown seas which separated Greenland from America. The traces left behind by the Northmen in Greenland, such as the famous Runic inscription on a slab of stone found in an island in Baffin's Bay, and now in Copenhagen,* lend independent testimony that the ancient Northmen had penetrated

* Wilson, *Prehistoric Man*, ii. 88.