

lotted number. Having spent the winter in Vinland, Freydis prevailed upon her husband to slay Helge and Finboge, with all their men; the women with them she killed with her own hand. She returned to Greenland in the ship owned by the two brothers with all the goods the vessel could carry.

This story says nothing of the voyage from Greenland to Vinland, nor any account of the country; but apparently had no difficulty in finding the houses erected by Leif Erikson. They left Vinland in the spring, but what time is not stated, although the ship was made ready early in the spring. They "had a good voyage and the ship came early in the summer to Eriksfiord."

Human credulity, in many cases, can not be overtaxed. It has been gravely put forth\* that in the year 1312 Bishop Arne, of Gardar, preached the crusades, not only in Iceland and Greenland, but also in America! That a ship arrived from Greenland in 1325, bringing "the tithes from the American colonies, consisting of one hundred and twenty-seven pounds of walrus-teeth, which were sold to Jean du Pre, a Flemish merchant, who paid for them twelve livres and fourteen sous." As the narrations do not record any permanent settlements in Vinland, just what particular object the worthy bishop hoped to obtain, it would be difficult to conjecture. The donation of two dollars and thirty-five cents' worth of walrus-teeth, and that given after a delay of thirteen years, would appear to be an ironical appreciation of the energies of the bishop. As the habitat of the walrus is confined to the northern circumpolar regions of the globe, and as the contribution consisted in the remains of this animal, it would be but fair to conclude that it was the principal product, and hence Vinland must be sought in the far north.

Having presented the special character of the sagas, and given something of a detailed account, in the next place the general features must attract our attention.

As has already been observed, the evidence of the reputed Norse discovery of America rests solely on the statement of the Codex Flatoyensis. A discovery so great would have found its way into the other sagas, and yet they are silent on the subject. In the *Heimskringla*, Snorri Sturlason is made to say, "Leif also found Vinland the good." If Leif had made a discovery of a continent like that of America it is not probable that Snorri would have dismissed the subject in so abrupt a manner. He would have seized upon it, and magnified the achievement, and graced it with the power of his pen, as has been exhibited in his *Edda*. We would have been treated to other Thucydidean speeches, similar to those that mark his productions.

As a constant communication was kept up between Iceland

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\*John B. Shipley's "English Rediscovery of America," p. 6.