

There for my lady's bower,
 Built I the lofty tower,
 Which, to this very hour,
 Stands looking seaward.

But the modern Skald who rehearses the old Viking's tale, claims at the same time a poet's license. "That this building could not have been erected for a windmill," says Professor Rafn, "is what an architect can easily discern." "I will not enter into a discussion of the point," responds the poet. "It is sufficiently well established for the purpose of a ballad; though doubtless many an honest citizen of Newport, who has passed his days within sight of the Round Tower, will be ready to exclaim with Sancho, 'God bless me! did I not warn you to have a care of what you were doing, for that is nothing but a windmill; and nobody could mistake it but one who had the like in his head.'"

The controversy was still maintained among the New England Oldbucks and Wardours, when in 1847, a learned mediator dating from "Brown University, Providence," proceeded to publish, under the *nom de plume* of "Antiquarian," a series of abstracts from a joint Report of Professor Rafn of Copenhagen, and "Graetz of Gottenburg," and from an elaborate narrative prepared by "Professor Scrobein," a distinguished geologist, despatched to Rhode Island by the unanimous vote of the Royal College at Copenhagen. From the researches of this well accredited commissioner, the ruined tower is ascertained to have been "an appendage to a temple, and used for religious offices, as a baptistery or baptismal font. It appears to have been erected by the Northmen, in the eleventh century, during a sojourn of Bishop Eric in Vinland, as the island was called, from the excellency of its wine and abundance of its grapes." Excavations within the ruin brought to light "the foundations of the *receptimium*, or place where the candidates stood while receiving the baptismal shower . . . In close proximity to this was a second foundation, that of the *palestrum*;" and the discovery was completed, and placed beyond all dispute by the finding of various ancient coins, including "some of Henry II. 1160, which would lead us to believe that some kind of commercial intercourse existed in those days."

To the manifest delight of the rogue—an undergraduate we may surmise,—who palmed off this grave hoax on the Rhode Islanders, it was taken up seriously. "Graetz of Gottenburg" passed muster under