

three millions of Associates during the whole month of August, will give it, from a Catholic standpoint, an importance it has not hitherto known.

Iceland is the land of contrasts ; a land of midnight sunlight and noonday darkness ; carrying eternal snows on its surface, while its bosom hides great streams of boiling water. A feature in every landscape in Iceland is some volcano, glowing or extinct, or a mountain range of solidified lava, hidden under shining glaciers as old as the history of man.

The island was discovered in the year 860 by Naddoddr, a Norwegian Viking, who called it Snajland or Snowland. The earliest monument of Icelandic literature that we possess, the *Islendinga Bok*, tells us that the Viking colonists had been preceded by Cuidee anchorites and Irish settlers about 725, who abandoned the island on the arrival of the Pagan Norsemen. The existence of bells, croziers and Irish books, left behind, attests the presence of the children of Erin.

It was only in 874 that the Norwegians formed the first permanant settlement at Beykiavik, the present capital. A further increase of Norse population took place when the tyrant Barold Haarfagr drove a large number of chiefs and their families into Iceland, and this was further increased under the reign of St. Olaf. About the year 928, Iceland became a republic, and remained so for three hundred years. After having tried various forms of government and become a prey to intestine strife the Icelanders, in 1261, fell under the power of Haco VI, King of Norway. In 1387, it was subjugated by Denmark, and the union of the Danish and Norwegian monarchies brought Iceland definitely under the crown of Denmark.

The religious history of the first centuries of this northern people is full of magnificent traits. In the year 1000, when Iceland was still a republic, and pagan, the