

the Pacific, opposite to China, for the most part, enjoyed a state of culture of ancient growth, while the inhabitants of the Atlantic shore were found by Europeans in a state of original barbarism."

The stone arrow-heads, lance-heads, and hatchets found in Europe, India, Japan and America, resemble each other so closely that it is often impossible to distinguish them by their form.

This fact does not necessarily answer the question whether they were all formed by one aboriginal race, as it is possible that similar wants would produce similar weapons all over the world. It is remarkable that everywhere, except in America, these weapons are believed by the common people to be thunder-bolts. They are called *elf-bolts* in Scotland, and Pliny speaks of them as *cerauniz*, while the same origin is ascribed to them in China and Japan.

M. Leon de Rosny has ascertained that Fusang is the topic of a curious notice in the great Japanese Encyclopedia, which enjoys the interesting name of the "Wa-kan-san-tai-dron-ye." In that work it is said to be situated east of Japan, beyond the ocean, at the distance of about 20,000 Chinese miles from Ta-nan-konek. Great stress is laid upon these Chinese and Japanese records, for they are a people that do not deal in myths, but in actual facts and historical events.

We will now turn our attention to the Atlantic shores and enquire into the early discovery of our continent by Europeans, prior to Columbus.

To follow the chronological order of events, as they seem to have transpired here, we must first refer to the early emigration of the Ires or tribes from Ireland, who emigrated to America by way of Iceland, at rather uncertain epochs.

The opinion of learned men, familiar with the antiquities of the new world is, that as in the most ancient documents of Iceland, (as may be seen by the manuscript,) the first inhabitants of that island are called "men, come from the West, by the sea."

We must consequently conclude that Iceland was not peopled by colonies coming direct from Europe, but by Ires who had returned from America who, at an early period had been transplanted, and who returned from Virginia and the coast of Carolina (called great Ireland) to settle in the island of Papar and the southeastern coast of Iceland. In the ancient records of Iceland are given accounts of christian *Papas* or fathers who returned from great Ireland on the west, (America) to Iceland to instruct them in the principles of the christian religion, about 800 years after the birth of Christ. Accounts are given also of persons who, having been cast away in ships, landed upon a western coast (called "huitra manna land" or the "country of the White Men.") These

stories are considered as authentic and are considered an important proof in favor of the prevailing opinion that at a very early period of the christian era, Irish colonies existed on the coast of the Carolinas and farther south. These events transpired about A. D. 800, and are the first authentic accounts that we possess of a discovery of the main portion of the North American Continent by Europeans. The learned Abbe Brasseur de Bourbourg in a note to his translation of the Popol-Vuh, says on this matter, "there is an abundance of legends and traditions concerning the passage of the Irish into America, and their habitual communication with that continent, many centuries before (perhaps 600 years) Columbus was heard of."

An Irish saint named Vigile, who lived in the 8th century, was accused by the Pope Zachary of having taught heresies on the subject of the antipodes. He at first wrote to the Pope in reply to the charge, but afterwards went to Rome to justify himself, and there he proved to the Pope that the Irish had been long accustomed to communicate with a trans-Atlantic world. These facts are preserved in the records of the Vatican.

It is now a historical fact also that the Northmen, sailing from Iceland not only discovered America in the tenth century, but also established colonies on the coast of New England, and preserved communication with these colonies for two centuries. In 877 Gunbiorn—the Iceland navigator—first saw the mountainous sea-board of Greenland.

It appears from the Scandinavian manuscripts, in which are to be found the accounts of the Normans first voyages to America, that in 983 the celebrated Ari Marsson whilst sailing southward, was cast by a storm upon the American coast, to which he gave the name of *Irlund it Mikla* or Great Ireland.

In 986 Eric, surnamed the Red, established on those shores the first colony composed of Iceland emigrants; afterward in 1124, a bishopric was erected here called Garlar, which lasted for upwards of 300 years.

In 986 Byarne Herjufson sailing southward from Greenland discovered the island of Nantucket, afterwards Nova Scotia, then Newfoundland. In the year 1000, Lief the eldest son of Eric the Red, sailed with 25 companions in search of new discoveries, when he discovered Newfoundland and called it Litla Helluland, re-embarking he arrived in the country situated between Newfoundland and Canada, which he called Markland (now Labrador) pursuing his expedition further south he landed on an agreeable coast, where he found an abundance of vines, which he called Vinland, (now New England) here he made a settlement, which flourished for a length of time, and was visited in 1121 by the first bishop of Greenland, Eric-Upi of Irish origin, for the purpose of confirming the the colonists