

world under the most favorable circumstances. Springing from the Old Norse or Norwegian stock, they carried the language and habits of their ancestors with them to their highland home. Though a *very large* number of our English words are derived direct from the Icelandic, yet the most learned and indefatigable of our lexicographers, both in England and America, have acknowledged their ignorance of this language.

"The Eddas abound in mythological machinery to an extent quite equal to the writings of Homer and Virgil."

The learned German writer SCHLEGEL, in his "Esthetics and Miscellaneous Works," says: "If any monument of the primitive northern world deserves a place amongst the earlier remains of the South, the Icelandic Edda must be deemed worthy of that distinction. The spiritual veneration for Nature, to which the sensual Greek was an entire stranger, gushes forth in the mysterious language and prophetic traditions of the Northern Edda with a full tide of enthusiasm and inspiration sufficient to endure for centuries, and to supply a whole race of future bards and poets with a precious and animating elixir. The vivid delineations, the rich, glowing abundance and animation of the Homeric pictures of the world, are not more decidedly superior to the misty scenes and shadowy forms of Ossian, *than the Northern Edda is in its sublimity* to the works of Hesiod."

PROF. DR. DEITRICH asserts "that the Scandinavian literature is *extraordinarily* rich in all kinds of writings."

HON. GEORGE P. MARSH.—"It must suffice to remark that, in the opinion of those most competent to