

land in size) was quite free from ice. Voyages to Iceland at this time of the year are not altogether unusual, but the entire absence of snow is very rare. But it is corroborated by the public records of Iceland that this actually occurred in the months of February and March, in the year 1477. In this way a remarkable coincidence occurred.

At that time one of the most prominent personages among the clergy of Iceland was the Benedictine Magnus, son of Egolf, who in the year 1470 was nominated abbot of the monastery of Helgafell. Helgafell might, in respect to the earliest voyages of discovery of the Icelanders to America, be called classic ground, for out of this very neighborhood had set forth the first discoverers and colonists of Greenland and other parts of America. . . .

In the year 1475 Magnus, abbot of the Benedictine monastery at Helgafell, was consecrated bishop of Skalholt by Archbishop Ganto, of Drontheim. In the winter of the year 1477 it now happened that Bishop Magnus visited the churches of his diocese on the peninsula of Hvalfjardareyri, at the very time when Christopher Columbus landed in the haven of the same name. The bishop met with Columbus, and they conversed in the Latin language. Columbus inquired concerning the Western lands (as Rafn, in the preface to the "*Antiquitates*