

## Talks about Books.

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A handsome quarto volume is Professor E. N. Horsford's *Discovery of America by Northmen*. Towards the end of October a year ago the statue of Leif Eriksen was unveiled at Boston, and Professor Horsford was called upon to deliver the inaugural address in Faneuil Hall in connection with the ceremony. That address is now published, together with a number of valuable documents, including the Sagas of Erik the Red and Thorsfinn, the whole being illustrated with many engravings, of which the first represents the statue. The fact that a Norwegian named Leif Eriksen discovered the New England coast about the year 1000 A.D. has long been known, but only recently has that fact been fully accepted. In 1705 Torfaeus published the ancient documents setting it forth, but it was not till 1837, when Professor Rafn issued his *Antiquitates Americane*, that the world awoke to a realization of the priority of the Norse and Icelanders to Columbus. Even now some apostles of the so-called higher criticism are to be found, men whose mission in life seems to be to prove that all men are liars, which should of course include themselves, who, too lazy to investigate the evidence and too cowardly to commit themselves to conclusions, shake their empty heads and doubt if the story of the Norsemen be true. To this miserable class of skulkers Professor Horsford does not belong. He manfully, with the candour of an honest mind, accepts the evidence, and, while exercising a judicious criticism that rejects the Deighton Rock and the Newport Tower, receives as genuine and historical the sagas that tell of the western shores of Vinland. His illustration of the ancient records by reference to other documents is very full and of much interest to the student of American antiquity. Perhaps the most industrious student of that particular subject is M. Eugene Beauvois of Corberon in France, who makes the Irish Culdees the predecessors of the Northmen on this continent. Some years ago I supported some of M. Beauvois' conclusions with arguments, historical and philological, in an article which appeared in the *British and Foreign Evangelical Review*, and which excited the interest of the Rev. Dr. Patterson, the historian of Pictou County, N.S. Unhappily somebody borrowed my only copy of the Review containing the article, and, as usual, did not return it, so that I cannot here in my study give the reference for it. The shores of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Gaspe may yet furnish antiquities illustrative of pre-Columbian intercourse between the Old World and the New.