

one hundred leagues beyond the island of Tile, the southern portion of which is seventy-three degrees removed from the equinoctial, and not sixty-three, as some will have it; nor is it situated within the line which includes Ptolemy's west, but is much further to the westward; and to this island, which is as large as England, the English come with their wares, especially those from Bristol. And at the time I went thither the sea was not frozen, although the tides there are so great that in some places they rose twenty-six fathoms, and fell as much. It is, indeed, the fact that that Tile, of which Ptolemy makes mention, is situated where he describes it, and by the moderns this is called Frislanda."

If Tile is Iceland, and Columbus sailed one hundred leagues beyond, he must have entered Greenland a distance of not less than fifty miles. But of this there is no mention. Friesland is one of the most northern provinces of the Netherlands. He went farther north, and it is more than probable to the northern part of Norway. Having sailed west three hundred miles he covered half the distance to Iceland. But upon supposition he went to Iceland, what proof is there he saw the Sagas? The evidence of the sagas need not be rehearsed; for as has been seen the Codex Flatoynensis was discovered in private hands and did not belong to the State. There is not a scintilla of evidence that this Codex, in 1477, was known beyond the actual limits of its possessor, or even that it had a possessor at that time. Even if the manuscripts were in the archives of the country, it is not at all likely that the attention of a stranger, more especially one speaking a foreign language, would be called to these fireside tales and legends.

As has been noticed, the assertion is made that Gudrid narrated her experiences to the holy fathers, and that rumors of these discoveries had reached every seaport in Southern Europe. The saga says she "went to the South." On this De Costa has an extended note. "It is understood she (Gudrid) went to Rome. It may be asked why she did not spread the news of her son's voyage in those parts of Europe whither she went, and make known the discovery of the New World. To this it may again be replied, that the Icelanders had no idea that they had found a New World, and did not appreciate the value of their geographical knowledge. Besides, there is nothing to prove that Gudrid and others who went to Europe at this period, did not make known the Icelandic discoveries. At that time no interest was taken in such subjects, and therefore we have little right to expect to find traces of discussion in relation to what, among a very small class, would be regarded, at the best, as a curious story."\*

Columbus fitted himself thoroughly for the great undertak-