

GOVERNOR'S PALACE, AT MAULFALUT, EGYPT.

## A CITY GATE.

In the ancient times cities and towns were generally situated on hills or elevations, because of the facilities of defence which such positions furnished. In Palestine there were many of these fortified cities, the sites of which are still known. They were all built for strength, with high walls surmounted by towers, with narrow streets and flat-roofed houses. The walls had of necessity gates or doors of entrance. These gates and gateways anciently held, as they still hold in the East, an important relation not only to the defence, but also to the public economy of the place. The open spaces near the gates were used as places of public resort, either for business, or where people sat to converse and hear the news. They were also used as places for the administration of justice, or of audience for kings and rulers and ambassadors.

Regarded, therefore, as positions of great importance, the gates of the city were carefully guarded and closed at nightfall. They contained rooms over the gateway for the various purposes to which they were applied.

## WHO DISCOVERED AMERICA?

BY IRENE W. HARTT.

The whole country is being given up to the celebration of our four hundredth birthday. Old Chinese records have it that we are much older than that. There is a book in the British Museum called "Zobedj; or the Chinese in America," which tells us that Buddhist monks came here from China in the year 432. They journeyed across the Pacific, touching on our western coast, calling the country Fusang. A book called "Fusang: An Inquiry into Chinese Discoveries of America," was published in New York in 1868.

Some years afterward, as late as 464, a Chinaman by the name of Hoel-Schin, which means "universal compassion," and some companions started on a second expedition. These men are supposed to have touched at San Blas, Mexico. Hoel-Schin's report of what they saw there was entered in the Chinese Year Book. We do not know that any more people came over from China at that time. Yet great numbers may have done so; for, certainly, evidences of early settlers have been found both in Mexico and the United States.

In 727 Irish monks discovered Iceland, and made settlements on the south-east coast. These were maintained for nearly a century, and then abandoned. In 860 Iceland was

again discovered. This time it was by Norseman, and was called Snowland. A man, by the name of Flokko, took a whole colony there five years later, but their cattle perished in the winter. They named the country Iceland, and the next year all returned to Norway. Eight years afterward, Earl Ingolf successfully planted a colony there, at Reykjavik.

Two years later, Greenland was discovered by a Norseman named Gunnbjorn. It was over a hundred years before a colony was planted there. This was done in 983 by Eric the Red. He called the settlement Ericsford. Eleven years afterward one Bjarni was sailing from Norway to find his father in Greenland. He was driven out of his course, and sailed along the coasts of Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Labrador, until he reached Herfulness in Greenland. These were the first Europeans on record who saw the shores of the new continent. When Bjarni returned to Norway, and reported what he had seen, he was very much blamed for not landing on the unknown shores. The Norsemen were so anxious to learn more of this new country, that Lief the Lucky, the son of Eric, bought Bjarni's boat, and, taking him and thirty-five other men with him, sailed back along the coast. They made their first landing on an island near Cape Cod, and a permanent camp was made at Mt. Hope Bay, in Rhode Island. They called the country Vinland. The next year the expedition returned to Greenland laden with grapes and timber. Two years after this, Thorwald, Eric's brother, led a second expedition to Vinland. He wintered in Mt. Hope Bay, then explored Long Island Sound to New York harbour. He found a wooden shed, but no inhabitants

were seen by any one. The next year he explored the New England coast, and killed eight Eskimo. In the skirmish which followed this, Thorwald was killed, and buried on the shores of Massachusetts Bay. The Eskimo made their escape in skin boats. The next year the expedition returned to Norway, loaded with timber and fruit. A year later, Thorstein, Thorwald's brother, sailed for Vinland for his brother's bones. He was unsuccessful, and when he returned home he died.

Thorfinn, of Iceland, and Lief's brother-in-law, Thorvard, sailed in 1007 with three ships and a colony of a hundred and forty men and women from Iceland and Greenland. After stopping at various points on the New England coast, they wintered in Buzzard's Bay. Here was born Snorri, the first European child ever born in America. His parents were Thorfinn and Gudrid. He was the ancestor of the great sculptor, Thorwalden. The winter was very severe, and ten colonists started back. It was reported that they landed in Ireland and were made slaves. The others continued their voyage, and landed at Mt. Hope. Three years later they all returned to Greenland.

In 1011 two ships which contained sixty men and women under Thorvard and Hegli sailed for Mt. Hope. When they arrived the followers of Thorvard and Hegli quarrelled for the possession of the houses they found there. All of Hegli's party, thirty-seven in number, were murdered by the others. The survivors returned the next year. Nothing more is heard of any more Norsemen sailing to our shores.

These accounts, which may seem strange to us, all come from good authority. They were taken originally from the "Antiquitates Americanae Antiquarian Society of Denmark."

More than a hundred and fifty years elapsed before we heard of more discoveries. In 1170, Madoc, a prince of Wales, according to tradition, sailed westward with a fleet. When he returned he reported that he had left his followers in a pleasant country, supposed now to be America. He departed again with ten ships, but was never heard from.

In 1380 Nicolo Zeno sailed into the Atlantic in search of adventures, and reported the discovery of many strange lands and islands which have never been identified. The next man who sailed over strange seas was Columbus, in 1467, when he visited Iceland.

## STANLEY'S CONFESSION.

Henry M. Stanley, the great explorer, in the preface to his work, "Darkest Africa," writes as follows: "Constrained at the darkest hour to humbly confess that without God's help I was helpless, I vowed a vow in the forest solitudes that I would confess his aid before men."



COLUMBUS PRESENTING HIMSELF TO FERDINAND AND ISABELLA ON HIS RETURN FROM THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA. PORTRAIT OF PRESCOTT THE HISTORIAN OF COLUMBUS, ABOVE.

A silence as of death was round about me; it was midnight! I was weakened by illness, prostrated with fatigue, and worn with anxiety for my white and black companions, whose fate was a mystery.

"In this physical and mental distress I besought God to give me back my people. Nine hours later we were exulting with rapturous joy. In full view of all was the crimson flag with the crescent, and beneath its waving folds was the long-lost rear column.

"As I mentally review the many grim episodes, and reflect on the marvelously narrow escapes from utter destruction to which we had been subjected during our various journeys to and fro through the immense and gloomy extent of primeval wood, I feel utterly unable to attribute our salvation to any other cause than to a gracious Providence who, for some purpose of his own, preserved us."

"Before turning in for the night I resumed my reading of the Bible as usual. I had already read the book through, from beginning to end, once, and was at Deuteronomy for the second reading, and I came unto the verse where Moses exhorts Joshua in these five lines: 'Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them; for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.'"

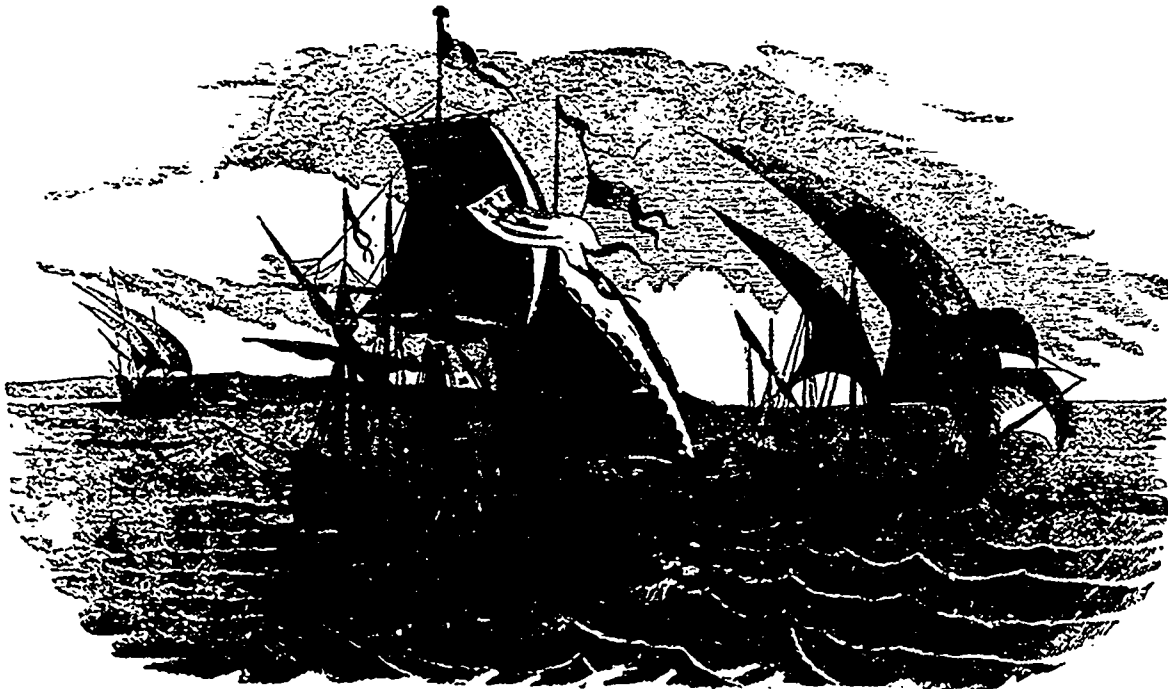
## BELIEVE IN GOD.

Trust God for the future of humanity. The world was not made in jest, nor does the kingdom of God rest on a contingency. Faith, as well as love, casteth out fear.

Two boys were talking together of Elijah's ascent in the chariot of fire. Said one: "Wouldn't you be afraid to ride in such a chariot?"

"No," said the other, "not if God drove!"

God drives the chariot of human progress, and it mounts as it advances. God is in his world, not outside of it. He is redeeming it from sin. He is making men. He is fulfilling his holy and beneficent purpose. Fear not, but believe and hope, for the power as well as the glory is his, to whom be glory for ever and ever. —Philip S. Moxom.



SHIPS OF THE TIME OF CABOT.

A female cod of fifteen pounds weight, recently examined by the British Fish Warden, was found to have a roe containing 4,372,000 eggs.