

instance, the style in which the more ancient stone edifices of the North were constructed, the style which belongs to the Roman or ante-gothic architecture, and which, especially after the time of Charlemagne, diffused itself from Italy over the whole of the west and north of Europe, where it continued to predominate, until the close of the twelfth century. . . . From such characteristics as remain we can scarcely form any other inference than one, in which I am persuaded that all who are familiar with old Northern architecture will concur: that this building was erected at a period decidedly not later than the twelfth century."\* Having thus settled the age of the venerable structure, and scornfully dismissed the idea of its erection for a windmill, as one the futility of which any architect could discern; that of its supposed primary destination as a watch tower is also rejected: and the final conclusion indicated is that it is an ecclesiastical structure which originally "belonged to some monastery or Christian place of worship in one of the chief parishes in Vinland. In Greenland there are still to be found ruins of several round buildings in the vicinity of the churches. These round buildings have been most likely Baptisteries;" and in proof of this, reference is made to an octagonal building forming part of the ruins of Mellifont Abbey, in the County of Louth, in Ireland.

To venture on questioning the genuineness of this Norse relic after these attestations of its credentials to such venerable antiquity, involved some degree of boldness. Its associations moreover, connect it unmistakeably with the olden time. It forms a central point in some of the romantic scenes of Cooper's "Red Rover;" and Longfellow, assuming its antiquity as amply attested for all a poet's purposes, has associated it with another discovery of so-called Norse relics, which was welcomed at the time as fresh confirmation of the Scandinavian colonisation of the ancient Vinland. An Indian skeleton was dug up at Fall River, Massachusetts, in 1831, buried in a sitting posture, wrapped in cedar bark, with some tubes, two arrow-heads, and other fragments of brass lying beside it. At any other time, the native origin of the whole would have been acknowledged beyond all dispute. But the discovery coincided with the researches of Professor Rafn and his colleagues at Copenhagen.† Thither accordingly specimens of the relics were sent. A portion of what was somewhat

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\* *Antiquitates Americanae*, Supp. p. 18.

† *Memoire sur la decouverte de l'Amerique au dixième siecle*. Copenhagen. 1848.