

that at least in the year 1491, he was a man of influence in the commercial world of Bristol. It can scarcely be doubted then, that he must have made several voyages to Iceland, and that he knew well, as we shall see, the course to that Island. There he would have heard the ever-living traditions of the Western lands, discovered by the Norsemen in the IX and X centuries.

#### GREENLAND.

It appears to me quite clear, that altho the colonies founded by the Norsemen in Greenland, Helluland, Markland, and Vinland, failed and disappeared, yet the Northmen of Iceland never altogether lost their connection with these western lands. In the year 876 or 886, Guubjarn discovered Greenland. In 986 Bjarni discovered the mainland of America. In the year 1000 we have the famous voyage of Lief Ericson, and the founding of the colony of Vinland. In 1011 this colony was visited by Thorfinn. In 1055, in the annals of the Episcopal See of Skalholt in Iceland, mention is made of Markland. Again, in 1073, Adam Bremensis mentions Helluland and Vinland. In 1285, two priests from Iceland, named Athalbrand and Thorwald, made a visit to these western lands. They gave the name of *Nuja-funda-lande*, which is the first mention we have of this venerable and historic name. In 1290 Eric Magnusson, king of Norway, sent one Ralf to explore these lands. He received the title of Ralf Landa, on account of his discoveries.

In 1334, the name of the Gulf of Markland is mentioned by Hank Erlendsson. He speaks of a vessel with eighteen men coming from there, in 1347. The Annals of Iceland (*Flätayar Bok*) relate a voyage from Greenland to Markland, and again in 1394. About the year 1400, we have the narration of Zeno, of the voyage of a sailor of the Feroe Islands to Estoti Land or Nova Scotia.

In 1431, Eric, King of Pomerania and the Scandinavian Union, mentions these countries among the Norwegian colonies.

In 1490, King John of Norway grants permission to England to fish at Iceland, Greenland, Orkneys, Shetlands, Feroes