

Closely related to the purported pre-Columbian discoveries are certain accounts of early travelers, who found the native Indian language to be Welsh and Highland Scotch. The evidence of this rests upon a more plausible basis than the former; and yet it would be difficult to find an anthropologist who accepted the story of Morgan Jones or the pleasant tale of Lord Monboddoo. As no one has recently championed the latter, it will be only necessary now to turn the attention to the former.

Of all the theories propounded, the advocates of the Norse discovery have been the most pertinacious. They have been instant in season and out of season. Among those who have shoved themselves to the front, Mrs. M. A. Shipley, Professor R. B. Anderson and B. F. DeCosta may be considered to be the most conspicuous. Of these, the first is the most reckless in regard to statements, and the last named is the fairest and most judicious; whilst all of them are easily detected in trying to make out a case. Even questions not directly concerned in the presentation of the case have been dragged into the controversy. Christianity and the Christian Church have come in for a tirade of abuse.

"The Christian nature is undoubtedly the same all over the world: hypocritical, canting, secretive, avaricious, deeply designing and Machiavellian; each leader makes a tool and a dupe of his followers; congregations do their priests' or their ministers' bidding, and the whole society is permeated with their spirit and purpose." "The North failed and sank into a decline through accepting Christianity." "The Church has destroyed self-respect." "To tear down Christianity, under present conditions, is in no wise iconoclasm; neither will it leave a moral vacuum; the necessity is not even upon us of building up something else in its stead, for a structure has stood for ages, testified to by reliable history, which the Church and Christianity have obscured and hidden from the gaze."<sup>4</sup>

Not satisfied with this unprovoked invective against Christianity, we are also treated to an assault on Columbus, who is accused of being a thief, "ambitious and unscrupulous," "bigoted Roman," "Italian adventurer," "needy adventurer," etc. These epithets, which appear to be so savory to the author of *Icelandic Discoveries*, appear to have been inspired by Professor Anderson, who, quoting with approval from Goodrich, declares Columbus to have been "a fraud, mean, selfish, perfidious and cruel."<sup>5</sup>

Without a blush or qualification it is declared that Columbus "stole his information" concerning the Western Continent from the Norsemen; that he made a "secret" visit to Iceland;<sup>6</sup> that

<sup>1</sup> Shipley's *Icelandic Discoveries*, p. 171.    <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* p. 183.    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* 188.    <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* 192

<sup>5</sup> *America Not Discovered by Columbus*, p. 7.

<sup>6</sup> *Icelandic Discoveries*, p. 9.    <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* p. 11.