

swept from Greenland far to the West and South till he sighted unknown shores? Is it true that Leif Ericson was impelled by Beorn's example to undertake an expedition about 1000 A.D. which landed him at Stoneland, Bushland and Vineiland in succession, and are these places represented today by Labrador, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia or Massachusetts? There are the Iceiandic sagas recording the adventures of Eric and Lief Thorfin, but after them all is silent for nearly five centuries.

Similarly on the Pacific seaboard, it is difficult to separate history and tradition. Is it true, as stated by Hwei-Shin, that Chinese priests discovered Western America in the fifth century? An Arab merchant named Sulaiman, who visited China in the ninth century, declared that he had sailed upon the new ocean. During the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries Marco Poio and his successors sailed for the East and discovered an ocean of unknown extent, which they partially explored. All is uncertain with regard to Sulaiman, and there is not much that is definite with regard to Marco Poio and his successors. However uncertain these early stories of discovery may be, they are always interesting. No one will contend that they have been of the slightest assistance in the practical work of settling boundaries on either land or sea.

Even during the more recent period when the various operations took place upon which claims to ownership were subsequently based, the world at large knew little of what was proceeding. Spain so carefully concealed her voyages of discovery that when at last it became necessary to drag her records from their hiding places into the light of day, her romantic tales were regarded with incredulity. She had deprived herself of the support of notoriety so essential to the establishment of claims to early discoveries. Russia afterwards lamented that she had pursued the same mistaken policy: "If," exclaims the Chevalier de Poletica in a letter to the Secretary of State at Washington, February 28th, 1882, "the Imperial Government had at the time published the discoveries made by the Russian navigators after Behring and Tchirikoff, viz., Chiodiloff, Serebreanicoff, Kraseinicoff, Paycoff, Poyshcareff, Lazereff, Medivedeff, Solowief, Lewasheff, Kremstein, and others, no one could refuse to Russia the