

selves in sight of a strange land to larboard. They again sighted land after two days' sail; and three days still later they came in sight of land that proved to be an island. They bore away, and in three days' sailing reached Greenland. The news of this discovery having come to the ears of Leif, son of Erik the Red, he determined to explore this newly-found land; so he purchased Biarne's vessel, and, with thirty-two men, sailed in the direction that had been indicated. The first land sighted was that which Biarne had seen last, and here they landed and called it Helluland. To them it appeared to have no advantages, for in the up-country were large snowy mountains, and from there down to the sea was one field of snow. They then put to sea, and soon came to another land, which was flat and overgrown with wood. This they called Markland. They put to sea again, with the wind from the northeast, and after two days made land. They landed upon an island, where they found the dew upon the grass was sweeter than anything they had ever tasted. Next they sailed into a sound that was between the island and a ness that went out northward from the land, and sailed westward, and thence went on shore at a place where a river, issuing from a lake, fell into the sea. They brought their ship into the lake, and resolved to winter there; and for that purpose erected a large house on the shore. With them was a south countryman named Tyrker, who had a high forehead, sharp eyes, with a small face, and was little in size, and ugly. This man found grapes during the winter. With this they loaded their boat, and having loaded the vessel with wood, they returned to Greenland when spring arrived. The last land visited they called Vinland.

It will be observed that the narration of this, the first voyage of Leif, is exceedingly indefinite. To tell what land was referred to would be an utter impossibility. Practically there is no description of the coast. The time occupied in the voyage between Greenland and the first point of landing is not given. The distance between Cape Farewell, the most southerly point of Greenland, and Newfoundland is about six hundred miles. According to the saga of Erik the Red twenty-five ships started for Greenland from Iceland, only fourteen of which reached that country; the rest were either lost or driven back. No account of the voyage out or the return is given in this expedition of Leif. Even if only the coast of Labrador was reached, there was enough there to be seen, with the experience of the voyage, to have aroused necessary recitations. One might as well search for Gulliver's Luggnagg. As to the matter of grapes, these Icelanders did not know what grapes were, for they had never seen a grape-vine. As to Tyrker, the very description of him indicates that it was a character thrown in to assist the tale. Calling the country Vinland, or Wine-land, was no proof of wine, for Erik the Red boasted that he so named Greenland