

it was a good country. On settling there, which was about the year 986, they were content to follow the laws and rules that were already in use in their native land.

About the year 1000, one Leif, a son of Eirik, discovered land still further west, and on account of the quantity of vineberries growing there, he called it Vineland.

Many people wished to settle on this new land, but as it was peopled with hostile Indians, they concluded to return to Greenland. This Vineland was on the eastern shores of North America.

### **Iceland Christianized.**

When Iceland was settled Ireland, Scotland and England were already Christianized, but the northern portion of Europe still embraced the heathen religion. But as soon as Denmark began to embrace Christianity, it was but a short time before it spread into Iceland.

In 981 the first two Christian missionaries landed in Iceland, who were named Thorvald Kodranson and Frederik. The former was an Icelfander of good family, and the latter was a Romish bishop.

Thorvald was a well educated and extremely good man and desirous to introduce Christianity into his native land and having found that the Christian religion was so far superior to heathen doctrine, he persuaded the bishop, Frederik, who was a German, to accompany him to Iceland and try to induce his relatives and country men to become converts, to which the bishop after considering the matter consented.

During the first winter of their sojourn in Iceland they resided with Thorvald's father, who, with all his people, became Christians. Thorvald and his friend, the bishop, remained for several winters in the north quarter and a few of the people became Christians. In June they went to Althing, speaking of and instructing in the Christian religion, aiming at introducing Christianity all over the land. But this so excited the people that for fear of assassination they fled from the country.