

sen's Hippolytus, theological arguments, notes on art and science, and the like. Several pages of the syllabic writing, invented by the Rev. James Evans, are given with explanations.

The "get-up" of the book is superb; engravings by Whymper, folded maps printed on glazed cloth,—a great improvement on paper—and splendid typography. But then an Earl can do things more magnificently than poor untitled authors.

America not Discovered by Columbus.

A Historical Sketch of the Discovery of America by the Norsemen, in the tenth century. By R. B. ANDERSON, A.M., of the University of Wisconsin. 12mo., pp. 104. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co. London: Trubner & Co.

THE conclusions of this book are somewhat startling, but we do not think that they can be successfully controverted. Passing over the Phœnician, Greek, and Welsh traditions and legends of American discovery, our author comes to the claims of the Norsemen to this honour. He shows that Iceland, which is 850 miles from Norway, was colonized from that country a thousand years ago—in fact, its millennial anniversary has just been celebrated. From Iceland to Greenland is only 450 miles, and the latter was early settled and became a Romish diocese for nearly 400 years. From Greenland to Labrador is 500 miles, or across Davis' Straits less than half that distance. The daring navigators who kept up constant intercourse in their strong-built ships with Iceland could easily accomplish the remainder of the task.

But we are not left to conjecture upon the subject. The Icelandic sagas, whose credibility is fully acknowledged by Humboldt and Malte-Brun, minutely record that in A.D. 986 Bjarne Herjulfson discovered the American continent; that in the year 1000 Leif Erikson wintered about the latitude of Boston,

which he named Vinland from the abundance of wild grapes; that two years after, his brother lost his life in conflict with the natives and was buried under the sign of the cross; and that in 1007 Thorfinn Karlsefne with Gudrid his wife, 151 men and seven women, with cattle and sheep, formed a colony in Vinland. Here, in 1008, was born Snorre Thorfinnson, a lineal ancestor of Thorwaldsen the Danish sculptor, and here the colony remained three years, when it was expelled by the natives. In corroboration of this migration, Prof. Anderson cites the following inscription in Roman characters on a rock near the Taunton river, Mass.,—

ORFIN OXXXI. N [a boat] M NAM.

which he translates,—“Thorfinn with 151* Norsemen took possession of this land.”

The round tower at Newport and the “Skeleton in Armour,” commemorated in Longfellow's fine ballad, are also identified as Icelandic. Our author further shows, that Columbus in 1477 visited Iceland and probably heard of these discoveries; that Gudrid, on her return, made a pilgrimage to Rome; that in 1112, Pope Paschal appointed a Bishop to Iceland, Greenland, and Vinland,—who went to Vinland in 1121; that the Pinzons, friends of Columbus, procured from the Vatican a map of Vinland; and that Adam of Bremen had described this country before 1076. The awful pestilence of the Black Death, which in the 14th century more than decimated Europe, caused this discovery, for the most part, to fall out of mind.

Columbus himself based his conviction of the existence of land in the west on the testimony of learned writers, and computed its distance at 700 leagues, and two days before sighting land offered to return if within three days it was not discovered. The awakened maritime spirit of the age, and the superiority

* With the Icelanders twelve decades go to a hundred.