

In an introductory chapter to his "Catechism of Newfoundland," he says:—"It was long rumoured that the continent of America had been known to Europeans hundreds of years prior to the time of Columbus. Traditionary tales of transatlantic voyages performed by the Scandinavians in the tenth century were handed down from father to son for many generations. Some of these, it must be confessed, were so vague and marvellous, as wholly to belong to the region of fable, while others were set forth with such minuteness of detail, and accompanied by so many statements of an astronomical as well as geographical character, all agreeing with indubitable facts brought to light by subsequent discovery, that it was difficult to evade the force of evidence which such accumulated testimonies set before us."

At the instance, we believe, of that venerable philosopher and eminent scientific traveller, the late Alexander Von Humboldt, this curious and interesting question has been investigated afresh by the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries; and it would certainly appear, from the researches of these celebrated men, notwithstanding the obscurities of certain portions of the narratives which claimed their attention, that the North Atlantic had been crossed on several occasions at this early period, first accidentally, and from stress of weather, by which the voyagers were carried westward, far

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