

equal distance to the east of China. He called the country Tusango on account of many trees growing there that went by that name. It has been assumed that this country was Mexico and California. The Irish discovery appears to have been two fold. First, St. Patrick sent missionaries to the "Isles of America", which would place the date prior to 460 A. D., thus ante-dating the purported Chinese discovery; and, second, at a time little previous to the Norse discovery or toward the close of the tenth century. Next in chronological order is the advent of the Norsemen in America, about 1000 A. D.

Some time previous to 1147 there set sail from Lisbon eight Arabian brothers called Maghrourins, who swore they would not return till they had penetrated to the farthest bounds of the Dark Sea. They came to an island inhabited by a people of lofty stature and a red skin.

Another story affirms that about the year 1169, Madoc, a son of Owen Gwywedd, prince of North Wales, left his country on account of disturbances, and determined to search out some unknown land and dwell there. With a few ships he embarked with his followers and for many months they sailed westward until they came to a large and fertile country, when they disembarked and permanently settled. After a time Madoc returned to Wales, where he fitted out ten ships and prevailed on a large number of his countrymen to return with him. Both Mexico and the Californias have been assigned as the place of this Welsh settlement.

The marvelous tales of the Venetian brothers, Nicolo and Antonio Zeno, date back to the year 1380. They established a monastery and church in Greenland. After the death of Nicolo the other remained for fourteen years in the service of the chieftan, Earl Tichmni. Antonio heard of a land, a thousand miles distant, populous and civilized, ruled by a king, and having Latin books in the library. Farther to the southwest was a more civilized region and temperate climate. Antonio set out in search of this land, but the voyage proved unsuccessful.

An obscure writer of the date of 1717 put forth the claim that, about the year 1464, John Vaz Casta Cortereal, a gentleman of the royal household of Portugal, explored the northern seas by order of Alphonso V, and discovered Terra de Bacalhaos or land of codfish, afterwards called New Foundland. The discovery by the Poles is placed in the year 1476; that by Martin Behaim in 1483; and that by Cousin of Dieppe in 1488.

These alleged discoveries have not been without their advocates. Any other purported discovery will gather to itself zealous defenders, however short may be the thread upon which the evidence depends. If it once gains a foothold, the most cogent of reasons and the most forcible of facts will fail to dislodge it. Even intelligent minds will be drawn into the maelstrom of error.