

straits of Belle-Isle, and in the third summer, to quote an early narrator, "They explored the island, but as their vessel unfortunately bulged against a headland, they were obliged to spend the greater part of the season in repairing her. The old keel being useless, they erected it as a monument on the top of the cape, to which they gave the name of 'Kiaelarnes.'"

Having refitted the ship, they again reconnoitered the east side of the country, where they fell in with three small boats covered with skins, with three men in each. These they seized, with the exception of one man, who escaped, and killed them in mere wantonness. Shortly after they were attacked by a multitude of the same savages in their boats, but they were so well screened from the shower of Eskimo arrows by the boards which guarded the ship's sides, and defended themselves with such vigour that after an hour's skirmish they compelled their assailants to seek safety in flight and unjustly enough after so arduous a contest bestowed upon these Indians the contemptuous appellation "Skraelings;" Thorwald alone, of all the crew, paid the forfeit of his barbarity with his life, having received a wound from an arrow in the skirmish from which he soon died.

It would seem from this narrative that the first Skraelings seen by Europeans were met on the northeastern coast of Newfoundland or the southeastern coast of Labrador in the earliest years of the eleventh century, and their own record of the occurrence reflects little credit on the European barbarians who were the victors and murderers in these first encounters between the people of the east and west.

No satisfactory evidence is to be found that Greenland at this time was inhabited, save by the Norwegian and Icelandic colonists who settled upon its east and west coast; indeed the most ancient Icelandic writers, of whom Saemund Frede, Arius Polihistor, Snorro Sturlesen and others, who wrote as early as the twelfth century, relate that, although pieces of broken oars were sometimes found on the strand, no human beings were ever seen, either on the east or west coasts.

If the treatment accorded by Thorwald to the Skraelings was a fair example of that which was accorded them when afterwards met with by other adventurers on the Atlantic and St. Lawrence coasts of Labrador, we may well surmise that the name and ill-fame of the eastern intruders would be carried from the seal tents of the Labrador coast to the snow houses of their countrymen on the far-off northern coasts of islands to the westward of the wide and treacherous sea, now known as Baffin's Bay, and its inlet, Davis's Strait, and have engendered that racial hostility which, aided by the plague or black death of Europe, was three centuries later to sweep away from Greenland their eastern enemies with a destruction so complete as to leave no living man, and scarcely a monument of the occupation of the colonizing race.

From the date of the recolonization of Greenland we have a better knowledge of the "Innuits" or Eskimo who then possessed the land, and who, on the whole, having forgotten the old feud, or perhaps deemed it wiped out in blood, received their visitors in peace. From the records of the factors of the royal Danish fur trade and the devout missionaries who, led on first by the devoted Hans Egede, have, with their successors, the Moravian brethren, spread the light of the gospel from the home of the Aurora to the Straits of Belle-Isle, along the Greenland and Labrador coast, we learn much to dispel the prejudice against the "Skraelings" (shrivelled chips of creatures) engendered by descriptions of them written over eight hundred years ago, and certainly the kindly savages whom Richardson, Parry