

called the "Written Rock," and recording, it seems more than probable, the visits of the ancient Northmen to this region. The greater portion consists of Indian hieroglyphics, but there is one genuine Icelandic fragment, representing, with little question, "one hundred and fifty-one men," the exact number, it may be remembered, with which Thorfinn, after the sailing of Thorhall and his eight companions, came to this spot. Other portions, among which sanguine antiquarians have imagined that they discovered the name of Thorfinn himself, remain undeciphered.

It has been thought probable by sagacious archæologists that other colonies of European origin, from choice or accident, may have been founded in the New World, anterior to its discovery by Columbus. Mr. Catlin, the eminent Indian painter and historian, has, in an ingenious essay, made it evident, that the famous Mandan tribe, lately extinguished by the ravages of small-pox, may have been, in part, of Welsh origin, and perhaps descended from the adventurers, who early in the fourteenth century sailed westward, with Madoc, prince of Wales, and never regained their native land. The complexion of these people, though somewhat modified by intermixture with aboriginal blood, was light, and their hair and features resembled those of Europeans. Their language, in some respects, bore an extraordinary similitude to the Welsh, and their light boats, formed of hides stretched upon a frame, were almost identical in their construction with the "coracles" still used on the Severn and the Wye. This hypothesis, supported by much ingenious argument and illustration, is certainly coherent, and may, very likely, be correct.