

Iceland were sub-divided into counties, each county consisting of one third of the quarter, with the exception of the northern quarter which was divided into four counties, the northern quarter as it was called, having much larger area than the others. Each of the counties sent representatives to the Althing, each county sending 3 representatives, but the northern sent 12. This made a sum total of 40 representatives or legislators, one being elected the pronouncing lawyer or head of the legislature. These men met in the month of May and the convocation was called quarter-thing. They appointed the jury who looked into and passed on all question of law that were not carried up to the Althing.

After the session of Althing was closed, the quarter master summoned the people of the 'quarter-thing' to meet again, at which meeting he informed the people of all new laws adopted by Althing and explained their meaning and use. These quarter masters, however, had no judicial power, but acted as informants or teachers, as it were, for the members of the quarter-thing.

### **Greenland and Vineland Discovered.**

During the colonization century, of which we have already spoken, a certain man, whose name we cannot recall, was caught in a severe storm off the west coast of Iceland and his vessel was driven before the wind so far west that he sighted land hitherto unknown and unheard of by the people of Iceland. But it was but a short time before the news of his discovery became general and his report was believed to be true, that more land existed in the Western Ocean, as the Northern Atlantic was then called. About this time a wicked Viking, whose name was Eirik Thorvaldson living in the west, near Broad Bay, was convicted for criminal offences and sentenced to 3 years' exile. He set sail in a western direction and discovered a large area of mainland, where, having disembarked, he resided for the period of his sentence. On returning to Iceland he spoke in such praise of this new country, which he called Greenland, that he induced many Icelanders to emigrate, telling them that