

A GLANCE AT FINNISH HISTORY.

The earliest home of the Finnish people has been traced to be the northern slopes of the Altai Mountains in Asia. The Finns belong to the Fenno-Hungarian family of the Mongolian race. Several hundred years before Christ this ancient family of peoples had travelled from their early homes to the district of the Ural Mountains—the boundary between Asia and Europe. At this time our early ancestors are already divided into several groups, of which the most noted are the Bulgarians (descendants of the famous Huns), the Hungarians and the Finns. All but the Finns remained in Southern and Central Europe, while the Finns travelled north, building their homes around the present Gulf of Finland and the southern shores of the Baltic Sea, about 700 A.D. Finally, a large portion of them entered Finland itself and drove the Laplanders before them to the Arctic shores, about 1000 A.D.

Finland, called by the people themselves "Suomi"—the swampy region, is bounded by the Gulfs of Bothnia and Finland, while on the land side its boundaries are Russia, Norway and Sweden. "The land of a thousand lakes," as it is often called on account of the multitude of its