

ing department, Mr. John McGur, under whose management all these intricate details have been followed out and the notes packed up for shipment to Washington, where the face is printed, and the seal of the United States Treasurer affixed. It is therefore, safe to calculate, that before a fifty cent note reaches the public, it will have been counted at least twenty-two times. So it is with all the currency afloat. The appliances for carrying on this work must be complete, and nothing but the best workmanship is allowed by the government in printing the circulating medium. The designing and engraving rooms, with their delicate machinery and skilled labor, are marvels, and the system of checks employed throughout the various branches is such as to render the consummation of any fraud upon the company or the government utterly impossible.

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#### CLAIMS TO THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.

**P**ROBABLY no archæological mystery is enshrouded with more interest and a greater charm, than the discovery of the Western continent. This fact is attested by the devotion and zeal of a galaxy of men of genius, such as Humboldt, Kingstorough, Stephens, Rafn, and well nigh a score of others. The various theories for the solution of this perplexing problem, may of them ingeniously spun, are too numerous for mention here. Only the principal claims to discovery and colonization can receive attention. Ancient America, with its noble monuments of a once grand civilization, is to us a land of darkness, and its history one of uncertainty. In our inquiries, fact must, in a measure, be exchanged for conjecture. Very scanty are the records that come down to us from the ancients concerning their knowledge of the Atlantic, and the islands hidden in its bosom, though those indomitable sailors, the Phœnicians, had passed the pillars of Hercules and