

ing the Vinland of our own country. Ever intent on the spread of religion and the organization of the church of Vinland, as well as the conversion of the savages of the South, he lost no time in visiting the new colony on the shores of Narragansett Bay, accompanied by a band of zealous missionaries who had volunteered for that service, and by a colony of settlers.

*History of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. Henry De Courcy and John Gilmary Shea.*

The missionary spirit is inherent in the Catholic Church, and it dates from the moment when our Lord said to His apostles, "Go and teach all nations." Before St. Paul had left Asia Minor, missionaries had already penetrated to Italy and Spain, and from their day to our own, each succeeding age has produced her heroes, devoting their lives to the greatest of human enterprises—the conversion of souls. When the still pagan Northmen discovered Iceland, in the eighth century of our present era, they found on the shore crosses, bells, and sacred vessels of Irish workmanship. The island had therefore been visited by Catholic missionaries, and the Irish clergy may with justice lay claim to the discovery of the New World.

The Northmen, after founding a colony in Iceland, pushed their discovery westward, and soon discovered a part of the Western continent, to which, from the agreeable verdure with which