

named Helgi and Finnbogi, and several more, went to Vinland, which trip was one both disastrous and disgraceful. Freydis was a brawlsome and violent character, like unto her father. Having killed and caused to be killed all the leading men and women of the company, she returned in disgrace to Greenland the next year.

From this on the travels to Vinland became less frequent, yet such trips are several times mentioned in the old vellums. Eyrbyggja Saga says that in about 1027, Gudleif, the son of Gudlaug the Rich, of Straumfirh, had been driven by a gale to some unknown land, far to the south-west from Iceland, which is thought to have been somewhere in the southern part of North America.

It is recorded in ancient annals that in the year 1121, Eirik Upsi, a bishop in Greenland, had gone in search of Vinland, but was never heard from again, which appears to have put a check to the going to Vinland for some time. However, it is recorded in the annals that in 1285, two priests, Adalbrand and Thorvald, the sons of Helgi, had come to a land far west from Iceland, which is called in the annals, sometimes Dunisles, and sometimes Newland. It is said that in 1289, Eirik the Priesthater, king of Norway, had sent a man named Hroif, also known as Landa-Hroif, to search for Newland, and he was in 1290 in Iceland trying to get ships and men for that purpose. He died in 1295. Some think that this Newland may possibly be the same as Newfoundland. It is certain at least that the before mentioned Helgasons got into the wild part of Greenland. The last mentioned of Vinland in the Icelandic vellums is that in 1347, a ship from Greenland came to Straumfirh in Iceland which, having gone to Markland, on her return to Greenland she was caught in a gale and was driven to Iceland.

Explanatory Notes.

[BY JOHN THORGEIRSON.]

1. Ari the Wise is the first on record to write a historical composition in the vernacular. Most of his works are, however, lost. Some authorities claim him to be the author of the greater part of that famous vellum, Codex Flatoensis. He wrote *Islendingabok*, "The Book of the Icelanders," a brief history of Iceland from its discovery and down to his time. He died in the year A. D. 1148.

2. The ancient Northmen used the north-star for a guide and called it *Leidarstjarna*, "the leading or guide star." Taking it as a base, they divided the sky into eight divisions, which they called "eykt" and each division point they called "dagsmark" or days-mark. In the east was "Midurmorgun", middle morning; southeast, "Dagmal", day-meal; south, "Hadegi", high-day; southwest "Non", noon; west, "Midaftan", middle evening; northwest, "Nattmal", night-meal; north, "Lagnætt", low-night; northeast, "Otta", which appears to signify, the eighth. In reckoning the time they called five days a "Fimt", a fifth, and five fims one month. They knew that in the evening of about the twenty-fourth day of "Slagtamanud", slaughter-month, which corresponds to Nov. 9th, the Seven Brothers were directly opposite from the sun and gained a certain distance every week. For the day time they had some sort of a sundial.

3. Some authorities claim that Leif had a priest with him on his trip. But whether or not, it is an undoubted fact that he had full charge of the mission work, and hence must have had some kind of ecclesiastical consecration, which hardly would have been the case had he been an illiterate man. In the Icelandic sagas it is frequently mentioned that many of the Icelanders who emigrated from Norway to that country, could both read and write. Oddny, the sister of Thorkell, of Krossavik, was both deaf and dumb, but communicated with others by writing on a roll. When the famous Icelandic poet and warrior, Egill Skallagrimson, composed the funeral poem, "Sonartorrek" at the death his son, Bodvar, his daughter, Thorgerd, wrote it on a roll as fast as he composed it. Hence it is almost certain that Leif Erikson was not an illiterate man. And as the Sagas of Erik the Red and also of Thorfinn Karlsefni, who was Leif's friend and companion and married Leif's brother's widow, and went to Vinland, together with a complete history of the discovery of Vinland by the Icelanders, are to be found in three of the oldest Icelandic vellums, but nowhere is a separate saga of Leif himself, I am inclined to believe that he wrote those Sagas, and that they were preserved by the famous historian, Ari the Wise, who was a priest and a relative of Leif's.

4. Mæsar is most likely a maple, it being called in old High German "masar", middle H. G. maser, and in early English maser.

5. This place is thought by some to be Fall river in the present state of Massachusetts.

CHILDREN AND MATCHES.

The Millard county *Blade* of March 1st says:

On Monday afternoon two little girls belonging respectively to James H. Mace and D. M. Palmer, got into the latter's covered wagon, in which were several sacks of grain and a "grub" box containing matches. There was also some straw in the wagon.

The little tots took the matches and began to build a small fire. In a moment the interior was a mass of flame. The Palmer child escaped by way of the front. The other was not so fortunate, being penned in the back, but she managed to get through a small opening in the rear end of the cover, and with burned face and singed hair leaped to the ground, badly scared but not seriously injured.

There being no water convenient, willing hands ran the wagon across the street, and the flames were soon extinguished from Petty's flowing well.

SAN JUAN STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the San Juan Stake of Zion was held at Bluff on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 17 and 18.

There were in attendance Elder F. A. Hammond, president of the Stake, several members of the High Council, the Bishops of Bluff and Montecello wards, and representatives from all of the wards in the Stake except Moab. Owing to the inclemency of the weather the attendance

from distant parts of the Stake was smaller than usual.

The usual business of sustaining the General and Stake authorities was attended to. The reports from the various wards and branches showed that the Saints generally were striving to live their religion. A good flow of the Spirit of God accompanied those who spoke during the conference, and much valuable and timely instruction was given.

On the evening of the 17th the Y. M. M. I. A., held their semi-annual Stake conference and on Sunday evening a meeting was held in the interest of the Y. L. M. I. A. Relief Society and Primary conferences were held on Monday, the 19th.

All of the meetings were well attended and all felt abundantly paid for coming.

PETER ALLAN,
Assistant Stake Clerk.

NEWS FROM PROVIDENCE.

PROVIDENCE, Feb. 26, 1894.—I thought a few lines from here would not be out of place. I can say the people as a rule are feeling well in health and spirits. We had a fine time last Saturday night. The choir got up a surprise on Brother John Scheiss, as he leaves to go on a mission to Germany. He has been a good worker in the choir for many years, and was alive to all the duties he was called to perform. The choir invited the bishopric and presidents and counselors of all quorums and organizations to join them, and when Brother Scheiss came to practice for the last time for awhile, he found the tables spread with loads of provisions waiting for him to come and help eat them.

After supper we had songs, recitations, speeches, dancing, games, and all in good spirits. Brother Scheiss had a little means given him to buy books necessary for his mission work.

I would say we have a plan in this ward which I think could be worked to by other wards, it was started here twenty years ago by Brother M. D. Hammond when he was Bishop here, and it has never been allowed to cease. It is this: When an Elder is called to go on a mission, the Bishop sends out collectors and I don't believe any one of those Elders have ever had to furnish a dollar to take them to their field of labor. We have furnished a great many missionaries in twenty years, but the people look upon it as a pleasure as well as a duty, to aid them in going to carry the Gospel to the nations who sit in darkness.

Professor Richmond will be here tonight to lecture on fruit culture, and how to care for the pests that destroy fruit. It is expected the meeting house will be crowded, as the people are alive to this industry, and it will not be long before we have a canning factory here, thus adding to the wealth of the town.

Meetings are well attended, and our Sabbath schools and association meetings are doing well. We also have a brass band started here and the boys are doing exceedingly well for the time they have been started.

We have lots of snow but we won't hear the cry of the poor this winter as they are being well cared for during the cold weather.

TRAMP.