

Discovery of North America By the Viking Race.

"It is a well known fact that the first landing in America was made by the Vikings, who landed in the year A. D. 982, and remained for many centuries the discoverers of the treasures of the continent, and the property of all the Scandinavians and the people of the world, who have since been discovered, as they have been discovered in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Germany and England."

DR. GEORGE WEBB DASENT, OAKS, ILLINOIS.

It being no longer questioned or doubted, that the Vikings, with several other Icelanders, not only discovered the American continent, but made an unsuccessful attempt to establish a colony of Icelanders in what they called Vinland the Good, during the first decades of the eleventh century, I am going to write a very condensed account of this historical fact, as it has been handed down in several volumes of manuscript, not less than 600 years old.

ERIK THE EXILE.

The incidents that lead to these discoveries were that Erik Thorvaldson, a Norseman, in the year A. D. 982, was, in the Thorsness district courts jury in Iceland, found guilty of murder in the first degree, and hence, according to the laws of Iceland, was condemned to lifelong exile, and could be killed whenever, and wherever found. Having fled from Norway to Iceland, and as the Norse and Icelandic Vikings at that time infested the coasts of all the Baltic, and the British Islands, he felt unsafe to go to any of these localities. There was a tradition in Iceland that a man named Gunnbjörn had found some islands in a westerly direction from Iceland. Erik fitted out a vessel and sailed west from Broadfirth, making the glacier Snæfellsjökull his navigational base. He came to where the glacier Bluecirk lay, and began to explore the country. Following the south coast, he sailed in a westerly direction till he came to a fifth of the southwest coast where there was good harbor, and considerable grassy lowlands, between the glaciers and the sea. He called the fifth Erik's fifth. Unloaded his ship, and made a home, which he called Brattahlid.

ENTICING NAME.

He staid there for three years, and then went to Iceland, to get people to go with him and settle in this new country, which he called Greenland, saying that it would be an inducement for the people to go there, to give the land a good name.

Undoubtedly he told some very enticing stories about this new land, for the next spring when he started back to Greenland, he was accompanied by 25 emigrant ships, only 11 of which, however, reached Greenland, the others being either driven back to Iceland or entirely lost.

BIRTH OF LEIF.

Erik the Red married a girl named Thiodhild. She was the daughter of a man by the name of Jorund, belonging to the Roykness family, which was one of the leading pioneer families. Erik and his wife had four children, three sons and a daughter, whose name was Freidis. She was very ill-tempered and of generally evil disposition, or the very opposite of her brother Leif, who is said to have been a man large of stature, great physical strength and of very imposing appearance, a man of much intelligence, discreet and kind, and temperate in all things. Apparently Freidis took after her father, while Leif must have favored his mother and her family.

BJARNI BARBARSON.

Among those who went with Erik the Red in the year A. D. 982 to settle in Greenland was a man named Bjarni Barbarson. The latter's father was a relation of Ingolf the first settler in Iceland. Bjarni's son Bjarni, (pronounced Byar-ni, the accent is always on the first syllable in the Icelandic language), was in Norway at the time his father left for Greenland, and hence did not know anything about his departure from Iceland. He came home, towards fall, the same year that his father left in the spring. On learning of his father's departure, and where he had gone, he concluded to go to him. And without unloading,

with his crew set sail for Greenland. To begin with, he had such a light wind, that it took him three days or more to get out of sight of land. Dark weather, with fog and storm, then came on, and as for days and nights they never saw the sun, not did they see any land, and they naturally lost their bearings, and did not know whether they were drifting. Finally, however, they sighted a land with some elevations but no mountains, all of which were covered with dense forests and as there was no timber in Greenland, Bjarni knew this to be some other land. Heading north, leaving the land on the port side with sheets toward shore, they sailed for two days, till they came in sight of another land which appeared level and was also covered with forest and hence could not be Greenland. They still kept their same course sailing two days and a night in a heavy south-west wind came in sight of the third land, which was mountainous, and the higher regions of glacial appearance. Bjarni's men, thinking this to be Greenland, wanted to land there. But he would not, saying that he felt sure that was not Greenland, which proved to be true, as after two days sailing, they came under Herjolfs Ness on Greenland.

In Greenland the actions of Bjarni were generally regarded very foolish, and his indifference regarding those lands made him an object of scorn. The young men in Greenland deemed it really desirable to go and search for those lands, explore them and learn something regarding their qualities and climates. This was in the fall of A. D. 985.

Leif Erikson was born in Houtkad, (Hawickdale) Daladistrict, Iceland, about A. D. 950. He went with his father to Greenland but was evidently in Norway with King Olaf Trygvason, at the time that Bjarni Herjolfsen came to Greenland, and as Bjarni also went to Norway, they apparently passed each other on the way.

It was in the spring of the year A. D. 980 that Leif Erikson, at the instigation of King Olaf Trygvason, accompanied by a Christian priest, having been baptized himself, left Norway with the purpose of Christianizing Greenland.

He like Bjarni Herjolfsen, on account of foggy weather and heavy north-easterly gales, was drifted to an unknown land; but unlike Bjarni, he landed there and gave names to several localities. It was on this voyage, that the wineberries (grapes) were found; but this wine-producing fruit whatever it was, evidently was not grapes, or rather, as the fruit grew on trees. It appears to be certain that they found some juicy fruit growing on trees, as we find that so early as during the former part of the Twelfth century a portion of the American continent was known by the name of Vinland the Good. (Vinlandic Goda.) The statement that a man by the name of Tyrkir, German, had found this fruit, and had become intoxicated by eating it, seems doubtful. I am much more inclined to believe the account as given in some old, but less known volumes, by two Scotch people, a man and a wife, who were with Leif Erikson, when he went to explore the land, that on the same trip they had discovered "softness wheatfields."

WINTERED ON MAINLAND.

It appears that Leif stayed in America, or rather Vinland, through one winter, as he did not arrive in Greenland till the next year after he started from Norway, and it was on his way from Vinland to Greenland, this same trip, that he rescued a shipwrecked crew, 15 in number, among whom was the captain's wife, by the name of Gudrid. For this cause he was surnamed, "the lucky." His father, however, told him that he regarded him none the better, as the bringing of the prophet to Greenland fully overbalanced the good deed of rescuing the ships crew.

It was apparently the same summer, i. e. 1001, when Bjarni Herjolfsen returned from Norway to Greenland, that Leif, the Lucky, came to Greenland from Vinland.

EXPLORATIONS OF LUCKY.

The next spring Leif manned a vessel, 35 men, and went to explore Vinland. They found that land first which Bjarni had seen last. There were large glaciers upon the land, but the country between the mountains and the coast was but barren rocks, and after exploring it somewhat, Leif went on board his ship and called the land "Helluland" or Flagstone land. Sailing in a southerly direction they soon came to another land, which was well timbered, on the coast, and was level. There existed white sand along the beach. Because of the timber Leif called this land, Markland, or Forest's

land. Once more they hoisted canvas and sailed, still in a southerly direction before a northeasterly gale, and after two days' sailing came to yet another land. There was an island near the coast, and a large river, flowing out of a lake, emptied into the sea. At the mouth of the river there was very shallow water. They got the ship up into the river, where there was good harbor, and built a large house on the shore. They saw that this was an excellent country, with much grass, and light frosts only, that stock would need any hay in the winter. The place where the house was located was called, "Leif's Booth." No one seems to know where this was, but it is generally concluded that it must have been somewhere about 40 degrees N. L. or probably much farther south. This trip of Leif's is generally regarded as the first Vinland exploration. But as his father, Erik the Red, died the next winter, Leif went home to Greenland, and lived on his father's estate all the rest of his days.

Should the consumer think over the conditions that prevail in the average poultry yard he might easily be persuaded to eliminate that particular food from the daily menu, but a visit to the Rose Villa Poultry farm at 2469 Third East reveals a condition bordering on the ideal. Not only is the place spacious and run on an immense scale, but a general cleanliness prevails that is little short of remarkable in a place where so many fowls are kept.

The incubator capacity of this interesting place is 1,500 chicks per month, and the incubator house is of itself very interesting. It is built of concrete, with deep walls, about four feet under ground, the balance being of brick and above ground. Perfect ventilation is provided also shelter from heat or cold so that for the greater part of the year about 90 per cent of fertile eggs are hatched.

The brooder house is also interesting, being heated with hot water and kept sanitary and clean so that the young chick begins life almost healthy surroundings. The most interesting feature of the whole place, however, is the cooey arrangement and the food as it should be. Mr. Finegan is ably assisted by his wife who is an expert incubator operator. Their trade is all retail, the best families of the city

law, or from that of connection by commerce, immigration, or conquest, we shall find the two languages and peoples so closely bound together that whatever throws light on the beliefs, institutions, and customs of the one must necessarily illustrate and explain those of the other. Nor shall it be forgotten that in the tenth and eleventh centuries, the Icelanders were the foremost in the history of the time. They were at once the most learned and the boldest and the most adventurous of men. From Iceland they pushed on to Greenland and America, and their ships swarmed in commerce or viking voyages on all the seas. At the courts of kings and earls in England, and elsewhere, although none were more dreaded as foes, none were more welcomed as friends, for their gift of wit and song."

JOHN THORGEIRSON.

Is Japan Endangering American Trade.

The energy displayed by the Japanese in furthering their own interests has convinced many keen observers in this country that Japan's progress is endangering American trade in the Orient. This subject is thoughtfully discussed in the current number of Leslie's Weekly by Professor J. Ingram

Next in importance to Leif the Lucky, as regards the discovery and settlement of Vinland, were Thorfin, a Norseman, and his wife Gudrid, who with 45 others went in the year A. D. 1007 to Vinland, and dwelt there till A. D. 1011. It was in the year 1008 that the first Icelandic child of record, their son Snorri, was born on the continent. Thorfin and his family then went back to Iceland, where Thorfin died, several years later.

WIDOW WENT TO ROME.

After his death his widow Gudrid, being a zealous Christian, went to Rome, and it is unreasonable to believe that she did not tell about the discovery of Vinland, and her trip to Rome. Among the descendants of Thorfin and Gudrid were many men of mark, among whom were three prominent Catholic bishops, namely, Brand, Thorlak and Bjarni, two of whom while serving as such also made trips to Rome, which leads me to believe that they might also have given to the Roman authorities some important knowledge regarding the discovery of the "Land in the West," or "Beyond the Sea." Those bishops were highly educated, and Bishop Thorlak is to be known by the name of Thorlak the Wise. I am inclined to think that it might have been due to some traditions brought to Rome by Gudrid, who had been in Vinland, that the pope, who was a learned man, sent his nephew, Columbus, to seek land in the west.

HELGI AND FINBOGI.

It was in A. D. 1012 that two brothers named Helgi and Finbogi, Icelanders who came to Greenland at the instigation of Freidis, the daughter of Erik the Red, went to Vinland, and took her with them. When there, she broke all the agreements she had made with them in Greenland, and after having caused them to be fondly murdered, she went back to Greenland. Her brother Leif was sorely displeased with her; but she being his sister he forbore inflicting on her a death penalty.

HISTORY LAPSED.

From that on accounts of the travels between Vinland and Greenland are very meager, and the latest mention made thereof in the Icelandic annals is that in the year A. D. 1347 a ship from Greenland came to Straumfjord (stream fifth) in Iceland. That ship came from Vinland, but going to Greenland, drifted out of its course, and came to harbor in Iceland.

STORY OF NATIVES.

When Leif Erikson came from Vinland he had with him a couple of native youngsters from there, who said that to the south from Vinland was a land called Whitemen's Land. Where the people were white complexioned and had many curious and different manners from the natives of Vinland. That it was one of their customs to go in processions, carry a pole with a cloth on it, and make much noise. A story also came from the Greeks and Ireland to Iceland, that south from Vinland were some Christian people of white color, and that an Icelandic whose name was Ari Marson had been baptized there, and was held in honor by the natives.

This is a short sketch of what is known regarding the discovery of the American continent by the Icelanders in the eleventh century. The volumes Hanksbok and Plateyrbok, from which this, "The Saga of Erik the Red" and "Saga of Thorfinn Karlsen" are taken, and from which I have condensed the above, were written sometime during the fifteenth century. The most important fact, however, to verify this discovery is the Icelandic mentioning of Vinland by Ari the Wise (died A. D. 1145) in his Islendingabok, written about A. D. 1125, where, in the tenth chapter he says: "The land called Greenland was discovered and settled from Iceland. Erik the Red, a man from the Broadfirth in Iceland, went out there and took up land in a place some called Erikdith. He called the land Greenland for, said he, a good name will induce people to go there. In Greenland men found many relics which prove that the same kind of people which has inhabited Vinland has been in Greenland also."

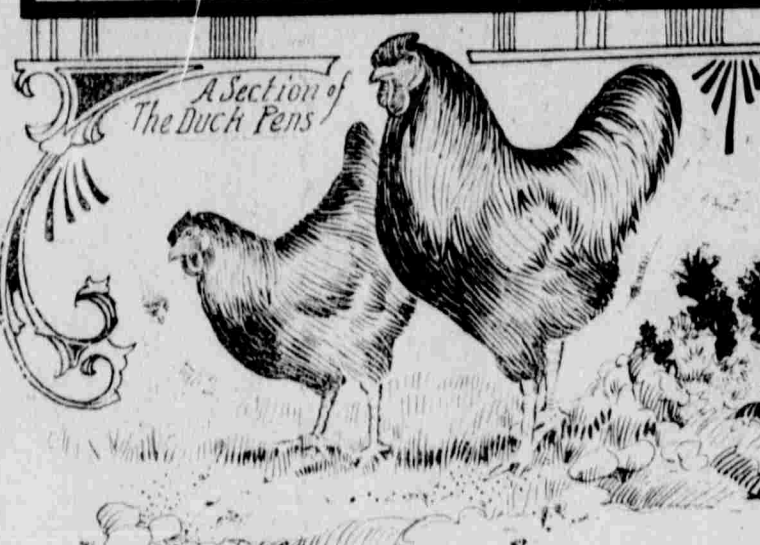
DR. DASENT'S TRIBUTE.

I end this article by quoting what that eminent English scholar, Dr. George Webb Dasant, says regarding the relations in general between the people in England and the Icelanders, and the importance of the Icelandic literature and language for the English scholars. Says he: "From whatever point of view, therefore, we consider the relations which exist between England and Iceland, whether from that of primeval affinity and a community of race, religion, and

A REMARKABLE POULTRY HOME.



Residence of Mr. Finegan



A Section of The Duck Pens



Chicken Runs, Brooder House and Incubator House.

of brick and above ground. Perfect ventilation is provided also shelter from heat or cold so that for the greater part of the year about 90 per cent of fertile eggs are hatched.

The brooder house is also interesting, being heated with hot water and kept sanitary and clean so that the young chick begins life almost healthy surroundings. The most interesting feature of the whole place, however, is the cooey arrangement and the food as it should be. Mr. Finegan is ably assisted by his wife who is an expert incubator operator. Their trade is all retail, the best families of the city

supply their tables from this place and feel so secure in the knowledge that the fowl from Rose Villa are clean and healthy that they will buy on other. Although the Rose Villa Poultry farm is the finest and best kept in the state, indeed a representative of an eastern poultry journal who travels extensively, declares that equal is not found in the entire west.

Reference to the above illustration gives an idea of what may be seen at the Rose Villa but a visit by those interested in poultry give more and better ideas on poultry raising than all the books that can be read.

Rabbit Philosophy.

There is a naturalist, a thoughtful man, who tries to forget that there are races and species, and to understand each animal and man just as he is in his own skin. In a whimsical humor the other day, he was explaining to his friends why your wife wears a certain style of bonnet with pleasure to a little season, but feels more uncomfortable and ill at ease the more comfortable and ill at ease the more her neighbors wear something different. As an object lesson he caught a common sparrow, put a dab of paint on her head, and then turned her loose among her neighbors. The moment they saw the unusual head-dress all the other sparrows male and female began to make the poor creature miserable. They abhorred excitement, first, calling in every idle sparrow of the street; then they set upon the sparrow of the flock and chided her of the flock and made her an outcast. Day after day she tried to return to her so-called home, but the flock drove her away without mercy. When she persisted in her attempt, not seeing her own delinquency nor understanding the situation, they fell upon her savagely one day and killed her.

"And that is the reason," said the thoughtful man whimsically, "women follow the style in bonnet."

Peter Rabbit's "Bride-Patch" I ophy."

COCKTAIL HAS REPLACED THE FRAPPE



THE KEELEY INSTITUTE.

"Why shouldn't she?" that is the reason that drinking is increasing among women of all classes. The temperance worker declares that women are consuming more liquor today than ever before; the club woman says that drink is destroying motherhood; the physician asserts that he has had more female victims of alcoholism during the last year than ever before; the society woman admits that the cocktail has replaced the frappe in the feminine fancy.

Why shouldn't she? That is the defense. The clubwoman has given the answer. She has said: "Go to France and see the effect that years of drinking among women has had upon the French race. Look at the frail, unenriched children, the tremendously increased proportion of subnormals; study the statistics on mortality among women in gay Paris; study the effect of drinking among women upon the morals of society in France; upon the French family life, the institution of marriage, the reproduction of the race. You will find your answer."

And that drinking among women has increased to a deplorable extent during the last several years is certain.

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