

storms to Iceland while attempting to reach the Färoë Islands, which had already been visited by the Irish. The first settlement of the Northmen was made in 875 by Ingolf. Greenland, the eastern peninsula of a land which appears to be every where separated by the sea from America proper, was early seen,\* although it was first peopled from Iceland a hundred years later (983). The colonization of Iceland, which Naddod first called Snow-land, *Snjoland*, was carried through Greenland in a southwestern direction to the New Continent.

The Färoë Islands and Iceland must be considered as intermediate stations and starting points for attempts made to reach Scandinavian America. In a similar manner, the settlement at Carthage served the Tyrians in their efforts to reach the Straits of Gadeira and the port of Tartessus; and thus, too, Tartessus, in its turn, led this enterprising people from station to station on to Cerne, the Gauleon (Ship Island) of the Carthaginians.†

Notwithstanding the proximity of the opposite shores of Labrador (*Helluland it mikla*), one hundred and twenty-five years elapsed from the first settlement of the Northmen in Iceland to Leif's great discovery of America. So small were the means possessed by a noble, enterprising, but not wealthy race for furthering navigation in these remote and dreary regions of the earth. The littoral tracts of Vinland, so called by the German Tyrker from the wild grapes which were found there, delighted its discoverers by the fruitfulness of the soil and the mildness of its climate when compared with Iceland and Greenland. This tract, which was named by Leif the "Good Vinland" (*Vinland it goda*), comprised the coast line between Boston and New York, and consequently parts of the present states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, between the parallels of latitude of Civita Vecchia and Terracina, which, however, correspond there only to mean annual temperatures of  $47^{\circ}\cdot 8$  and  $52^{\circ}\cdot 1$ .‡ This was the prin-

\* Gunnbjörn was wrecked, in 876 or 877, on the rocks subsequently called by his name, which were lately rediscovered by Captain Graah. Gunnbjörn saw the east coast of Greenland, but did not land upon it. (Rafn, *Antiquit. Amer.*, p. 11, 93, and 304.)

† See *ante*, p. 132.

‡ These mean annual temperatures of the eastern coast of America, under the parallels of  $42^{\circ} 25'$  and  $41^{\circ} 15'$ , correspond in Europe to the latitudes of Berlin and Paris, places which are situated  $8^{\circ}$  or  $10^{\circ}$  more to the north. Besides, the decrease of mean annual temperature from lower to higher latitudes is here so rapid, that, in the interval of latitude between Boston and Philadelphia, which is  $2^{\circ} 41'$ , an increase of one