

principal settlement of the Northmen. The colonists had often to contend with a very warlike race of Esquimaux, who then extended further to the south under the name of the Skralinger. The first Bishop of Greenland, Eric Upsi, an Icelander, undertook, in 1121, a Christian mission to Vinland; and the name of the colonized country has even been discovered in old national songs of the inhabitants of the Färoë Islands.\*

The activity and bold spirit of enterprise manifested by the Greenland and Icelandic adventurers are proved by the circumstance that, after they had established settlements south of  $41^{\circ} 30'$  north latitude, they erected three boundary pillars on the eastern shores of Baffin's Bay, at the latitude of  $72^{\circ} 55'$ , on one of the Woman's Islands,† northwest of the present most northern Danish colony of Upernavick. The Runic inscriptions, which were discovered in the autumn of the year 1824, contain, according to Rask and Finn Magnussen, the date 1135. From this eastern coast of Baffin's Bay, more than six hundred years before the bold expeditions of Parry and Ross, the colonists very regularly visited Lancaster Sound and a part of Barrow's Straits for the purpose of fishing. The locality of the fishing ground is very definitely described, and Greenland priests, from the Bishopric of Gardar, conducted the first voyage of discovery (1266). This northwestern summer station was called the Kroksfjardar Heath. Mention is even made of the drift-wood (undoubtedly from Siberia) collected there, and of the abundance of whales, seals, walruses, and sea bears.‡

degree of latitude corresponds to a decrease in the mean annual temperature of almost  $3^{\circ}.6$ , while, according to my researches, on the system of isothermal lines in Europe, the same decrease of temperature scarcely amounts to half a degree for the same interval. (*Asie Centrale*, t. iii., p. 227.)

\* See *Carmen Færoicum in quo Vinlandiæ mentio fit.* (Rafn, *Antiquit. Amer.*, p. 320-332.)

† The Runic stone was placed on the highest point of the island of Kingiktorsoak "on the Saturday before the day of victory," *i. e.*, before the 21st of April, a great heathen festival of the ancient Scandinavians, which, at their conversion to Christianity, was changed into a Christian festival. (Rafn, *Antiquit. Amer.*, p. 347-355.) On the doubts which Brynjulfsen, Mohnike, and Klaproth express respecting the Runic numbers, see my *Examen Crit.*, t. ii., p. 97-101; yet, from other indications, Brynjulfsen and Graah are led to regard the important monument on the Woman's Islands (as well as the Runic inscriptions found at Igalikko and Egegeit, lat.  $60^{\circ} 51'$  and  $60^{\circ} 0'$ , and the ruins of buildings near Upernavik, lat.  $72^{\circ} 50'$ ) as belonging undoubtedly to the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

‡ Rafn, *Antiquit. Amer.*, p. 20, 274, and 415-418 (Wilhelmi, *Ueber Isl*