

by able commentaries.* The length of the voyage, the direction of its course, and the times of the rising and setting of the sun, are all minutely detailed.

Less certainty appertains to the traces which have been supposed to be found of a discovery of America before the year 1000 by the Irish. The Skralinger related to the Northmen settled in Vinland, that further southward, beyond the Chesapeake Bay, there dwelt "white men, who clothed themselves in long white garments, carried before them poles to which cloths were attached, and called with a loud voice." This account was interpreted by the Christian Northmen to indicate processions, in which banners were borne accompanied by singing. In the oldest sagas, the historical narrations of Thorfinn Karlsefne, and the Icelandic Landnama book, these southern coasts, lying between Virginia and Florida, are designated under the name of the *Land of the White Men*. They are expressly called Great Ireland (*Irland it mikla*), and it is maintained that they were peopled by the Irish. According to testimonies which extend to 1064, before Leif discovered Vinland, and probably about the year 982, Ari Marsson, of the powerful Icelandic race of Ulf the squint-eyed, was driven in a voyage from Iceland to the south by storms on the coasts of the Land of the White Men, and there baptized in the Christian faith; and, not being allowed to depart, was recognized by men from the Orkney Islands and Iceland.†

An opinion has been advanced by some northern antiquarians that, as in the oldest Icelandic documents the first inhabitants of the island are called "West Men, who had come across the sea" (emigrants settled in Papyli on the southeast coast, and on the neighboring small island of Pappar), Iceland was not at first peopled directly from Europe, but from Virginia and Carolina (Great Ireland, the American White Men's Land), by Irishmen who had earlier emigrated to America.

* The main sources of information are the historic narrations of Eric the Red, Thorfinn Karlsefne, and Snorre Thorbrandsson, probably written in Greenland itself as early as the twelfth century, and partly by descendants of settlers born in Viuland (Rafn, *Antiquit. Amer.*, p. vii., xiv., and xvi.). The care with which genealogical tables were kept was so great, that that of Thorfinn Karlsefne, whose son, Snorre Thorbrandsson, was born in America, has been brought down from 1007 to 1811.

† *Hvitramannaland*, the Land of the White Men. Compare the original sources of information, in Rafn, *Antiquit. Amer.*, p. 203-206, 211, 446-451; and Wilhelmi, *Ueber Island, Hvitramannaland, &c.*, s. 75-81.