THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.

The Runic Inscriptions-Chronological Becord. WASHINGTON, D. C., July 31.

To the Editor of the Evening Telegraph:-Having seen in your paper a notice of the inscription said to have been found by Professor Rafinnson, near the Great Falls of the Potomac, I send you an abstract of the statements heretofore made in support of the theory that this continent was discovered by the Northmen before the days of Columbus, in the form of a brief chronological outline of all the leading facts which have appeared in print on the subject. Very respectfully, etc.,

THOMAS NORTON.

The reported discovery near the city of Wash-inston, at the head-of navigation in the Potomac river, of a Runic inscription, bearing date 1051, and of human remains, trinkets, Roman coins of the tenth century, in the place indicated by the centary, in the place indicated by the epitaph, has fixed the attention of the public upon an obscure but most important page of the alstory of the continent of America, its first discovery by Europeaus. The authenticity of this inscription [am not prepared to question; it may have it may have been engraved, as it purports to have been engraved, as it purports to have been in the eleventh century, or it may have been carved there, as is the opinion of many, by W. Langley, whose name, with the date, 1755, appears in close connection, or, possibly, it may have been put there in very recent times, but with what object other than a most times, but with what object other than a most times, but with what object other than a most times, but with what object other than a most times, but with what object other than a most times, but with what object other than a most times, but with what object other than a most times, but with what object other than a most complicated hoar, it is not yet determined. Let complicated boax, it is not yet determined. Let it be as it will, however, a true or false inscription, the interest it has excited, and the speculation it has clicited, fully warrant the labor of the historian and the archeologist to accertain its probability or plausibility.

With this view of the matter, and in order to

facilitate research, to connect the whole subject in an article that can be surveyed at a glance, as well us to present to the less invored reader a summary of the facts the Hvidserk inscription is so intimately connected with, or based upon, I have prepared the following chronology of the most important events preceding and following the discovery of America by the Irish, and the Danes, and Norwegians, which, I trust, will be acceptable to your readers. The statements are taken, but with one or two noted exceptions, from the sagas of Iceland and Norway, and from other literary and religious documents, the character of all which is in the main unim-peached, though the details are matters of some dispute. Appended to the chronology I have also made a catalogue of the principal works accessible in this country on the subject of its discovery by the Northmen, by whe'h the fol-lowing may be verified, or extended to a great

725 A. D .- The Faroe Islands visited by Irish 795 -Iceland discovered and occupied by Irish monks. The strongest testimony on these two points is given by Dicuil, in a work entitled "De

Mensura Orbis Terræ."

860.—iceland visited by Gardar, a Dane of Swedish descent, and called by him Gardarsholm, Gardar's Island. 864 .- Iceland visited by Nadodd, and called

Sneeland, Snowland.

874.—Leeland colonized by Ingolf, a Norwegian. See Gronland's "Historiske Mindesmærker," i, 92—97.

875.—Probable date of the discovery of America by the Irish. The new-found land called Hvitramaunaland, White Man's Land, Albania,

or Ireland in Mikla, Great Ireland. "Professor Rafin is of opinion that the White Mun's Land of the Northmen was the country situated to the south of Chesapeake Bay, including North and South Carolina, Georgia, and East Florida. * * A very remarkable tradition is stated to be preserved amongst the Shawnese Indians, who emigrated eighty-seven years ago from West Florida to Ohio, that Florida was once inhabited by white men, who used iron instruments, -"Archae ologia Americans," i, 273-6. A German writer also mentions an old tradition of the ancestors of the Shawanese having come from beyond the

sea."—Beamish, p. 209. 982.—Greenland discovered by Erik, an outlaw for murder, who had set out "in search of the land Ulf Krage's son Gunblorn saw when he was driven out to the westward in the sea, the time when he found the rocks of Gunbjorn." Erik called the land which he had found Greenland, because, said he, "people will be attracted thither it the land has a good name.

983.—Ari Marson sojourns in Hvitramauna-land, or the Southern States of America, "From thence could Ari not get away, and was there 985 .- Final settlement by Erik and his fol-

lowers in Greenland.

986.—The coast of North America unquestionably discovered by Bjarni Herjulfson in his search for Greenland, which ac afterwards finds. 994. Bjarni Herjudson visits Erik Jarl, tells of his voyage to America, and is repreached for of his voyage to America, and is repreached for not examining the country. Leif Erikson resolves to explore the land, and buys Bjarni's ship. His father, Erik, consents to lead the party, but is deterred by a fall from his horse. Leif, however, sets sail with thirty-five men. They find the land first which Bjarni found last, Newfoundland, which they call Helluland. They put to sea and find another land, Nova Sective to which Leif gives the name of Mark. Scotia, to which Leif gives the name of Mark-land. Again they put to sea and come to an island, which appears to have been Nantucket. They cross the mouth of Buzzard's Bay, and sail up the Pocasset river to Mount Hope Bay, where they resolve to winter. A German, Tyrker, is missing, but he is met by a party sent in search for him, in a state of great excitement from the discovery of vines. The settlers gather grapes and fell trees to load the ships. Left names the country Vinland, and returns to Greenland in

999 .- Voyage of Bjorn Asbrandson to the Western Hemisphere, and settlement in Great Ireland. 1000.—Christianity introduced into Iceland, 1002.—Thorvald takes his brother Leit's ship to Greenland, and thence to America. He

sees canoes on the beach, and afterwards finds nine men, and kills eight of them. Dwellings also seen inside the frith. The new comers are attacked by the Skrælings, or natives, and Thorvald is silled. He is buried at Krossaness, supposed to be Point Alderton. His followers return to Greenland.

1005.—Thorstein marries Gudrid, the daughter of Thorsald. He is driven about the whole summer, and returns to Greenland. Attacked by a pestilential disease, Thorstein and Erikson die. Gudrid repairs to Lief in Brattahlid. 1906.—Thorston Karlseine arrives in Green-

land, and obtains Gudrid in marriage. 1007.—Expedition to, and settlement in, Vin-land by Thorann Kariseine, with one hundred and sixty men. They visit Heliuland, Mark-land, and Keeiness (where Thorvald's ship had her keel broken), and give the name of Furdus-trands to the shores of Barnstable. They visit also Straumfjord and Straumney, or Buzzard's Bay, and Martha's Vinyard, and winter in Straumfjord. In this year Snorri Thoriunson, the son of Thoriun Karlseine by Gudrid, was born, in the present State of Massachusetts, being the first of European blood of whose birth

in America we have any record.

1008.—Thorfinn passes on to Hop, or Rhode
Island, and winters there. alterwards sails to the Bay (to Providence). Returns to Straumford, and sails along the east-

ern coast. 1010.—Thordan returns to Greenland, taking two natives home with him. The Dighton Writing Rock, on Taunton river, Massachusetts, relates to this memorable sojourn in

America.

1018.—Freydis, the daughter of Erik, induces the brothers Helgi and Finnibogi to undertake a voyage to Vinland with her. They winter in Vinland. Freydis, by her strategems, induces discord, which results in a bloody massacre. The arrivors return to Greenland in the spring.

1029.—Gudleif Gudlasgson sails to Great Ireland and finds Bjorn Asbrandson, who has sailed from leeland thirty years before, established as

ALEKS STREET, MUSCH STREET,

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coast of America to the south and west of Vin-land, where they had wintered. Date of the Hvidsærk Inscription, recording the burial of Suasu, an illegitimate daughter of Snorri Thor-finnson, and a distinguished character in the account of Hervardur's expedition, reported to have been discovered on the 28th of June, 1867, on the Arrowhead Rock, on the Potomac river, two miles below the Great Fails, and thirteen above the city of Washington,

1121.—Erik, Bishop of Greenland, sought Vin-

and, but without success, 1285.—Adalbrand and Thorvald, the sons of Helge, find a new land west of Iceland. The Feather Islands, probably the Penguin and Bacaloa Islands, on the northeast corner of America, discovered. 1288.—Rolf is sent by King Erik to seek out

1290.—Rolf travels through Iceland, and calls out men for a voyage to the new land. 1295.—Landa-Rolf dies.

1347.—A ship, with eighteen men on board, comes to Iceland from Greenland, which had sailed to Markland. 1349 (or, according to others, 1379).—The western settlement of Greenland is attacked by the Esquimaux, and eighteen Greenlanders of Icelandic descent are killed, and two boys car-

ried off prisoners. 1406.—Andreas, or Enride Andreasson, ap-pointed Bishop of Greenland, goes thitner and returns before 1409. After this period all com-munication between Greenland and the rest of the Danish territory, and consequently between Greenland and America, appears to have ceased, for Queen Margaret of Denmark, and King Erik of Norway, forbade their subjects to trade to the country. The war which then raged in the north of Europe also prevented vessels from the country the country of the country the country of the country the country of the country the countr visiting the coast, and thus no knowledge of the colony could be obtained.

1433.—A treaty made between Eagland and Denmark contains the conditions that "what-ever people have been carried from Iceland, Finmark, Helgeland, and other places, his Majesty of England shall provide, etc. etc., that they be released." In the same year Pope Eugenius IV nominated one Bartholomeus to the shopric of Greenland.

1448.—A letter from Pope Nicholas V. to the bishops of Skabolt and Holum, written in this year, gives an account of the fate of the settlers

of Greenland. 1477.-Columbus visits Iceland to examine the records of the early Icelandic voyages to un-known lands in the far west, for confirmation of his idea that land-Asia, he imagined-could be found by sailing continually to the West. 1492.—Columbus discovers the West Indies,

1492.—Columbus discovers the West Indies, and not the East Indies, as he expected.

1523.—Frik Walchendorff, Archbishop of Throndhjem, excited by the recent discoveries of the Spaniards, proposes to Christian II. an expedition to Greenland, which was rejected.

1559.—Christian III removes the prohibition established by Queen Margaret against trading to Greenland, and send out ships to explore the country, but without success; several attempts are made in the succeeding reigns down to that of Frederick III, in 1670, with similar results, 1568.—Sir Erlend Thordson, a priest in Ice-

land, still in possession of an ancient chart of Hvitramaunaland, White Man's Land, or Great reland, together with the boundaries of Markland, Einfeetingjaland, little Helluland, and Greenland, of which no further information has

1680.—First examination made of the cele-brated Dighton Writing Rock in Massachusetts. This Runic inscription contains various cryptographs and rude combinations of figures illustrative of the settlements of the Northmen, among which devices may yet be traced the name of Thorfinn, and some figures corresponding to the number of his associates. It was deciphered in the present century by Protessors Finn, Magnussen, and Rain.

1721.—Hans Egede, Pastor of Vang, Norway, succeeds in planting a new colony in Greenland, which has continued to the present day.

1830.—Committee appointed by the Rhode Island Historical Society examines and reports upon the Dighton Writing Rock. 1863.—The Skalholt sags, bearing date 1117. giving an account of the expedition of Hervar-

dur, exhumed at Skalholt, Iceland. 1867, June 28.—The reported discoveries below the Great Fails of the Potomac river made by Professor Thomas C. Rapinuson, of Copenhagen.

The works which may be consulted with reference to the discovery of America by the Northmen, previous to the landing of Columbus, are the following, many or all of which are to be found in any of the principal libraries of the United States:-

Antiquitates Americanse, sive Scriptores Septentrionales rerum Ante-Columbinarum in America. 4to. Hafnue, 1837. Archaeologia Americana. Transactions and

Collections of the American Antiquarian Society, 3 vols. 8vo. Worcester, 1820, and Cambridge, 1836-50. Beamish, North Ludlow. Discovery of Ame-

rica by the Northmen in the tenth century, with notices of the early settlements of the frish in the Western Hemisphere. Svo. London, 1841. Davis, A.—Discovery of America by the North-men Five Hundred Years before Columbus. 8vo. Boston, 1844.

Engel, Samuel d'.- Essal sur cette Onestion: quand et comment l'Amerique a telle ete peu-plee? 5 vols, in 2, 12mo. Amsterdam, 1767. Horn, George.—De Originibus Americanus Libri IV. 12me. Hagæ Comitis, 1652.

Kohl, T. G. —Popular History of the Discovery of America, from Columbus to Franklin. Trans-lated by R. R. Noel. 2 vols. 12mo. London, Murray, Sir Thomas .- The Shalholt Saga, in

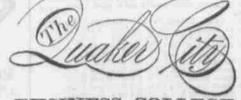
the original Latin, and translated into English, with notes, etc. Svo. London, 1865. Rafn, Carl Christian.—America discovered in the Tenth Century, 8vo. New York, 1838.

— Memoire sur la Decouverte de l'Amerique au Dixieme Siecle. Traquit de l'Allemand, par X. Marmier. Svo. Paris, 1838. Smith, Joshua Toulmin.—The discovery of

America by the Northmen in the Tenth Century; comprising translations of all the most important original narratives of this event. 2d ed. 12mo. London, 1842. In conclusion, let me say that, having exa-

mined most of these works myself with reference to the Hvidsærck Runic inscription of the Poto-mac, I was astonished to find the most compli-cated dovetailing between the two, going to show it the latter is a genuine Runic in-scription, the truth of both, or, it the Hvidserck inscription is a forgery, the most consummate ingenuity on the part of its unknown author.

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March 27, 1833, due July 1, 1858. January 26, 1889, due July 1, 1859.

June 7, 1839, due August 1, 1859. March 30, 1832, due July 1, 1860,

April 5, 1882, due July 1, 1860. Also, all BANK CHARTER LOANS due prior to July 2, 1860. All of the above LOANS will cease to draw

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> GOVERNOR, JOHN F. HARTBANFT, AUDITOR-GENERAL.

WILLIAM H. KEWBLE. 6 15 stuth 18 13 STATE TREASURER.

HARRISBURG, JUNE 29, 1867.

TO THE HOLDERS

OF THE

LOANS

OF THE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DUE JULY 1, 1868.

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JOHN F. HARTBANFT,

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WILLIAM H. KEMBLE,

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