

XXIV.—*An Account of a Runic Inscription discovered in Baffin's Bay, communicated by G. T. Fox, Esq., in a letter to the REV. JOHN HODGSON, Sec.*

Durham, Nov. 22, 1826.

MY DEAR SIR,

I send you herewith what I take to be a Runic inscription, with a Danish and English translation. It is of considerable antiquity, and perhaps you may judge it worthy of being inserted in our Antiquarian Transactions, not from the value of the composition, which is only the foundation record of a building, but from the curiosity of its locality, and the light it throws on the maritime adventures of an obscure period. Its history is this:—

About two or three years ago, the remains of a rude building were discovered on the top of a small conical island, 700 feet high, one of that group of islands in Baffin's Bay, called the *Frow* or Woman Islands, in lat. 73, and long. 54. Amongst the stones was found one with this inscription, which the governor handed to the Danish government. The latter caused an engraving to be made of it, from a copy of which the inclosed fac-simile was made by Captain George Palmer, of the *Cove*, whaler, this year, who brought it to me from the above island, or an adjoining Danish garrison, I don't know which.

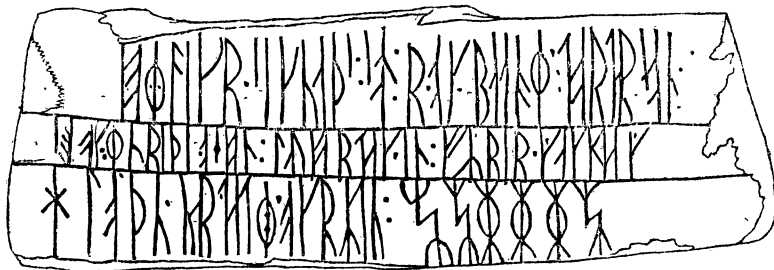
The date A. D. 1133, shews that maritime excursions were made at that early period, probably by the inhabitants of Iceland, who were in a flourishing state at that time. They had coasted the East side of Greenland, and doubling Cape Farewell, had advanced up the shores of West Greenland in Baffin's Bay, as high as the point where they built a tower, probably to record the extent of their migration. I have not

at hand *Crantz's Greenland*, to which I refer you for further particulars. Captain Palmer is of opinion that the route must have been made by sea, and not by crossing the peninsula. It is well known that a colony perished on the East of Greenland above Cape Farewell, by the closing in of the ice, the remains of whose habitations are visible at this day.

I remain, DEAR SIR,

Your's, very faithfully,

GEO. T. FOX.



Elligr Sigvards Son og Biorne Torderson,
og Enrid Oelson,—Loverdagen forend gangdaeg,
(en daeg i Maj Maaned)
eller saaleedes,
Ossreiste denne Vaerde og ridde Pladsen,
MCXXXIII eller V., aldsaae, 1133 eller 5,
(efter Christus.)

TRANSLATION.

*Elliger, Sigvard's Son, and Biorne Torderson,
and Enrid Oelson,—on Saturday before the Ascension,
(A day in the Month of May)
or thus,
Erected this Tower and cleared the Ground,
MCXXXIII or V, also 1133 or 5,
(after Christ.)*