

**STORIES OF THE THREE  
AMERICAS:  
THEIR DISCOVERY  
AND SETTLEMENT**

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Stories of the Three Americas: Their Discovery and Settlement by Eunice C. Corbett & Anna Content

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**EUNICE C. CORBETT & ANNA CONTENT**

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STORIES  
OF THE  
THREE AMERICAS.

THEIR DISCOVERY AND SETTLEMENT.

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BY  
EUNICE C. CORBETT AND ANNA CONTENT.

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I hear the tread of pioneers  
Of nations yet to be,  
The best low wash of waves, where soon  
Shall roll a human sea.

The rudiments of empire here  
Are plastic yet and warm;  
The chaos of a mighty world  
Is rounding into form!  
WINTERS.

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## PREFATORY NOTE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

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IN offering the second edition of the **STORIES OF THE THREE AMERICAS**, we wish to emphasize a fact to which a casual observer of the volume may not attach due importance, to wit: its strictly historical character. Some persons may suppose, not having examined the book, that the stories are imaginative in character, or, at least, of questionable authenticity. On the contrary, the work throughout has been drawn from the most undoubted sources of history, and no incident or passage is used for which there is not reliable authority. The matter has been put in story form to interest young readers, the object being to awaken in them a desire to consult more complete works, and thus become more fully acquainted with the important characters and events here mentioned.

THE AUTHORS.

## THE STORY OF LEIF THE LUCKY

986—1009.



If you look at the map of the world in your geographies, you will see an island just on the line between the eastern and western hemispheres. On your map of Europe you can see that it is quite a large island. Its name is Iceland, and you will learn from your geographies that this name well describes it, for it is covered with ice and snow during the greater part of the year. You will learn, too, that there are enormous volcanoes on the island, that the people, though poor, are by no means ignorant, but have good schools and live in comfortable homes sheltered from the cold during the long winter, and that in the short summer they raise corn and vegetables, and these, with the abundance of fish which they obtain from the many bays and inlets of the sea on the island coast, give them plenty of food to live on. You will also read in your history that many years ago, the people of Iceland were more daring and full of adventure than they now are, and that they built large ships that sailed far over the sea and made discoveries in distant lands.

Perhaps you have read in your English histories, of the Sea-kings of the North, as they were called, pirate captains of large vessels, who invaded England at one time and made themselves very terrible to the people by their cruelties. Some of these pirate captains came from Denmark, the country which juts out into the water between the Baltic and the North Seas, others were from Norway; all of them belonged to the same race, and all were daring sailors, and fierce and cruel. A band of these sea voyagers from Norway first settled Iceland in the ninth century, and they brought thither loads of pine trees from the forests of Norway, and built more ships and larger ships, and sailed still further toward the west in search of more discoveries. One summer day, one of

these captains (called Eric the Red because of the color of his hair), when sailing west, came in sight of a large country all covered with grass. This was about the year 892. Captain Eric immediately claimed the country as belonging to him,—this was a way these captains had!—and he landed on it and gave it the name of Greenland. Then he went back to Iceland and persuaded a good many people to go with him and make homes in the new country. To be sure, in spite of the green grass that covered its coasts during the summer time, it was a country of fogs, and of long winter days, but these people were used to cold weather and fogs in Iceland and Norway, and they built their homes in the new country cheerfully enough, and soon had there a thriving colony. After some years, stories came to them concerning a new land of trees, of fertile valleys and flower-covered hills, a land of summer days and sunny, cloudless skies. Why did they not all hasten to make their homes in this new, beautiful land? Well, we may suppose that many of them did not believe there was such a land, and others said "What if there is? we are well enough off here; why should we go journeying across the stormy seas again?" You see they had grown used to cold and fogs, and thought that the clear skies of the new land would make them homesick, as they probably would.

For the stories of a new land were true. In the year 986, a young man named Biorn, whose father, Herjulf, had settled in Greenland, set sail in a vessel to join him, but met strong winds from the north, which drove him upon the coast of a country to the south. This country had many small hills which were covered with a thick growth of forest trees. Biorn knew, from what his father had written him, that there were no forest trees in Greenland, and that its hills were high mountains, covered with snow; so he felt sure that this was no part of Greenland. And it was Greenland that he wanted to see, where his father and friends were, and so he took little notice of the fine trees of the new country. As soon as the winds would let him, he set sail again, and by aid of such charts as he may have had, and the north star when it could be seen—for the mariner's compass, that safe guide for sailors over the trackless seas, was not yet known—he at last reached the settlement