not the barbarians that drove away the Mound Builders.

If the Kensington Rune Stone be genuine, it can be readily accepted that the members of the party that made it were the first Caucasians or white men to visit and tread upon the soil of what is now Polk County. For they must have come up the Red River from Winnipeg in boats or canoes, since they could hardly have proceeded on foot through the swampy valley with its rank vegetation; and they must have struck out overland when the navigation of the river further southward became impracticable, which would be at the mouth of the Red Lake River, or "the Grand Forks" of the olden time.

All depends upon whether the stone is genuine or not. And at present a very large majority of those that may be considered authorities on the subject are of the decided opinion that it is what it purports to be, and that it is in no respect a fake or fraudulent. The latest history of Minnesota which is by the accomplished and conservative Capt. Henry A. Castle, gives it full endorsement.

THE Earliest WHITE EXPLORERS.

Following the party of Scandinavians that made and left the Rune Stone in Douglas County—assuming that there was such a party—the next Caucasians to visit the region of what is now northwestern Minnesota, including Polk County, came in perhaps between the years 1655 and 1660. These were the two French adventurers, Radisson and Groseilliers. It is not certain through what portions of northwestern Minnesota they passed, if indeed they passed through any. Warren Upham (Minn. in Three Cents., Vol. 1, p. 274) says that their journeys extended into the present area of Minnesota, "but not, as I think to its western or northern boundaries." Yet the accomplished George Bryce, in his History of the Hudson's Bay Company, (p. 6) states: "They visited the country of the Sioux, the present states of Dakota, and promised to visit the Christianos (or Crees) on their side of a lake evidently either the Lake of the Woods or Lake Winnipeg."

Radisson left a "journal," written in English, which has been printed, and this is substantially the authority of all historians and writers for their assertions concerning the two unscrupulous adventurers. But the statements of Radisson in the "journal" of his alleged travels and adventures is confusing rather than enlightening. It is not certain where or when they went, what rivers or lakes they saw, or what people they met. No two writers agree on these points. Bryce and Upham disagree as to whether or not they visited western Minnesota and the Dakotas, and Bryce can be no more definite about a certain lake they reached than to say it was either Lake of the Woods or Lake Winnipeg, which are 100 miles apart. The "journal" says they passed fourteen months on "an island," and Blakely, writing in the Minnesota Historical Collections, says this "island" was in a lake on the northern boundary of Minnesota, while Warren Upham says it was in the Mississippi, near Red Wing.

It is certain that Groseilliers and Radisson were in the Lake Superior region and in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, but it is hardly possible that they ever saw northern Minnesota, or any part of what is now Polk County.

OTHER EARLY VISITORS TO MINNESOTA.

After Groseilliers and Radisson, the first Europeans to come to Minnesota were some other French traders and adventurers, whose leader was Daniel Greysolon Du Luth, for whom the present city of Duluth was named. These people came first in 1679 to northwestern Minnesota, below Duluth. Du Luth claimed that he went that year to the great Sioux village on the largest of the Mille Lacs, but this can hardly be believed. He was there the following year, however.

For in the spring of 1680 came Father Louis Hennepin, a Belgian Franciscan priest, and two Frenchmen named Accault and Auguelle to the Mille Lacs as prisoners of the Sioux. They were coming up the Mississippi in a canoe, when met by a Sioux war party at Rock Island, made prisoners and taken back to the