On the 24th of May 1863, Professor Lidenbrook and his nephew Ax el discovered an old parchment within a 12th century volume ent itled "Heims Kringla", itself a chronicle of the Norwegian Prin ces who had ruled over Iceland.

Written in runic manuscript by Arne Saknussemm (an alchemist of the 16th century) it translated:-

..... "Descend into the crater of Sneffels Yokul, over which the shadow of Scataris falls before the kalends of July, bold traveller, and you will reach the centre of the earth."

Two centuries forward from this discovery, three geologian expl orers traversed land and sea before they reached the mass of vo lcanic tufa known as Iceland. Veiled in secrecy, their purpose:

- to emulate the journey that had been taken by their forefath ers two hundred years previous.

For fear of being followed, their identities were known to no-o ne, and for this reason, as they began their ascent through vas t fields of ice toward the magnificent snowy nightcap of the Sn effels volcano, their expectations became inexplicably intertwi ned with those of unease, as they prepared to challenge timeles s history.

On reaching the tabletop summit, they slowly descended into the crater of Sneffels Yokul.....

.........And so began:-