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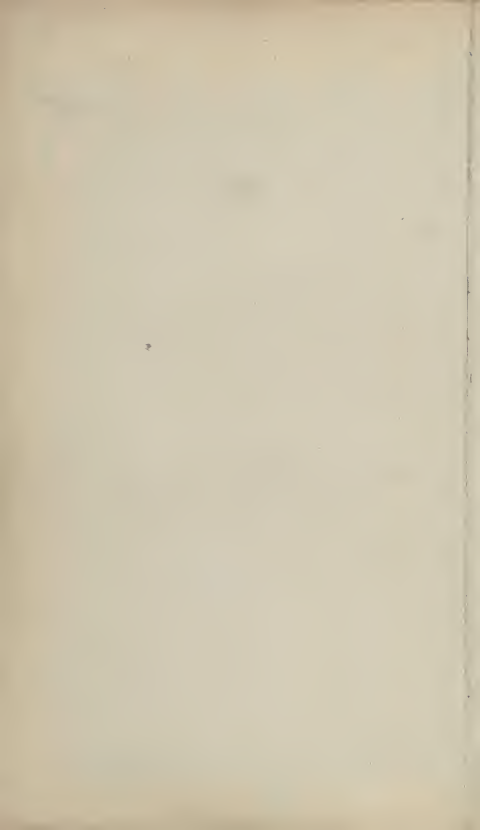


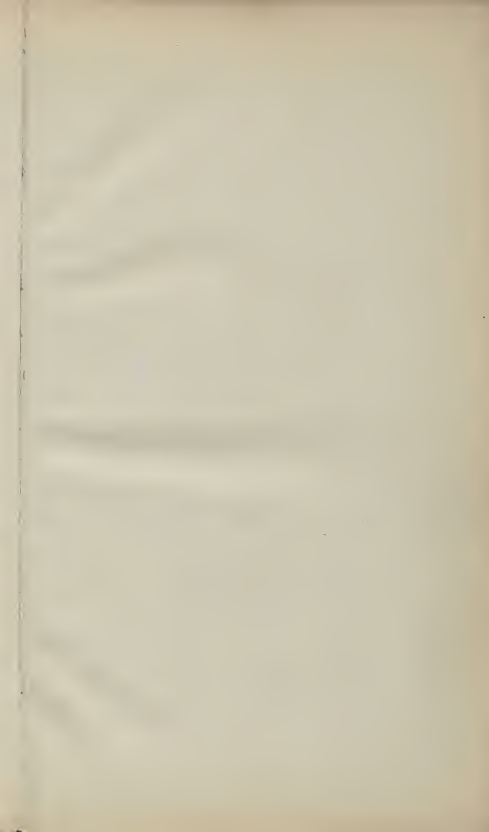
Þorsteinn Jósefsson



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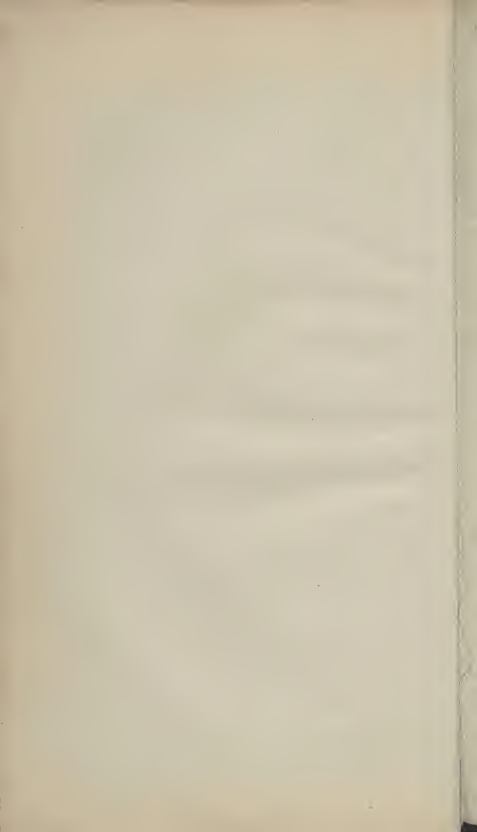




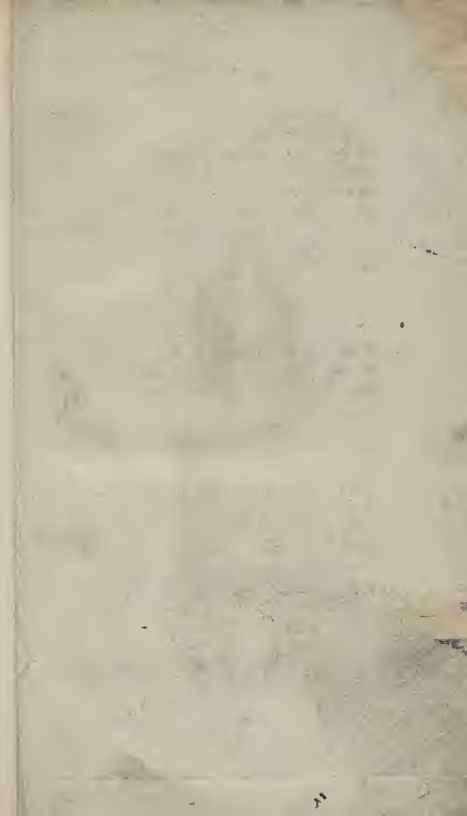














AN ICELANDIC LADY IN HER BRIDAL DRESS.

*Chas.*

JOURNAL

OF A

*Presented  
From The Author  
to*

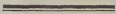
**TOUR IN ICELAND**

IN

THE SUMMER

OF

1809.



BY

**WILLIAM JACKSON HOOKER, F.L.S.**

AND

FELLOW OF THE WERNERIAN SOCIETY OF  
EDINBURGH.



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1811.



**NOT PUBLISHED.**



## INTRODUCTION.

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THE excellent and well-known Letters on Iceland, published by the Archbishop Von Troil, had filled me at an early age with the most ardent desire to visit that most interesting country, to see its volcanic mountains and its boiling springs, unequalled by any in the known world. The small degree of intercourse, however, carried on by England with that obscure part of the globe, and still more, the unfriendly disposition of the Danish government towards our nation, scarcely allowed me even to entertain a hope that an opportunity would present itself of gratifying such a wish, till, in the spring of the year 1809, Sir Joseph Banks most unexpectedly proposed to me, as a compensation for my not having it in my power, during that season, to put in execution a projected voyage to a tropical climate, that I should take my passage in a

merchant-ship then expected to leave England in the space of three days, and spend my summer in Iceland. To this I most readily and thankfully acceded, and, having made such preparations as the shortness of the notice would allow, I repaired to Gravesend, and was on board the Margaret and Anne at the time appointed.

The unfortunate accident which has deprived me of nearly the whole of the fruits of this excursion, and has obliged me in the following sheets to rely in no small degree upon my memory, needs not here to be detailed: it will find its place in the narrative of the voyage. Suffice it now to observe, that the only things rescued from the flames were, a portion of my journal, containing little more than the occurrences of the first four weeks of my stay on the island, and an Icelandic lady's wedding-dress, which was saved by the extraordinary exertions of the steward of the ship. Of the rest of my manuscripts and collections, including plants, books, drawings, minerals, and other subjects of natural history, nothing could be preserved.

With the slender materials that remained to me I should not have ventured upon committing the following Recollections to paper, even, as they are now intended, merely for the perusal of some

of my friends, but at the request of the most valued of those friends. It is to Mr. Dawson Turner of Yarmouth that these sheets owe their existence.

To Sir Joseph Banks, besides being honored with his counsel and assistance preparatory to the undertaking of the voyage, I am indebted also for the truly hospitable entertainment I experienced from the inhabitants of Iceland, who felt, I am sure, a real pleasure and satisfaction in having it in their power to offer their services and to pay every possible attention to a stranger visiting their country with an introduction from their great and generous benefactor. Not, however, satisfied with this, on my return to England, no sooner did Sir Joseph learn that I was preparing my *Recollections of Iceland* for the press, than he most liberally offered me the use of his own manuscript journal and various other papers relative to the island, together with the magnificent drawings of the scenery, dresses of the inhabitants, &c., which were made by the artists who attended him on his voyage thither in 1772. From the former of these valuable collections I have extracted such parts as were not noticed by Von Troil; and from reduced copies of a few of the latter, have been made the engravings that accompany this volume. These are indeed upon

too small a scale to give an adequate idea of the originals, which would do honor to a large and copious history of Iceland, but *parvum parva decent*, and they are well suited both to the size and pretensions of the book they are designed to illustrate.

The reception I met with from the merchants and owners of the vessel in which I sailed, Messrs. Phelps, Troward, and Bracebridge, and the assistance I derived from them, demand my most sincere thanks. The readiness with which the former of these gentlemen, in particular, whose society I enjoyed during the voyage, entered into all my views, and the willingness with which he supplied me with every thing that could afford me accommodation or further the object of my pursuits, have left a lasting impression of gratitude upon my mind.

Neither can I suffer to pass in silence the civility of Sir George Mackenzie in collecting plants for me in his late excursion to Iceland; nor the attention shown me by Doctor Wright of Edinburgh. Though a stranger to him, till my arrival at that city on my return from Iceland, he participated feelingly in my misfortunes, and begged me to make any use I pleased of the subjects of natural history in his possession, which had been collected in Iceland by his nephew, the late



Mr. Wright, an amiable young man who accompanied Sir John Stanley in his voyage to that country. This offer was succeeded by the present of a considerable collection of Icelandic minerals, and a scarce and curious work, entitled *Rymbegla, sive Rudimentum Computi Ecclesiastici Veterum Islandorum*.

No apology, I trust, is necessary for pre-facing my journal with a slight and very cursory sketch of Icelandic history, or with the details that follow, explanatory of the various offices as well civil as ecclesiastical. An introduction comprising these and hints on a few other most remarkable objects in the island appeared to me to be necessary, not only for the proper understanding of much of my narrative, but to prevent this volume from being to such a degree incomplete as would have rendered it almost useless.

ICELAND, one of the most considerable of the European islands, is situated in the northern part of the Atlantic ocean, between the 63rd and 68th degrees of north latitude, and the 10th and 12th degrees of longitude west of Greenwich, and is estimated to extend about two hundred and sixty British miles in length from the western cape to the most eastern, and about two hundred in breadth from north to south.

Its earliest discoverer upon record was a famous pirate, of the name of Naddoc\*, who in the year 861 was driven thither by a tempest, while on a voyage from Norway to the Ferroe Islands, and, on account of the vast quantity of snow, with which he observed the mountains to be covered, named it Snoeland. Not alarmed, however, by this chilling prospect, such was the account of the country which he gave on his return home, that others were induced to go in search of it; the first of whom, Gardar Suaverson, a Swede by birth, set sail in the year 864, and after approaching the eastern coast, proceeded round the island to a harbor in the north, where he came to an anchor and passed the winter at a place that has since been called Skialfiord. To immortalize himself for this exploit, he altered the name of the island to Gardarsholme. The next adventurer was Floco, who, as the compass was not yet discovered, to remedy this deficiency, took in his vessel some ravens, one of which, when he supposed he was drawing towards the termination of his voyage, he let loose; hoping by its course to be directed to the country of which he was in search. The bird, however, after soaring to a considerable height in the air, turned his flight towards Hait-

\* Arngrim Jonæ Isl. Tract.

land, the port whence they had set out, and satisfied Floco that he was still at a less distance from Norway than from Gardarsholme. Pursuing his voyage, therefore, for some time longer, he liberated another raven, who, unable to discover land, took refuge in the vessel. In a few days a third raven was suffered to leave the ship, and this, more fortunate, immediately flew towards the wished-for shore. Floco, after the manner of his predecessors, first touched at the eastern coast, whence, steering his course round the southern part of the island, he at length entered the great gulph between the two promontories that have since borne the names of Snoefel-nes and Reikanes; and afterwards, proceeding northward, harbored for the winter at Watsfiordur in the gulph of Breidafiord. So great was the quantity of ice which in the spring of the following year filled the gulph, that Floco was tempted in consequence of it once more to change the name of the island, and give it the appellation which it has ever since retained. He passed another winter in the southern part of the country, previously to his return to Norway; where, on account of the use he had made of the ravens, he afterwards went by the name of Rafnaffoke. Induced by Floco's accounts \*, Ingulf, a Norwegian of high

\* Arngrim Jonæ Isl. Tract,

birth and great opulence, dreading the tyranny of Harald Hafalgar, conceived, together with his friend Hiorleif, the project of establishing themselves in Iceland, in pursuance of which plan, the former sailed in 870, for the purpose of exploring its shores; but no settlement was made till the year 874, when they both emigrated, accompanied by their respective families. In compliance with a religious custom, at that time prevalent among the Norwegians, Ingulf, on his approach to the coast, cast the door-posts of his house into the sea, that where-soever they were thrown on shore he might establish his infant colony. Being himself however driven in a different direction from them, he was reduced to the necessity of landing upon a promontory, which to this day bears the name of Ingulfshöfde, in the south-eastern part of the island, and it was not till three years afterwards that the door-posts were found on the shore of the bay where Reikevig now stands; to which spot Ingulf, with his family, immediately repaired, and there built their habitation. Hiorleif, more averse to heathenish superstitions, fixed his abode at a place called Hiorleifshöfde, and employed himself in attending to the cultivation of the soil. He had, however, in the following year, the hard fate to be murdered by the treachery of some Irish servants whom he had brought with

him from Norway, and who afterwards fled for protection to the scarcely accessible rocks of the Westman's Islands; but there Ingulf pursued and slew them.

Iceland was found by these first settlers to be uninhabited \*, though from various little utensils belonging to the Roman Catholic worship, such as bells, crosses, &c., that were met with by Ingulf, he was led to conjecture that the coasts must have been occasionally visited by fishermen from Ireland or Scotland, where this religion was prevalent. The whole surface of the country was overgrown with forests, through which it was necessary to open a passage with the axe as often as they went on their journies.

So great was the number of Norwegians † who now followed Ingulf to Iceland, to escape from the yoke of a proud tyrant at home, that in the course of sixty years, from the time of Ingulf's first arrival, the whole of the coasts and most of the habitable parts are said to have been occupied.

The form of government ‡ established among

\* Arngrim Jonæ Isl. Tract. † Ibid.

‡ Von Troil's Letters on Iceland.

the first settlers was a mixture of aristocracy and democracy. Of every new colony that arrived, the principal person appropriated to himself a large spot of land, which he divided afterwards among himself and his companions, whose chief he continued to be, under the name of *Godi*. The tumults, however, and enmities, inseparable from such a state of society, soon prevailed to a dreadful degree among the neighboring leaders, till, to prevent as much as possible the continuance or increase of these injurious conflicts, a person was chosen in the year 928, with the title of *Langsaugumadur*, and great power and dignity were annexed to the office. He was the public speaker, the judge in all intricate cases, and had the charge of promulgating through the island all new laws that had been approved and determined upon by the people; but he held his place no longer than he preserved the public confidence. Notwithstanding this, it was still found impossible to maintain peace and order among so many chiefs, who were all of the same rank, but unequal in power. Frequent battles occurred of a serious nature, and the *Sturlunga-Saga* speaks of a bloody engagement with twenty vessels carrying thirteen hundred men, which so weakened the contending parties that the whole power became at last an easy prey to a few arbitrary and enterprising men, who, as

is usually the case, wantonly abused it to the oppression of their countrymen and to the promotion of their own interested views.

In spite however of all these intestine broils, the Icelandic republic \* increased in power, and remained without acknowledging submission to any nation for the space of three hundred and eighty-six years, during which period the Norwegians continued to view it with a jealous eye, and their king Haquin repeatedly sent ambassadors to endeavor to induce the Icelanders to become tributary to him; but they withstood both threats and solicitations till the year 1260, when they did homage to him and became the subjects of Norway, to which country they continued faithful in their allegiance so long as it remained an independent state; and at the expiration of that time became with it subservient to the crown of Denmark in 1387.

The Danes entrusted the government of the island † to a person who is styled *Stiftsamptman*, that is, the supreme governor of a province or

\* *Arngrim Jonæ Commentarius de Islandiâ.*

† For the account of the present state of the civil and ecclesiastical establishments contained in this Introduction,

stiftsampt. The stiftsampt of Iceland is divided into four ampts, named after the cardinal points of the compass, each of which was formerly under the care of an Amptman, who is a sort of deputy governor; but at present there are but two of these, the southern ampt having been put under the immediate cognizance of the Stiftsamptman, and the eastern one united with the northern.

The ampts are again divided into about twenty syssels, and these into reps. To each syssel is prefixed a Sysselman, whose duty it is to collect the royal revenues, either in kind or money, according to the regulation of the particular districts. They all of them receive their salaries out of the taxes, excepting only one or two, who are paid an annual sum by the Landfogued.

A rep is superintended by a person called Repstyrer, who is subordinate to the Sysselman, as the latter is to the Amptman. A Repstyrer's emoluments are excessively small, and his office is a very inferior one.

as well as for that of the state of the commerce of the island, I am indebted to Mr. Jorgensen, who, from the late situation he held in Iceland, has been as able as he was willing to furnish me with much useful information.



The court of criminal and civil judicature consists of a Judge\* and two Assessors, with a Secretary. All sentences must be signed by the Stiftsamptman, and an appeal lies from this court to the supreme court of judicature at Copenhagen. Iceland knows of no trials by jury; for the Judges and Assessors act both as jurors and judges.

The Landfogued of Iceland is the Treasurer of the island, and to that office the one of Byefogued is generally annexed, which is the Master of the Police in the town of Reikevig.

The laws in use in Iceland are the Danish, with some few exceptions and alterations of trifling importance, adapted to the local circumstances.

Both the civil and criminal courts (called the Althing) are now held at Reikevig, whither they were lately removed from Thingevalle, which was long the seat of justice, though for some time after the arrival of the first settlers Ingulf and his successors held the court where it now is.

The punishments for capital crimes are at present the same as those in Denmark, and the criminal

\* The present judge is Mr. Stephensen, who is generally called by his Danish title of *Tatsroed*, or Counsellor of State.

is not hanged but beheaded. It is a fact, however, that of late years no Icelander has been found who would undertake the office of executioner, so that it has been necessary for the very few who have been sentenced to suffer death to be conveyed to Norway, there to receive the punishment due to their crimes. The common mode of punishing offences of a less heinous kind is either whipping, or close confinement and hard labor in the *Tuughthuus*, or house of correction, for certain years, or for life.

The religion \* of the early inhabitants of Iceland was pagan, and though christianity had made its way into Norway previously to the departure of the new colony, and some of this profession had accompanied it, they were soon converted by their companions, and altars still flowed with the blood of human sacrifices in almost every part of the island. Such also remained the case for about one hundred years; for it was not till A. D. 974, in the reign of Olaf I. of Norway, that any attempt was made at introducing the christian religion. Frederic, a Saxon bishop, arrived in 981, and preached the gospel with such success, that in 984 churches were built, and many persons received baptism. Still, however, no material progress was made; for Bishop Thang-

\* Arngrim Jonæ *Comment. de Islandiâ*, and Von Troil.

brandt and Stefr Thorgilsen, who were sent from Germany in the year 997, were received with stones, and they and their religion abused with the keenest invectives by the poets of that day. Through the exertions of these, however, and other missionaries, the light of christianity began more and more to shed its lustre upon the minds of the people, so that on the arrival of Gissur and Hjatle in the year 1000, the whole island became converted, without bloodshed, though not without opposition, and it was agreed, at a general assembly of the inhabitants, that the worship of idols should be abandoned, and the religion of our blessed Saviour embraced in its stead. In 1050, it was farther decreed, in a solemn assembly, that the temporal or politic law, which was introduced from Norway by one Ulflot, in the year 926, should every where give place to the canon or divine law.

After this period monks and convents \* began to abound in the island, and the people paid a yearly tribute to the Roman see of ten ells of wadmal for each family.

In the year 1056 the Icelanders received the first of their bishops †, Islicf, who was conse-

\* Von Troil.      † Ibid.

crated to the see of Skalholt, and a second was instituted to that of Holum in 1107. Both were originally under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Bremen and Hamburg; but in 1103 or 1104 they became subordinate to Azerus, the first Archbishop of Lund in Seania, and in 1152 to the Bishop of Drontheim.

The Lutheran religion\* was introduced by King Christian III. in the year 1540, but the zeal, with which the bishops opposed this new sect, prevented it from gaining ground till 1551; when the last and most earnest supporter of popish superstitions, Jonas Aræsonius †, was beheaded by order of the King's Lieutenant. Soon after this period all the inhabitants embraced the Lutheran faith.

Iceland at present has only one bishop; for in the year 1785 the King of Denmark ordered that all the estates belonging to the see of Skalholt should be sold, and the money deposited in the funds called Jordebog's Casse. The episcopal see was removed to Reikevig, and a certain yearly salary granted to the bishop in lieu of his former

\* Von Troil.

† Arngrim Jonæ Comment. de Islandiâ.

privileges. So also were the estates belonging to Holum sold in the year 1801; the money secured in the same funds; and the two dioceses incorporated into one. Among the Danish clergy there is no metropolitan or archbishop, but each bishop has the full power over his own stiftsampt, without being subject to any other ecclesiastical jurisdiction, though he is amenable to the civil powers. In like manner the Bishop of Iceland is independent of all other bishops.

The next officer in the church is the Stiftprovst of all Iceland, which is somewhat analogous to a dean in England. The present Stiftprovst's name is Magnusen.

The Provsts are inferior officers of the diocese, who have the care and superintendance of ecclesiastical affairs in their own provstic; for the diocese is divided into nineteen such provsties, and about one hundred and eighty-four church-livings.

The priests receive their income from the lands that are annexed to each church and from tythes; besides which there are three hundred and eighteen rix-dollars and seventy-two skillings allowed per annum for the amendment of such livings as are very small, and three hundred more

for the augmentation of pensions to poor clergymen's widows. Their salaries are various; a few exceed a hundred rix-dollars per annum, but the greater number do not produce an income of more than thirty or forty rix-dollars, and some do not exceed twelve, ten, or even five. It must be remembered, however, that most of the clergy occupy little farms, and this alone makes the condition of the greater part of them tolerable.

To give a more correct idea of the revenues of the clergy of Iceland, not only of the regular salaries which they receive from the crown, but also of such pensions as are appropriated to superannuated and poor priests and widows, I subjoin the following table of expenditure; only premising that the number of clergymen is not to be estimated by that of the livings here mentioned; for, curates included, I think they amount to between three and four hundred.

		Rdr.	Sk.
1 Osterskaptfields Provstie . . . .	5 Livings	113	20
2 Vesterskaptfields Provstie . . . .	7 Ditto	164	40
3 Rangervalle and Westmannöe Provstie . . . . .	} 13 Ditto	736	72
4 Arnæs Provstie . . . . .			
5 Guldbringue and Kitiöe Provstie	9 Ditto	349	43
6 Borgarfjord Provstie . . . . .	6 Ditto	216	28
Carried forward . . . .		2016	45

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		Rdr.	Sk.
	Brought forward . . . .	2016	45
7	Myre Provstie . . . . . 7 Livings	338	18
8	Snoefieldnes Provstie . . . . . 7 Ditto	455	7
9	Dale Provstie . . . . . 6 Ditto	281	18
10	Barderstrands Provstie . . . . . 8 Ditto	291	72
11	Isefiords Vester Provstie . . . . . 6 Ditto	215	80
12	Isefiords Norder Provstie . . . . . 7 Ditto	188	41
13	Strande Provstie . . . . . 4 Ditto	103	46
14	Hunevands Provstie . . . . . 15 Ditto	453	31
15	Skagefiords Provstie . . . . . 14 Ditto	403	50
16	Oefiords Provstie . . . . . 15 Ditto	434	16
17	Norder Provstie . . . . . 17 Ditto	668	15
18	Norder Mule Provstie . . . . . 10 Ditto	255	40
19	Syder Mule Provstie . . . . . 12 Ditto	359	90
	<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>6464</b>	<b>89</b>

The amount of the revenues of the church-lands and tythes is therefore . . . . . } 6464 89

To this may be added

The Bishop's annual salary . . . . .	1848	0
The Stiftprovst's annual salary . . . . .	16	0
Salary to the Priest of Reikevig church . . . . .	22	54
Pension to Bishop Stephensen's Widow . . . . .	117	19
Pension to Pastor emeritus Bergsen . . . . .	20	0
Pension to Pastor emeritus Tholevsen . . . . .	30	0
<b>Total sum . . . . .</b>	<b>8518</b>	<b>66</b>

The sum for the augmentation and amendment of poor clergymen's livings and widow's pensions is . . . . . } 618 72

Thus the grand total of the expenditure of the church amounts to . . . . . } 9137 42

Of the revenues accruing to the parent state I am not capable of speaking with any degree of certainty. Besides, however, those arising from the taxes imposed upon the inhabitants, the king receives a certain sum for the rental of such farms as are his private property; altogether not amounting to a sufficiency to meet the annual expenditure of the island. Land in Iceland comes under three divisions: such as belongs to the king, to the church, and to the peasants themselves. It would be interesting to ascertain, were it possible, the present proportion of each, but to do this with any kind of accuracy is impracticable, from the various changes that have taken place. The Icelandic Villarium, or land-book, made in 1695, is here our only guide, and from this is extracted the following statement, in applying which to the present time it must be observed that, from subsequent sales, the quantity of farms in the possession of the occupiers has been materially increased, and the regal and ecclesiastical estates proportionably diminished.

	No. of Farms.
To the King .....	718
To the Bishop's See of Skalholt ..	304
To the Bishop's See at Holum ..	345
Church Glebe .....	640
	<hr/>
Carried forward ....	2007
	<hr/>



	No. of Farms.
Brought forward . . . .	2007
Glebe of Clergy . . . . .	140
Glebe of superannuated Clergy ..	45
For maintaining the Poor . . . . .	16
For maintaining the Hospitals ..	4
To Farmers . . . . .	1847
	<hr/>
Total number of Farms ..	4059
	<hr/>

The exact expenditure of the island is more easily ascertained; but, previously to mentioning the particulars of it, it will be necessary to give some little account of the persons holding offices, who have not yet been noticed, but whose expences are defrayed by government, or, what is the same thing, paid from funds established for the purpose, which are under the superintendance of government. The salaries of the different masters of the small school at Bessestedr, the only one in the island maintained at the public expence, together with the allowance for the support of the boys, amount to three thousand two hundred and fifty-three rix-dollars.

There are no hospitals throughout Iceland of any sort; that which formerly existed at Guvernaes having been dissolved, from being considered too burthensome an institution, and the poor wretches sent to their respective homes, where

those deemed incurable are allowed a small pittance for their maintenance, which does not altogether exceed the sum of sixty-four rix-dollars per annum. There is consequently no place of reception for the sick, and what aggravates the evil is, that there are but six medical men in the whole island, and these necessarily resident at such a distance from the greater number of the inhabitants, that they are comparatively of little service: their salaries are besides extremely small. An apothecary is commissioned to distribute gratis a certain quantity of medicine annually, for which, independent of his pay, he is allowed three hundred and fifty rix-dollars. To judge from all this, it might be concluded that Iceland is singularly salubrious, but, on the contrary, in no country is medical attendance more necessary than here, where the greater part of the inhabitants are afflicted with the most inveterate eutaneous complaints, for which their extreme ignorance and the want of medicines render them incapable of applying either remedy or palliative. The sick and the lame are seen crawling about in almost every part of the island, presenting the most pitiable objects of distress and misery. Nor is more care taken of the females, or of providing for the safety of the coming generation; as, though twenty midwives are provided by government, they are grossly ignorant, and the pains

taken to remove their ignorance are so applied as to be almost wholly nugatory. One is sent from Copenhagen for the purpose of giving the necessary instructions to the rest; but her salary of one hundred dollars per annum is too small to enable her to take long journies, or to do any effectual good. The other nineteen receive altogether only one hundred rix-dollars per annum.

I must not omit, in the small list of useful officers in the pay of government, to mention two Danish lieutenants who are engaged with respectable salaries in the survey of the whole island; and, to judge from one or two specimens of their plans that have come under my observation, they are well capable of undertaking this important task.

The annual expences of Iceland which are paid by government from various funds established in Copenhagen will be at once seen by the following accounts. It will be, however, necessary to observe, that  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. is deducted by government from all salaries paid to officers and others, unless the contrary is permitted by express order. What is called *extra deduction* in the accounts, seems to be a kind of imposition practiced on some particular persons, since it is not exacted from all alike. Another deduction

is also made for *rank-tax*, unless the officers are exempted from it by special permission; and such is the case throughout the whole of his Danish Majesty's dominions: all are obliged to pay a tax in proportion to the rank they maintain; whether this rank is obtained by the employments they hold in the state, or whether it is a mere title.

The current money of the country is chiefly Danish bank-notes of ninety-six skillings value each. One skilling is equal to a halfpenny English, sixteen skillings constitute one mark Danish, and six marks Danish one rix-dollar. These bank-notes are, however, distinguished from those current in Denmark, by having a few Icelandic words printed on the back, specifying their value. The only specie to be met with consists of these skillings, penny, twopenny, and fourpenny pieces of an adulterated silver: all other silver and gold coin, which used to be seen in abundance, is now almost unknown.

A rix-dollar should be equal to four shillings English, and such was the case, or very nearly so, before the breaking out of the war between the two countries, but at present on account of the low course of exchange it is not more than equal to one-third of that value. It will be seen that

the regular expenditure of the island is nearly twenty thousand rix-dollars or £4,000 sterling; other occasional expences, however, make it amount to nearly £6,000, that is, thirty thousand rix-dollars.

These extra expences are supplied by the King of Denmark in bank-notes, which he annually remits, and which he can well afford to do out of the collect-chest, or funds raised for the relief of the Icelanders after the dreadful volcanic eruption of 1783. This money ought to have been immediately sent to the country for the use of the distressed inhabitants, but to this day it is retained in Copenhagen.

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*Account of Salaries and Pensions paid yearly  
in Iceland by the Landfogued, Frydensberg.*

SALARIES.

*From the Jordebog's Casse.*

	Rdr.	Sk.	Rdr.	Sk.
The Stiftsamptman's regular pay . . . .	1200	0		
Deduction . . . . .	28	0		
Rank-tax deducted . . . . .	70	0	98	0
			1102	0
Augmentation of pay . . . . .	300	0		
Total salary with deductions and additional pay			1402	0

	Rdr.	Sk.	Rdr.	Sk.
The Amptman over the Western Ampt.				
Regular pay .....	1000	0		
Deduction .....	23	32		
Rank-tax deducted ....	40	0	63	32
Total sum .....			936	64

The Amptman over the Northern and Eastern Ampt (independent of the revenue of Mödre valle Cloister, which is paid not in money but in kind). Regular pay .....	695	4		
Deduction of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and rank-tax .....			40	0
Total sum .....			655	4

The Chief Judge. Regular pay .....	900	0		
Deduction of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and rank-tax .....	45	0		
			855	0
Augmentation of pay .....	300	0		
Total sum .....			1155	0

## First Assessor in the High Court of Judicature.

Full pay .....	700	0		
Deduction .....	16	32		
Rank-tax deducted ....	15	0	31	32
Total sum .....			668	64

## Second Assessor in the same court.

Full pay .....	500	0		
Deduction .....	11	64		
Rank-tax deducted ....	16	0	27	64
Total sum .....			472	32

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	Rdr.	Sk.	Rdr.	Sk.
The Secretary to the same court				
Full pay .....	150	0		
Deduction .....	3	48		
Rank-tax deducted ....	6	0	9	48
Total sum .....			140	48
The Landfogued of Iceland and Byefogued of Reikevig.				
As Landfogued—Full pay .....	600	0		
As Byefogued—Ditto .....	300	0		
Deduction from the latter .....		7	0	
Total sum .....			893	0
To the Police Officers in Reikevig, each without deductions				
	150	0	300	0
To the Sysselman of Westman's Islands, without deductions .....				
			57	48
To the Sysselman in Kiöse and Guldbringue Syssels, who is at the same time administrator of the King's estate in the latter syssel.—Full pay, without deduction .....				
			33	72
Augmentation of pay which is liquidated in the revenues in the two syssels .....				
			200	0
Total sum .....			233	72
First Surveyor of the Island.				
Pay and emoluments .....	825	0		
Sum allowed for travelling expences	350	0		
Total sum .....			1175	0

	Rdr.	Sk.	Rd.	Sk.
<b>Second Surveyor of the Island.</b>				
Pay and emoluments .....	930	0		
Sum allowed for travelling expences	350	0		
Sum total .....			1280	0
<b>The Chief Physician and Surgeon.</b>				
Full pay .....	600	0		
Deduction .....	14	0		
Further extra deduction	60	0	74	0
			<hr/>	
			526	0
Allowed in lieu of an assistant yearly	60	0		
Total sum .....			586	0
<b>The Government Apothecary.</b>				
Full pay .....	50	0		
Augmentation of pay .....	80	0		
			<hr/>	
			130	0
Deduction .....			3	4
			<hr/>	
			126	92
Allowed for medicines for the poor	350	0		
Total sum .....			476	92
To the Midwife, Madam Malanquist, } without deductions .....			100	0
To all the other Midwives on the } island, jointly .....			100	0
The Surgeon in the Southern Ampt } has no pay, but is allowed yearly, to indemnify him for lands to which he is entitled, the sum of .....			12	0



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	Rdr.	Sk.	Rdr.	Sk.
The Surgeon of the first district in } the Western Ampt .....			49	77½
The Surgeon in the second district in } the Western Ampt .....	49	77½		
Allowed yearly to indemnify him } for lands .....	8	11		
Total sum			57	88½
The Surgeon in the Northern Ampt ..			49	77½
The Surgeon in the Eastern Ampt....			49	77½
Certain sums allowed yearly for the } augmentation and increase of poor } clergymen's salaries .....			318	0

*From the School Funds.*

Bishop of Iceland—Regular pay	1248	0		
Augmentation of pay, all without } deductions .....	600	0		
Total sum .....			1848	0
Lecturer on Theology, Bessestedr School			600	0
The Priest of the Church at Reikevig	24	0		
Deduction .....	1	42		
Total sum .....			22	54
To the Stiftprovst, Dean of all Iceland			16	0
To the Inspector, or Steward, of Bessestedr School, who undertakes to provide the				

	Rdr.	Sk.	Rdr.	Sk.
scholars with necessaries, and to see them regularly distributed.				
Salary .....	30	0		
For fuel .....	50	0		
			80	0
Deduction of 6 per cent. ....	4	77		
			75	19
Receives yearly as a gift .....	150	0		
			925	19
Deduction .....	3	48		
			921	67
Receives annually, for 24 scholars, 60 rix-dollars each, for their maintenance .....	1440	0		
Total sum .....			1661	67
To two Teachers in the School of Bessestedr, each per annum ....	300	0	600	0

## PENSIONS

*Paid out of the Jordebog's Casse, or from Funds not mentioned or properly regulated.*

To the Sysselman in Vesterskaptar-fel Syssel (as liquidated in revenues from Tykebag Cloister) .....		30	0
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	Rdr.	Sk.	Rdr.	Sk.
To the Sysselman in Skagefiord's Syssel	30	0		
Ditto in Kiöse Syssel .....	30	0		
Ditto in Barderstrand Syssel .....	60	0		
Ditto in Myre Syssel .....	30	0		
Ditto in Norder Mule Syssel .....	30	0		
Total sum .....			210	0
To Surgeon Backmann .....			20	0

*Paid from the Skatkammer Casse (Treasury Chest).*

To the former Stiftsamptman, Olav } Stephensen .....	800	0		
Deduction .....	18	64	781	32
To Sysselman Snorrasen's Widow ....			20	0

*Paid out of the Post Casse.*

Allowed for the augmentation or } amendment of the income of cler- } gymen's widows .....			300	0
To John Olafsen's Widow .....			40	0
To Magnus Olafsen's Widow .....			50	0
To Snorre Biørnsen's Widow .....			30	0
To Surgeon Petersen's Widow .....			16	0
To Landfogued Skulesen's Widow ....			25	0
To Sysselman Snorresen's Widow ....			16	0
Ditto Arnersen's ditto .....			30	0
Ditto Thomassen's ditto .....			20	0
Ditto Einersen's ditto .....			15	0

	Rdr.	Sk.
To Pastor emeritus Gudmun Poul- sen, in Kaloholt .....	20	0
To Surgeon Halgrim Backmann ....	20	0
To Surgeon Brynjole Petersen .....	60	0
To Nicolaysen's Widow .....	20	0

*Paid from the Rentekammer's Poor-Box.*

To former Under-Assistant Jon Olsen	20	0
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*Paid from the Danish War-Hospital Funds.*

To Invalid Jon Eincersen .....	12	0
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*Paid from the Icelandic and Finmarkish Company Funds.*

To the former Under-Assistant to the Company .....	50	0
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*Paid from the former Guvernæs Hospital Funds.*

To Thorkel Gissursen, Biarne Gissur- sen, and Gudrun Snorredatter, all in Kiöse Syssel .....	26	0
To Gudmun Thorlaksen of Asum in Hunevald Syssel .....	20	0
To Ingwald Einardatter in Arnæs Syssel	6	0
To Oddni Kehildsdatter in Dale Syssel	6	0
To Gunhild Jonsdatter in Guldbrin- gue Syssel .....	6	0
To Olav Jonsen in Havnfiord .....	6	0

*Paid from the School funds.*

	Rdr.	Sk.	Rdr.	Sk.
To former Corrector Paul Jacobsen ..	100	0		
Deduction 6 per cent .....	6	0		
Total sum .....			94	0
To Einar Biarnesen in Arnæs Syssel ..			5	0
To Bishop Stephensen's Widow, at Holm	120	0		
Deduction .....	2	77		
Extra deduction.....	2	38	5	19
Total sum .....			114	77
Former Rector Paul Hialmersen.....	150	0		
Deduction $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and extra } deduction .....		8	0	
Total sum.....			142	0
To the poor, in the service of the King } when he had the whole trade of the } island.....			287	0

NOTE—The sum to these is often liquidated out of the royal taxes and paid by the Sysselman of each district.

*Paid from the Funds established to meet the Expences of the Post.*

Former Postman, Vigfus Jonsen.....	3	0
Former Postman, Sunner Ravsen ....	5	0
Annual expences attending the Post ..	300	0

*Total Amount of the yearly Expenditure of the Island of  
Iceland, in Salaries and Pensions, as paid  
by the Landfogued.*

	Rdr. Sk.
Salaries paid out of the Jordebog's Casse, that is of the Funds established out of Royal or Episcopal Estates in Iceland .. }	11169 73
Salaries paid out of the School Funds, to the Clergy and Teachers .....	4743 73
Pensions paid out of the Skatkammer Casse, or Treasury..... }	801 32
Pensions paid out of the Post Casse, or Post Funds..... }	672 0
Pensions paid out of the Rentekammærs, or Chamber of Rents Poor-box .....	20 0
Pensions paid out of the Danish War-Hos- pital Funds..... }	12 0
Pensions paid out of the Icelandic or Fin- markish Company's Funds .....	50 0
Pensions paid out of the former Guvernæs Hospital Funds .....	64 0
Pensions paid out of the School Funds ....	642 77
Pensions paid out of the Funds established to pay the expences of the Post in the Country .....	308 0
Total sum .....	18713 63

With regard to the amusements of the Icelanders they are not of a kind calculated to dispel the gloomy habit which continually hangs about them; and indeed they are now almost entirely confined to the reading or repeating one to another their ancient *sagas*: these are the delight of the youth as well as of the aged; but while the more authentic manuscript histories of former times are the means of enabling them to retain and speak their language in its almost original purity, the mere traditionary ones are replete with absurd stories that keep alive a love of the wonderful, and impress with superstitious notions the minds of almost all the lower class of people. In former times wrestling and various feats of strength used to occupy their attention; chess was much practised; and cards, music, and dancing diversified their leisure hours; but all these are now scarcely heard of. Their attachment to their native land is very strong, and might be accounted truly wonderful, since the country seems entirely destitute of every thing which can add to the comforts of life and nearly so of the means of procuring a necessary subsistence, were it not that, "Providence," as Von Troil well remarks, "has wisely instilled into the human heart, the love of that soil whereon a man is born; and, probably with a view that those places which are not favored

“ by nature with her choicest blessings, may not  
“ be left without inhabitants, it may be affirmed  
“ with some degree of certainty that the love of  
“ one’s native place increases in an inverse ratio  
“ with its having received favors from nature.”  
This is, indeed, most justly applicable to the  
patient and contented Icelander, who is scarcely  
ever known to leave his cold and barren moun-  
tains for all that plenty and comfort can offer  
him in milder regions \*.

\* The first settlers, however, who were famed for their maritime enterprizes, had more of a roving disposition. Torwald was induced to attempt the discovery of a coast to the north of Iceland, before seen by one Eric Rufus. In the year 928, he made good a landing, and, having surveyed it, he gave it the name of Groenland. After living there some years he returned to Iceland, and prevailed on several persons to go and settle in this new country. Two towns, Garde and Albe, were founded; a monastery was established and dedicated to St. Thomas, and all the inhabitants acknowledged the Kings of Norway for their sovereigns. This colony subsisted till the year 1348, when the dreadful pestilence called the *black death* committed its ravages, and from that time these settlements seem to have been wholly forgotten or neglected, though Egede, in his *History of Greenland*, offers proofs that the old colony is not wholly extinet, and even proposes means of getting to it. It was in one of these voyages to Greenland that an Icelander named Biarn, driven to the southward in the year 1001 by tempestuous weather, discovered land, flat and covered with wood, which it has since been supposed must have been either Labrador or New-



The employments of each individual Icelander are necessarily various, since artists, mechanics, and people of different professions are almost unknown among them. \* In the winter the care of the cattle is of the highest importance: the stoutest and most healthy of the men are then occupied in the preservation of those to which shelter and dry food cannot be afforded at this inclement season, and it is necessary to remove the snow as much as possible from the grass, that the beasts may be able to procure a subsistence, however scanty. Other men are employed in picking the coarse wool from the fine, and manufacturing it into ropes, bridles, stirrup-straps, and cushions, which are often used instead of saddles. They also prepare skins for their fishing-dresses, and tan others to make into saddles, as well as thongs to

foundland; this was again visited by some of the inhabitants of Greenland, who gave it the name of Vinland, and established a small colony, whither many persons both Greenlanders and Icelanders resorted. But as a more detailed account of the discovery and settlements in these two places, although connected with Icelandic history, would carry me beyond the intended limits of this Introduction, I will beg leave to refer my readers to the first volume of *Percy's Northern Antiquities* for much more interesting information on this subject.

\* Voyage en Islande.

fasten burthens upon their horses, and they forge iron into scythes, horse-shoes, and different kinds of tools. The women find abundant occupation in washing the wool, and in picking, carding, and spinning it; as well as in knitting gloves and stockings, and in weaving or dyeing flannel and stuffs for their various dresses, all which they make themselves, as they do their shoes of untanned skin. The fulling of the cloth falls to the lot of the men.

As early as the month of February or March, the fishing-season calls the men or at least the greater number of them to the coast: others only resort thither in the summer when the fishing is nearly completed, and take with them their butter and wadmal to exchange for the fish, with which they return loaded. At that time of the year, also, the Danes are accustomed to arrive in the different ports, and an opportunity is thus afforded to the natives of carrying on a little trade with them. To the fishery succeeds the season for drying and securing the hay, and another migration takes place of the poorer inhabitants from various parts to assist the farmers. The salmon-fishery and the cutting and preserving of turf for winter fuel are at the same time attended to.

In the autumnal months the necessary repairs are done to the dwellings, the grass-land is manned, and the sheep are killed and cured either for winter store or for exportation.

The more industrious exercise their ingenuity during their leisure hours in the manufactory of various articles in brass, silver, and wood, such as girdles, buttons, clasps, ornaments for their saddles and dresses, snuff-boxes, &c.; in all of which they display an extraordinary neatness and elegance of workmanship. Some of them, too, are excellent boat-builders. The women embroider their garments with figures of flowers and animals of various forms and colors.

The principal articles of food among the Icelanders are fish and butter; the former mostly eaten in a dry state and uncooked; the latter made without salt, with all the whey and superfluous moisture pressed out, in which state it will keep for fifteen or twenty years, acquiring in the interim a degree of rancidity which is not unpleasant to an Icelandic palate. During the time of the prevalency of the Popish religion\*, a large building was appropriated, at each of the episcopal sees, for the purpose of laying by a

\* Voyage en Islande.

store of this butter, which was packed down in chests, each thirty or forty feet long, by four or five feet deep, and was thence distributed among the most necessitous of the natives during seasons of famine or scarcity. Milk is converted into *Syra*, or sour whey, which is preserved in casks till it has undergone the process of fermentation before it is used as a beverage. The same mixed with water is called *Blanda*. *Striugur* is whey boiled to the consistency of curd; and *Skiur* the same from which the liquid has been expressed. The flesh of either sheep or bullocks and rye-bread is only brought to the table of the superior class of people. Birds of various kinds, especially water-fowl and the larger inhabitants of the deep, are of course only occasionally procured, and cannot be taken into account, while speaking of the general mode of subsistence of the Icelanders, any more than the native vegetable productions which are occasionally prepared for food; such as the *Angelica Archangelica*, *Cochleariæ*, *Rumices*, and *Dryas octopetala*, with *Lichens* and *Fuci* of two or three kinds. The *Lichen islandicus* alone is sometimes eaten in considerable quantity; but more is gathered for exportation.

The Icelandic language \* has been considered

\* Pinkerton's Geography.

as the most ancient and the most pure of the Gothic dialects, and as the parent of Swedish, Danish, and Norse, as well as in some measure of English also. Its having retained its original purity, which it has done to such a degree that an Icelander of the nineteenth century can read with ease the oldest manuscripts of his country, seems principally to be attributable to the little intercourse which this island has had with foreign nations, and to the small alteration that has taken place in the state of civilization of its inhabitants; few or no strangers having settled among them who might corrupt the language by a mixture of their own; and as few luxuries having been introduced, which might give rise to new wants, and consequently render necessary new terms to express them.

How trifling is the change\* that has taken place in the language between the years 1585 and 1746, may be seen by a transcript of the Lord's prayer, as it was written at each of those periods.

#### ICELANDIC LORD'S PRAYER IN 1585.

Fader vor thu sem ert a himnum. Helgist nafn thitt. Tilkome thitt riike. Verde thinn vilie so a jordu sem a himne. Gief oss i dag vort dagligt braud. Og fyrerlat oss

\* Von Troil.

vorar skullder, so em vier fyrerlautum vorum skulldunautum. Og inleid oss ecki i freistne. Helldr frelsa thu oss af illu, thuiat thitt er riikit, maatur og dyrd um allder allda. Amen.

#### ICELANDIC LORD'S PRAYER IN 1746.

Fader vor thu sem ert a himnum. Helgesst thitt nafn. Tilkommæ thitt rike. Verde thiñ vilie, so a jordu sem a himne. Gief thu oss i dag vort daglegt braud. Og fyrergief oss vorar skullder, so sem vier fyrergiefum vorum skulldnautum. Og inleid oss ecke i freistne. Helldur frelsa thu oss fra illu ; thuiad thitt er riiked og maattur og dyrd um allder allda. Amen.

The art of writing \*, except in the Runic character, was not known among them till the year 1000, about which time Isleif founded a school at Skalholt, and soon after four others, where the Roman characters were introduced, and the youth instructed in the Latin tongue, divinity, and parts of theoretic philosophy. During this period some of the learned men studied at foreign universities, but many received their education entirely in their own country, and among these are to be noticed the two most famous of their historians, Are Frode and Snorro Sturleson. Iceland was now in the zenith of her literary glory, and from the introduction of the Christian religion till the year 1264, when the whole island became

\* Von Troil.

subject to Norway, she continued one of the few countries in Europe and the only one in the north, where the sciences were cultivated and held in esteem. The poetical and historical works of her inhabitants have bid defiance to time; her ancient chronicles show what clear notions they had of morality, philosophy, natural history, and astronomy; her divines read the works of the fathers of the church; and no fewer than two hundred and forty poets, some of them known and esteemed at foreign courts, are enumerated in the *Skaldartal* (or list of poets), among the most eminent of whom are the above-mentioned Snorro Sturleson, Olaf Hintaskald, and Sturla Thordsen, all of whom lived in the thirteenth century.

It appears extraordinary \*, says M. Mallet, to hear a historian of Denmark cite for his authority the writers of Iceland; a country cut off as it were from the rest of the world, and lying almost under the northern pole. But this wonder ceases when the reader is informed that from the earliest times the inhabitants of that island had a particular fondness for history, and that from among them have sprung those poets, who, under the name of *Scalds*, rendered themselves so famous throughout the north for their

\* Percy's Northern Antiquities.

songs, and for the credit they enjoyed with kings and people. In fact, they have always taken great pains to preserve the remembrance of every remarkable event that happened, not only at home, but among their neighbors, the Norwegians, the Danes, the Swedes, the Scotch, the English, the Greenlanders, &c. The first inhabitants of Iceland carried with them the verses, and with these other historical monuments of former times, and the odes of these Icelandic Scalds were continually in every body's mouth, containing, according to Torfæus, the genealogies and exploits of kings, princes, and heroes: and, as the poets did not forget to arrange them according to the order of time, it was not difficult for the Icelandic historians to compose afterwards, from such memoirs, the chronicles they have left us.

But the sciences \* here, as in every other country, have been subject to the greatest revolutions, and, to use the words of Doctor Finneus, (who in his *Hist. Eccles. Islandiæ* compares the state of literature in Iceland to the four stages of human life) their infancy extended to the year 1056, when the introduction of the Christian religion produced the first dawn of light; their youth to 1100, when schools were first established

\* Von Troil.



and the education and instruction of young men began to be more attended to than before. Their manhood lasted till about the middle of the fourteenth century, when the sciences gradually decreased and were almost wholly extinct, no work of any merit appearing. History now drooped her head, poetry had no relish, and all the other sciences were enveloped in darkness. The schools began to decay, and in many places they even had none at all. It was very uncommon for any one to understand Latin, and few priests could with fluency read their breviary or rituals.

The reformation \*, however, produced in Iceland a new dawn of learning; and a few rays of that light which has blazed over Europe from the discovery of printing shed a gleam on this remote island; but it is to Bishop Areson, one of the most illiterate and bigotted of the Roman catholic bishops that the inhabitants are indebted for the introduction of the first printing-press. He, anxious to undermine the power of the king and to hinder the progress of the reformation, but at the same time ignorant of the Latin language which was made use of in letters of excommunication and other ordinances, commissioned a friend to procure him a person well

\* Von Troil.

versed in Latin, who might at the same time establish a printing-office. For this purpose, John Mattheisen, a native of Sweden, was sent to Iceland between the years 1527 and 1530, and in 1531 the first book was printed at Holum. About the middle of the nineteenth century a new printing-office was established at Hrapsey, by Olafr Olssen, and hence, as well as from the former press, several valuable works have issued; but since that period the office at Holum has been suppressed, and the only one now in the island is situated at Leera in the district of Borgarfjord.

The remains of antiquity in Iceland are few and of small importance, since the country has been plundered of all its old manuscripts. Of ancient edifices scarcely any traces remain; for the mode of building practised in the island with pieces of rock without cement is of itself naturally unfavorable to the duration of the walls, and has also greatly facilitated the attempts of the natives to take them in pieces as often as they wanted the materials to erect others. The mere foundations of large structures are alone now and then to be traced, some of which that served as pagan temples are distinguishable by the Blodstein, or stone for sacrifice.

One of these is still to be seen at Thingevalle\*: it is of an oval form, a little pointed on the top. Such stones in the times of heathenish superstition served not only as altars for sacrifice but as places of execution for criminals, who, being first stretched across them with their faces towards heaven, were doomed in that position to suffer the punishment of having their backs broken, after which their throats were cut, or they were dispatched, like oxen, with repeated blows.

Equally insignificant are the ancient inscriptions that have been found in the island; the most remarkable among which is that at Borg, in Myrar, the epitaph of one Kartan a man of regal extraction, who fell by the hands of an assassin. It is engraved in Runic characters upon a kind of rock resembling basalt.

Some fragments are still preserved of the armour of former days, such as an halbert, long kept in the cathedral of Skalholt; and a few swords, with a lance and helmet, which are to be seen at Hlidarçnde; but they are said to possess nothing remarkable in their form. Sepulchral monuments, consisting of heaps of stones, resembling the cairns of Wales and Scot-

\* Voyage en Islande.

land are scattered in small quantities over the island.

The principal exports of Iceland are dried fish, mutton, lamb and beef, butter, tallow, train-oil, coarse woollen cloth, stockings, gloves, raw wool, sheep-skins, lamb-skins, fox-skins, eider-down, and feathers, to which in former times was added sulphur. They import timber, fishing-tackle, various implements of iron, tobacco, bread, spirituous liquors, wine, salt, linen, with other necessaries of life for the people in general, and a very few superfluities for the richer class of inhabitants. At its earliest period Iceland appears to have been the rendezvous for all the disaffected and discontented among the Norwegians and Danes, and was little more than a nest of pirates, but after the island had submitted to the Kings of Norway, a security was afforded to commerce, and the vast quantities of wool, tallow, oil, and other products that were exported, brought back so large a return of the precious metals, that it was reckoned a desirable situation for adventurers to make their fortunes in. Many concurrent circumstances afterwards occasioned the decay of this trade, but nothing so much as the king's usurping the whole commerce of the island, and affixing certain prices to all the produce; so that no man dared to sell any

thing except to the royal factors, nor to them at a price above what was stated in a printed list that was circulated all over the island. A monopoly of this nature at first produced great revenues to the royal treasury, but the people soon became impoverished by it, and, following the natural course of things, the factors began to oppress the natives and to cheat their master, so that at last the profits were not equal to the expence of such a commerce. The Danish government therefore issued proclamations declaring the trade of Iceland to be free. But, if the island had suffered formerly by the factors, it suffered much more by the measures that were now adopted; for the freedom of trade consisted in the king's privileges being sold to a body of merchants, who enjoyed, under certain stipulations, the exclusive right to trade with the island. The natives were under the same restrictions as before, nor could any ships but those of this company come into the Icelandic ports to traffic. The principal purchaser from the king did an essential injury to the inhabitants by suffering the manufactory of cloth to go into decay, whereby numbers were exposed to poverty and want. He was, by so doing, able to export the raw wool to a greater profit, and also to have a farther advantage by importing cloth and other manufactured goods.

In nothing do the Icelanders excel so much as in the curing of the cod-fish, which is of the best kind; so that if the fisheries were properly conducted they might prove a source of inexhaustible wealth to the island; for fish from that country always sells at a much higher rate than what comes from either Newfoundland or Norway.

Of the amount of the population of Iceland in early times I am ignorant, except as far as some sort of estimate may be made from what is mentioned by Arngrim Jonas\*, that four hundred people paid tribute in the year 1090; but in this number neither women, children, nor poor were included. In the fourteenth century a dreadful malady† called the *sorte dod*, or black death, is reported to have swept away almost every inhabitant from off the island; so that, comprehensive as are the annals of Iceland, this circumstance is omitted in them, and it is thence inferred that no person of ability survived to record it. The years 1697, 1698, and 1699 were remarkable for the mortality caused by famine, and the year 1707 for the destruction of twenty thousand inhabitants by the small-pox; yet in 1753 Horrebow esti-

\* Arngrim Jonæ Brev. Comment. de Islandiâ.

† Horrebow.

mates the population at eighty thousand, and Von Troil in 1772 at sixty thousand; but, in consequence of the tremendous eruption of Skaptarjökul in 1783 and other unfortunate events, the number is now reduced to forty-eight thousand. Independently of the destructive effects of volcanoes, disease, and famine, which so often ravage the island, the quantity of those who die in their infancy for want of proper nourishment is extreme. It is remarked \* that Barderstrand Syssel in the year 1749 contained three thousand inhabitants, but that in the short space of thirteen years (in 1762) this amount was diminished to two thousand one hundred and seventy-five. From the poverty of this district the want of necessary nutriment for young children is increased, and two-thirds of the number born are supposed to perish in the eradle. It seldom happens that out of twelve or fifteen children, which the women sometimes produce, one-half of them live, and more commonly only two or three are brought up to manhood, though most of those survive that are preserved during their first or second year. What makes this period so peculiarly fatal, is the custom that prevails among the women of not suckling their infants at all or at

\* Voyage en Islande.

most only for a few days, after which they feed them with cow's milk, which is taken through a quill with a piece of rag fastened to one end for the sake of softness to the mouth.

The Icelanders in general do not attain to an advanced period of life, though many live to the age of seventy and enjoy a good state of health; but this is among the higher class of people. The nutriment of the poor and their manner of living is unfavorable to longevity, independently of the dreadful cutaneous diseases to which they are subject. Scurvy, leprosy, and elephantiasis are no where, perhaps, more prevalent; and they are likewise, according to Von Troil, peculiarly afflicted with St. Anthony's fire, the jaundice, pleurisy, and lowness of spirits.

The climate of Iceland is not so settled as that of equal latitudes upon continents. In the winter the inhabitants are exposed to frequent and sudden thaws, and in the middle of summer almost as much so to snow, frost, and cold, so severe as effectually to prevent all cultivation. The year 1809 was particularly unfavorable: I recollect that in the early part of that summer Fahrenheit's thermometer varied in the course of the day from about  $41^{\circ}$  to  $45^{\circ}$ , seldom rising to  $50^{\circ}$ ,



and only once to  $60^{\circ}$ . Mr. Savigniae, however, assured me, that at Reikevig one day the thermometer, exposed to the sun, rose to  $100^{\circ}$ . In the beginning of August there were severe frosts, and much snow fell in the vallies and plains, even in the most temperate parts of the island. In common seasons \* the changes that take place in the atmosphere in the course of the twenty-four hours are very extraordinary; since it often happens that after a night of hard frost the thermometer will in the day rise to  $70^{\circ}$ . During the winter of the year 1348, the annals of the country relate that the sea was frozen all round the coasts, and that a person might ride on horseback upon the ice from one cape to another across all the gulphs and bays in the island. In February, 1755, the thermometer in the southern quarter of the country, fell to  $7^{\circ}$ . In 1754, on January 13th, it was at  $9^{\circ}$ ; on February 13th,  $8^{\circ}$ ; on the 14th of March  $11^{\circ}$ ; on December 6th,  $11\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ ; and on the 12th of the following February,  $12^{\circ}$ ; but in the month of May, in the same year, the frosts were so severe that in one night's time water in the neighbourhood of the sea was frozen an inch and half in thickness. Ice-islands in the years 1615, 1639, 1683, and 1695 came round to the

\* Voyage en Islande.

south coast, which is by no means an usual circumstance.

The northern part of the island is, as may be concluded, exposed to much more severe weather than the southern\*. Vegetation is scanty, and the herbage difficult to be dried for hay. The quantity of floating ice driven by the westerly and north-westerly winds from the coast of Greenland is prodigious, and not only fills all the bays, but covers the sea to that extent from the shore that the eye cannot trace its boundary from the highest summit of the mountains. These masses of ice, known by the name of ice-islands, are so large that a body of sixty or eighty fathoms in thickness is sunk below the level of the water, and a height of many toises rises above it. Their motion is rapid, and they are often driven together by the sea with so tremendous a crash that the report is heard at an immense distance, and with such force, that, according to Povelsen and Olafsen, the pieces of float-wood that they bring with them have been known to take fire, in consequence of the friction. It is a singular fact, that so long as these ice-islands continue floating about in the ocean, the weather is fickle and stormy, and the cur-

\* Voyage en Islande.

rent, and ebb and flow of the tide are all in disorder and confusion: but, as soon as they become stationary in the gulphs and inlets, and the waters have carried away the smaller detached pieces, nature returns to its accustomed state of order and regularity; the weather growing calm in the country, and the air thick and loaded with fogs, though at the same time accompanied by a moist and penetrating cold. Among the inconveniences arising from the arrival of this ice, besides the excessive cold which destroys vegetation and cattle, is to be reckoned the opportunity it affords for the white bears of Greenland to visit the country, which they occasionally do in alarming numbers, and render it necessary for the natives to assemble in parties for the purpose of destroying them, lest so unwelcome a visitor should fix himself permanently among them.

In mentioning the general face of the country I cannot do better than copy the exclamation of Von Troil on his arrival. “ Imagine to yourself  
“ an island, which from one end to the other  
“ presents to your view only barren mountains,  
“ whose summits are covered with eternal snow,  
“ and between them fields divided by vitrified  
“ cliffs, whose high and sharp points seem to vie  
“ with each other to deprive you of the sight of  
“ a little grass which scantily springs up among

“ them. These same dreary rocks likewise  
“ conceal the few scattered habitations of the  
“ natives, and no where does a single tree appear  
“ which might afford shelter to friendship and  
“ innocence. The prospect before us, though  
“ not pleasing, was uncommon and surprising.  
“ Whatever we saw bore the marks of devasta-  
“ tion, and our eyes, accustomed to behold the  
“ pleasing coasts of England, now saw nothing  
“ but the vestiges of the operation of a fire,  
“ heaven knows how ancient!” Of the moun-  
tains of Iceland some are composed of loose frag-  
ments of rock to their very summit, while others  
apparently retain their primæval form and nature,  
lying in horizontal strata. The height of a very  
few has been accurately ascertained; and these,  
though measuring nearly seven thousand feet of  
elevation, are by no means the loftiest in the  
island. Geitland and Blaa-fel Jökul tower over  
the rest in the southern quarter, where Heela,  
also, is situated, more remarkable for the fre-  
quency of its eruptions than for its height, which  
is only about five thousand feet. The western  
quarter of the island contains, among other vast  
mountains, Snoefel Jökul, well known to all navi-  
gators along that coast by its great elevation and  
its vicinity to the sea; and Boula, conspicuous  
for its singularly conical form. Lange and Hofs-  
Jökul are the loftiest in the northern division of

the country; and in the eastern Klofa, Skaptar, and Torf Jökul, the latter esteemed the most stupendous mountains in the whole island.

Rivers and fresh-water lakes abound; the latter of very considerable extent and well supplied with fish; the former, though of sufficient width in many instances to admit of navigation, are too much obstructed by rocks and shallows to be employed to this important object. The bays and harbors are both numerous and safe, though their entrances are but little known, except by those who are frequently in the habit of visiting the coasts.

The annals of the island describe the country, than which nothing can possibly be now more bare, as having been once covered with impervious forests; and the quantity of bog-wood and *sur-turbrand* which is continually dug up afford the most decisive proof in favor of the truth of such assertion. Even now, too, the name remains, though the reality has long ceased to do so, and places are called forests that produce only a few miserable and stunted birches. All attempts of recent times to cultivate even the most hardy trees have proved ineffectual, so that for his necessary supply of wood the Icelander is obliged wholly to depend upon importation from Nor-

way, excepting only what he gets from the northern and eastern coasts of his own island, where much timber is frequently cast by the waves of the sea, conveyed, as it is supposed, by the winds and currents from North America.

The natural history of the island, its volcanoes, its sulphur-springs, and its boiling fountains, are spoken of so much at large in the Journal and Appendix that it is needless in this place to mention them. Those who may be desirous of more information on any of the points here glanced at, I beg to refer to the able works of Von Troil and Povelsen and Olafsen; for these pages, to use the words of the most popular poet of our days, "are but a tale of *Iceland's* " *Isle* and not a history."

*Halesworth, March 14, 1811.*

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# RECOLLECTIONS

OF

## *ICELAND.*

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1809.  
Friday,  
June 2.

EARLY this morning, the Margaret and Anne, Captain Liston, bound for Reikevig, in Iceland, being ready for sea, and my luggage having been previously sent on board, Mr. Phelps, Mr. Jorgensen, and myself embarked from Gravesend. From the excellent accommodation which the vessel afforded, and the pleasant society of the two companions of my voyage, I flattered myself, and not in vain, with as agreeable an excursion as the nature of the circumstances would allow. Friday, however, being considered by all sailors as an unlucky day to commence a voyage, our people were so tardy in their preparations to get under way, that, before noon, a violent hurricane,

which came on and continued all day, obliged us to keep our station; at least, as much so as the storm would permit; for we dragged our anchors a considerable way. The howling of the wind among the rigging, the sight of a number of large vessels that were driven on shore, and of boats in distress in every direction upon the river, did not strike us with very pleasing sensations, although we were riding in perfect safety: to add to the scene, a house close to the shore was discovered to be in flames. Towards evening the storm abated, and early the next morning, with a charming breeze, we sailed down the river; and, while looking with delight on the green and fertile shores, we thought of the far different appearance of those more striking scenes of fire and devastation, which Von Troil, in his letters on Iceland, had taught us to expect in that country. In the after part of the day the wind increased, and, towards night, blew so violently, that our captain thought it most prudent to come to an anchor in Hollesley Bay, and, in the morning, to fire a signal for a pilot. When the violence of the storm had abated the next morning, a boat came off to inform us there was no pilot to be had; therefore, with a more frequent use of the lead, the captain determined to pass the sands off the coasts of Norfolk and Suffolk without one. Having cleared

Saturday,  
June 3.

Sunday,  
June 4.



these, we steered more to the eastward, and soon lost sight of land. When we were about seventy miles from the shore, a Willow-wren, *Motacilla Trochilus*, was observed flying about the rigging of our vessel, and, soon after, a female Black-cap, *Motacilla atricapilla*; and, when we were still further out at sea, *Hirundo domestica* and *H. Apus* were skimming about us, and every now and then resting upon our ropes. These birds were probably driven from our own coasts by the late strong westerly gales, as it is too late for the regular migration of these, our summer visitants. On the third morning of our losing sight of land, *Hirundo urbica* settled upon our rigging, and seemed much fatigued. We had, from the time of our leaving Hollesley Bay, so fine and so favorable a wind, that on the Wednesday morning I was called from my cot, and asked if I knew the coast which was in sight. I immediately recognised Wick Castle, in Caithness, standing upon a rocky peninsula, and we soon descried Wick itself. From Sleigo, an adjoining village, we took on board two pilots, and, with great rapidity, passed the three extraordinary conical and insulated rocks, called the Stacks of Duncansby. Here, we calculated that we had run seven hundred miles, and six hundred and twenty-two of these in three days. The Orkney Islands were, in a great measure, obscured from

Wednesday,  
June 7.

our view, as we dashed through the Pentland Frith, by a thick fog, in which most of them were enveloped. We could, however, distinguish Stroma, South Ronaldsha, and Hoy, and, in the latter island, the hospitable seat of Colonel Moodie, at Melsetter. Opposite to it, on the Caithness coast, whilst viewing the venerable residence of the Earls of Caithness, I recollected the hearty welcome and kind assistance that Mr. Borrer and myself received there, from the present hospitable proprietors, but nine months before, when we were rambling over these northern parts of Scotland. Near to Mey Castle was the church of Canisby, and, on the opposite side, the steep cliffs of Dunnet Head. When we had got out of the frith, a clearer atmosphere gave us a view of the Paps of Caithness, in the south-east; in the south, was the fine conical hill, called Ben-y-Gràme; and, in the south-west, the great mountains of Ben Hope and Ben Luyal, in Sutherland. No sooner had we passed the frith, and got to the westward of the Orkney Islands, than we were becalmed, and continued so for two days; Hoyhead, and the old man of Hoy, a singular rock near the shore, being most of the time in sight. On the Thursday, a *Tringa*, which appeared to me a new species, flew on board quite exhausted, and was taken. From this time, calms or bad winds, and fre-

Thursday,  
June 8.

quently, heavy squalls, attended us, so that we made but slow progress. About the hour of  
Wednesday,  
June 14. midnight, on the 14th, we descried land in the horizon, or rather snow, for, as we approached it, we could discover nothing but mountains of prodigious magnitude, covered on every side with snow, and most distinctly seen, from being backed by a dark cloud, though at the distance, as we computed, of fifty miles. On the highest ridge of these mountains were some huge angular and projecting precipices, which cast a deep shadow on the white snow, when the early rays of the sun were striking upon them, breaking the uniformity of such an extended outline. This range of mountains we afterwards discovered to be Klofa Jökul (Jökul means a range of snow mountains), in the south-eastern part of Iceland, and Mr. Phelps and I gazed upon it with astonishment and delight, till a late hour in the morning. Such a scene was quite novel to us, and the circumstance of our contemplating it all night long did not at all diminish its effect. To the north-east of this, we saw a long stretch of nearly level land, of, comparatively, no great elevation, but every where covered with snow, and only here and there interrupted by a rugged mountain, whose  
Thursday,  
June 15. sides were of a very rude figure. The following night, we passed within sight

of a flat extent of land, which appeared to be about twenty miles from us, and on which, by the help of our glasses, we could plainly discern a number of buildings; but we could never learn what place it was. I do not recollect ever after, except at Reikevig, seeing so many houses together in Iceland. About two o'clock

Friday,  
June 16. the next morning, we discovered Westman's Isles, or Vestmanna-eyer, as the natives call them. These islands are so named, from the circumstance of some Irish fugitives, who had killed their master, having escaped to them in 875; for the Irish and Scotch were both called by the ancient Norwegians *Vestmen*. According to Povelsen and Olafsen, some places in the principal, and the only inhabited, island, are still known by the names of these Irish runaways. The whole groupe appears perfectly barren, and they rise to a vast height, and of the strangest shapes, perpendicularly from the sea. We had a magnificent view, as we passed close by them with a light breeze, which, however, was scarcely sufficient, in our captain's opinion, to take us out of the force of the currents, which run here with great velocity. As we proceeded, the different sides which came to our view, presented different shapes and appearances; in some, these sides hung over the deep, as if they would fall every instant; others had a perforation at their bottoms, through

which a boat under sail might pass ; all of them were of a dark brown color, but whitened in places by the dung of the immense quantity of birds which constantly frequent them. In the afternoon, we saw other Jökuls, which were covered with snow, and extended in uninterrupted lines almost as far as our sight could reach. Hence, we bore a little more to the southward, in order to double a dangerous chain of rocks running out from the south-east corner of Iceland, and called the Fugle Skiers. We soon lost sight of our snow mountains, and, instead of feasting our eyes with these wonders of the northern regions, had to encounter three days of almost incessant squalls, sleet, rain, and a most boisterous sea. When, at length, we supposed we had sailed far beyond the outermost rock (for we gave it a birth of twenty-five miles), we steered to the northward, and reckoned the next morning upon entering the great bay of Faxa-fiord. We were all thrown into confusion, however, by Mr. Jorgensen's accidentally looking out a-head, and discovering, within a few minutes sail, some breakers dashing over a sunken rock directly in our course. He immediately gave orders for putting the vessel about, and flew himself, with the greatest alertness, from one part of the deck to another, to assist, by his own exertions, where fear or hurry prevented the com-

mon sailors from doing their duty. Although it blew a gale of wind, so that, in getting about, our decks were completely washed by the seas, yet, it was done so rapidly, that no one, except Mr. Jorgensen, knew the extent of the danger, till we had escaped from it. Unfortunately, almost at the same time the wind shifted, and we were obliged to beat about to the southward for two days, before we could get round this dangerous reef, which was not laid down in any of our charts. At

Tuesday,  
June 20. length, with more favorable weather, on the 20th we entered Faxa-fiord, and steered pretty nearly due east, to get into Reikveg Bay. On our right was a long flat extent of land, which is called Guldbringue Syssel, or District; from it, rose several insulated mountains, and one of a remarkably conical figure, but

Wednesday,  
June 21. none of any great height. Early on the following morning, as we continued our course, other larger mountains came in view, on the mist's clearing away; and, after an interval of several hours from the time of our firing the signal, we saw a boat, with some pilots on board, approach us. We were delighted at seeing some new faces, in spite of their nastiness and stench; and their grotesque appearance afforded us much amusement. I cannot say that I observed any thing strikingly peculiar in their features: their faces were rather broad, and, as to color, none of

the fairest. Their stature was in general small, but one or two of them were rather tall, and, I think, not much less than six feet high. Some had pretty long beards, while others had as much only, as would remain after the operation of shaving had been performed with a blunt knife, or a pair of scissars: as to their hair, it was altogether in a state of nature, untouched by a comb, and hung over their backs and shoulders; it was matted together, and visibly swarming with little vermin, and their eggs\*, which are the constant attendants of that part of the human body, when cleanliness is neglected. Their dress was simple enough, and warm; it consisted of a woollen shirt, a short waistcoat, and jacket of coarse blue cloth or wadinal, and still coarser trowsers of the same materials, but undied: the buttons were mostly of horn, and were, probably, from Denmark. They had on stockings of coarse worsted, and shoes made of seal or sheep skin. Their gloves,

\* Much, and universally as the common people of Iceland are infested with these troublesome creatures, and greatly as they are sometimes distressed for food, I never saw or heard of their applying them to that use, which Kracheninnikow observes is common among the Kamtschadals, of whom, he says, " Ces peuples sont remplis d'une  
" si grande quantité de vermine, qu' en soulevant leurs  
" tresses, ils ramassent la vermine avec la main, la mettent  
" en un tas, et la mangent." Vol. i. p. 21.

too, were of the same materials as the stockings, that is to say, knitted worsted, made without divisions for the fingers, but having two appendages on each of them, for the thumb; by this contrivance, when a boatman, in rowing, feels his hands galled, from the inside of his glove being wet and dirty, he turns the glove on the same hand, and has a dry and clean side against the palm. An Iceland hat is well contrived to keep the rain from the neck and shoulders; for it is furnished with an immense brim, which hangs down behind, in a manner not much unlike that which our London porters to the coal vessels make use of, but is equally large before. This, and the buttons, appeared to be the only articles of their dress which were of foreign manufacture. When they talked, which they did, in the Danish language, to Mr. Jorgensen, they seemed to be much animated, and had a great deal of action with their hands and heads; but when any thing was said or offered to them which gave them pleasure, they made it apparent by scratching and rubbing themselves violently, and writhing their body so as to cause it to chafe against their clothes; thereby indicating that they were sorely afflicted with a complaint, said, with what truth I shall not pretend to determine, to be very troublesome in the northern parts of our own island. These poor creatures swallowed the provisions



that we gave them, with a most voracious appetite, and, by means of their excellent sets of teeth, our hardest biscuits were soon reduced to a digestible shape. With our snuff and tobacco\*

\* This passion for snuff and tobacco is prevalent among all the northern nations. I had frequent opportunities of observing it, during my tours in the Highlands of Scotland; and Linnæus has some curious remarks on the subject, in his *Flora Lapponica*, where he says, p. 310, “Ceterùm apud  
 “innocentissimos Lappos innotuit pessimus mos pulvere  
 “Nicotianæ nares saturandi, ut nec vir nec femina nec  
 “puer sit, cui non in bursâ adsit pyxis pro pulvere olfac-  
 “torio tabaci, pro tabaco conscisso ad suffumigium, pro  
 “comminuto ad morsulas. Sed notes velim condimenta; non  
 “enim simplex pulvis Nicotianæ sternutatorius sufficit naso  
 “ditiorem, sed pulvere Castorei saturatus erit, quo vehemen-  
 “tius, gratius, salubrius spiret, licet nullam in Lapponiâ  
 “hystericam viderim; hinc in loco natali venditur commu-  
 “nitèr integer folliculus Castorei tribus florenis, vel, quod  
 “idem, unico rhenone.” This custom, however, is not confined solely to northern countries; for, in the town of Leetakoo, in Africa, in latitude 26° 30'' south, (according to the account written by some travellers who penetrated into that country, and published by Mr. Barrow,) the practice of snuff-taking is said to be peculiarly agreeable to the natives. “This article is composed of a variety of stimu-  
 “lant plants, dried and rubbed into dust, which is usually  
 “mixed with wood ashes; of this mixture they take a  
 “quantity in the palm of their hand, and draw it into their  
 “nostrils through a quill, or reed, till the tears trickle  
 “down their checks. Children even, of four or five years  
 “of age, may be observed taking snuff in this manner.”  
*Voyage to Cochinchina*, p. 395.

they were highly pleased, and even boys of fourteen or fifteen years of age held out their hands for a piece of tobacco, whilst I was dividing some amongst the men. They invited us in their turns to partake of their snuff, but when they presented their boxes, we were at a loss how to get at a pinch; for their boxes\* are shaped generally like a small flask, with an extremely narrow neck and mouth, which is stopped by a plug or peg of wood, fastened by its upper end to the neck of the box by means of a piece of string. The sides are carved with ornaments of various kinds, and inlaid very neatly with brass or silver; at the bottom, by means of a larger hole, which is closed by a screw, the snuff is admitted into the box, and our pilots soon showed us their method of getting it out for use, which was, by holding their heads back, and inserting into one of their nostrils the mouth of the box; when, by two or three gentle shakes, a sufficient quantity is admitted into the nose, to produce the desired effect. Nothing more was then required, but to wipe away the superfluous particles from the nose, by drawing the back of the hand across it. How-

\* Their shape might, perhaps, be more aptly compared to a pair of bellows in miniature, or to an English pounce-box, some of which I have seen with flat sides considerably like them, but smaller. The middle part of an Icelandic snuffbox is made of wood, the neck and screw of brass.

ever, this is not the only, although the general, method of making use of their chief luxury; for the more moderate snufftakers will be satisfied by shaking some upon the back of their hand, and then inhaling it with their nostrils; or, by expanding the fore finger and thumb, so as to form a little pit or hollow at the base of the thumb, which will contain half a nostril-full: but, by this method, more is wasted. It is, perhaps, one of the most disagreeable features among the generality of the Icelanders, both men and women, that their nostrils are always overflowing with this precious dust. The information which these men gave us was, that the governor of the island, Count Tramp, had just arrived in his ship, the *Orion*, from Denmark, and, that a man of war, from England, had but two days previous left Reikevig, where she had been staying some time, and had been entering into an agreement with the governor about permitting the island to trade with the English. In a few hours, we came within sight of the islands about Reikevig, which appeared to be pretty well clothed with grass, and to have on them both houses and cattle. Along the shore, also, were here and there scattered a few cottages, which, on account of their being covered with turf, were not easily distinguishable from the ground they stood upon, and, sometimes, only by the superior luxuriance of vegeta-

tion. Another boat was now seen coming from the shore, in which, were Mr. Savigniac, an agent for Mr. Phelps, who had spent the winter there, and a Mr. Betreyers, a Danish merchant, who could speak a little English. While these gentlemen were talking over commercial affairs below, I kept upon deck, watching, with my telescope, every little object as it came in view. The house of the physician Doctor Clog, a neat white building, covered with boards, was pleasantly situated upon a flat grassy peninsula, and, a little beyond it, we discovered the small town of Reikevig. The most conspicuous feature in this town was a pretty large white building, roofed with boards, which, I concluded, was the residence of the governor, but was surprised on being told it was the workhouse, or house of correction. On drawing nearer, however, it was not such a comfortable place as it appeared in the distance, and the houses in the town, which we had a good view of, as we came to an anchor in the harbor, exhibited a more favorable exterior. A long line of buildings, principally warehouses, and all made of wood, fronted the sea. The church was distinguished by its being of stone, and covered with tiles, and by having a small steeple, or little square wooden tower, for its two bells. On each side of these buildings, among the rocks, which on every side surround

the town, were scattered miserable huts, but little raised above the level of the ground, although none of them are really formed underground, nor, indeed, are any in the island so, as has been generally supposed. About three in the afternoon, we came to an anchor at a short distance from the town, close by the Orion, and, at four, we went on shore, landing upon a beach wholly formed of decomposed lava, of a black color, and, in some places, almost as fine as sand: here, a sort of moveable jetty, made of fir planks, was pushed a little way into the sea, that we might not get wet, and, at least, a hundred natives, principally women, welcomed us to their island, and shouted on our landing. These good folks did not gaze on us with more pleasure, than we did upon them. It was now the season for drying fish, and they were employed in this operation at the time of our arrival. Some were turning those that were laid out to dry upon the beach; another groupe was carrying in hand-barróws the fish from the drying place to a spot higher up the beach, where other persons were employed in packing them in great stacks, and pressing them down with stones, to make them flat. Most of this business was performed by women, some of whom were very stout and lusty, but excessively filthy, and, as we passed the crowd, a strong and very rancid smell assailed

our noses. The first peculiarity about the women, which strikes the attention of a stranger, is the remarkable tightness of their dress about the breast, where the jacket is, from their early infancy, always kept so closely laced, as to be quite flat, which, while it must be a great inconvenience to them, entirely ruins their figure in the eyes of those who come from a more civilized part of the world. Their dress is not otherwise unbecoming, and, from its warmth, must be well suited to the coldness of this climate. Upon their heads, in their working, or common dress, they wear a blue woollen cap, with a long point, which hangs down by the side of the head, and is terminated by a tassel, nearly resembling such as is worn by many of our horse soldiers, in their undress uniform, and this tassel is often ornamented with silver wire. When they have this head-dress, their long and dirty hair is suffered to hang over the shoulders to a great length; but not so, when the *faldur*, or dress-cap is worn: then the hair is carefully tucked up, so that none of it is seen. As, however, I shall confine myself at present to the dress of those females whom I saw at work when I landed, I shall reserve my description of the turban, and of the dress of the richer people, till another opportunity. Over a great number, I cannot tell how many, of coarse woollen petticoats,

and a shirt of the same materials, they wear a thick petticoat, or rather gown without sleeves, (for there are two apertures for the arms,) made of blue or black cloth, and fastened down the breast, either by lacing, or, as is more common, with silver clasps\*. A short jacket of the same, which has sometimes a little skirt, goes over this, and is fastened, likewise, about the breast with brass or silver clasps, or by lacing. Their stockings are of coarse wool, knitted and dyed black; and their shoes made of the skins of sheep or seals. Over the shoulders of many of them, on each side, were hanging thick ropes, made of horsehair, coarsely braided, with a noose at the end, by which they carried the handbarrows with fish. The dress of the men was pretty nearly the same as that of our pilots, except that their clothes were generally black, and their stockings, also. In laborious employments, both they and the women frequently threw off their jacket, and worked with nothing but their worsted shirt-sleeves over their arms. As to the features of this groupe of ladies, the

\* This gown (*Upphlutur*, in Icelandic), however, is not, any more than the petticoats are, so long as to conceal much of their ill-shaped legs, otherwise, it would be a great hindrance to their walking among the rocks. I recollect one old lady, a constant labourer on the beach, who never had her dress come lower than her knees.

generality of them were, assuredly, not cast in nature's happiest mould, and some of the old women were the very ugliest mortals I had ever seen; but among the younger ones, there were a few who would be reckoned pretty, even in England; and, in point of fairness of complexion, an Iceland girl, who has not been too much exposed to the inclemencies of the weather, will stand the comparison with ladies of any country. They are generally of a shorter stature than our women, but have a good deportment, and, to judge from their appearance, enjoy an excellent state of health. After having attentively surveyed this interesting assemblage, we repaired to Mr. Savigniac's house; but, as this was built in Norway, and not different from what a wooden house would be in our own country, it had no charms for me. I therefore hastened to take a ramble by the sea shore. A little rude bridge, formed of planks, across a streamlet, led me out of the town; and, passing two or three peasant's houses,\* I pursued my way among the rocks, in search of plants. I cannot compare

\* Close by these houses, and by all in the immediate vicinity of the sea, are contrivances for drying the fishing dresses, which are made of untanned skin, with the hair inwards, or rudely scraped off, and comprise the jacket and trowsers all in one piece. The machines are of a simple structure; consisting of an upright stick, three or four feet



the country I here walked over, to any thing or place I know, which it so much resembles, as the summit of Ben Nevis; for, with the exception of here and there a few patches of verdure, the whole was a mass of broken pieces of rock, not piled up in heaps, but forming a great plain, or, at most, only rising in a few hills of a gentle and gradual ascent. Nearer the sea, some of these pieces of rock were covered with a little earth and grass, and in other places the interstices were frequently filled with *Trichostomum canescens*, among which grew many alpine plants, which

high, and a smaller transverse bar, crossing this at the top, and turning on its centre: from this horizontal bar, hangs down at each extremity, a longer piece of wood, in such a manner as to form three sides of an oblong square. The annexed sketch conveys a sufficiently accurate idea of the whole. Two or three or more of these are placed near every fishing house, so that, when the inhabitants return from fishing, with their wet dresses, they suspend them, by fitting them on the upper part of these machines, which turn about with the wind, in such a way that a current of air always passes through them.



again forcibly reminded me of the summit of our more elevated Scotch mountains, where the vegetation is by no means dissimilar. Among the most common lichens were *Endocarpon tephroides*, *Lecidea geographica*, a new *Lecidea* with a yellow granulated crust and brighter yellow shields, *L. fusco-lutea*, *Cetraria islandica*, and *nivalis*, *Parmelia scrobiculata* and *bruunea*, *Stereocaulon globiferum*, and *Baeomyces endivifolius*, and *vermicularis*. I met with but few mosses, except such as are extremely common almost every where. There was one, however, that approached, in habit, *Encalypta lauceolata*, a sketch of which I happen now to have by me, and from this, on comparison, it appears to have most affinity with *Dicranum latifolium*, but is probably different from both. *Buxbaumia foliosa*, and *Polytrichum hercynicum*, together with an abundance of the male fructifications of the latter, were common on wetter grounds. *Lychnis alpina* was scarcely in flower; *Saxifraga tricuspidata*, *Fl. Scandin.* was in the same state. *Cardamine petræa*, *Draba incana*, and *contorta*, and a *Stellaria*, which appeared to agree with the description of *groenlandica*, were all plentiful. *Silene acaulis* and *Cerastium alpinum* were not yet in blossom. *Juncus trifidus* and *bighemis* were most abundant: the latter formed a considerable part of the herbage, intermixed with our

more common grasses, and *Festuca vivipara*. Late in the evening I returned to Reikevig, and slept for the last time on board the Margaret and Anne.

Thursday,  
June 22.

This day was exceedingly cold and wet, and in the early part of it there was so thick a fog, that we could not see the town from our vessel. As soon as we had breakfasted, my luggage was conveyed on shore, and placed in Mr. Savigniac's house, where it was proposed, that, while we continued together, we should all meet at our meals; and where, with the addition of our ship-provisions to the good Icelandic mutton, fish, and seurvy-grass (*Rumex acetosa* and *digynus*), we fared exceedingly well. I had this morning a favorable opportunity of looking at the town, which consists of about sixty or seventy houses, standing in two rows, of nearly equal length, at right angles with one another, so as to form the annexed figure, supposing the base of it to front the sea, and the upper part to run into the country.

Those houses next the bay I have before mentioned, as being all built of wood: they face the north, and look at a little distance not unlike a number of granaries. The merchants' houses are built exactly like the warehouses; that is to say, of wooden planks, covered with the same

materials; and are only to be distinguished by having a few glass windows, and one or two wooden chimnies. These are all framed in Norway, then taken to pieces for stowage in the ship, and conveyed here. The warehouses are also shops, where the merchants retail cloth, earthenware, tin and iron utensils, sugar, coffee, tobacco, snuff, rye-flour, shoes, rum, in short, every necessary of life; and take, in exchange, for exportation, wool, tallow, fish, fish oil, seal oil, foxskins, swan-skins, eider down, worsted stockings, mittens, and, sometimes, dried mutton. At the western corner of this row of shops are the stocks, or, what might rather be called, a pillory; for the culprit stands upon a bloek, and has his arms fixed in two holes, formed by iron clasps, on the sides of an upright pole, at about four feet from the bottom. From near this instrument of punishment, two rows of houses run parallel for some hundred yards, in a south direction, and form a tolerably wide street; but so enumbered with pieces of rock, that, if there were such a thing as a cart in the country, I fear it could not proceed half a dozen yards up this, the high street of the capital. At the commencement of the right-hand side, are two or three merchants' houses, and storerooms; and, near them, is the residence of the learned Bishop of Iceland, Videlinus. His house differs in no respect from that of the

merchants, except in being rather larger, and having more glass windows. Adjoining this, is the best house in the place (next to the governor's), which belongs to the *Landfogued*: it contains some comfortable rooms, and is well furnished. Still further up the street is a sort of tavern, where the Danes amuse themselves with cards, in a room which was built for the purpose of holding a considerable party, and was afterwards the scene of our Icelandic festivities. This building terminates the principal part of what forms the street: beyond it, are only a few cottages, made of turf; one was remarkable for its neatness, and for producing upon its roof and walls, besides a luxurious covering of grass, abundance of a *Draba*, which differed from the *contorta*, *Fl. Scandin.* in having hairy capsules. It was here that I had my lodging, during the first part of my stay in Reikevig. The person of whom I hired it was of some consideration in the neighbourhood; she being midwife to a very considerable district, with an income of twenty pounds a year from the Danish government, for which she had to furnish all her patients with proper medicine and attendance. As she had learnt her profession in Denmark, and had, moreover, been brought up, in the capacity of a servant, in the king's palace, at Copenhagen, she thought herself of more consequence than most ladies of her profession would

do in any other country; and, although so much advanced in years, as to be nearer sixty than fifty, she was a constant visitor at the Iceland balls, and, at a reel, would dance the very fidler out of patience. This was almost the last house in the south-western angle. If two lines were drawn from the points of these two rows of houses, which I have just described, so as to form a square, it would, near the south-eastern corner, contain the governor's house, and, adjoining it, that of Mr. Savigniac; the former small, but internally well painted and furnished; and, not far from these, near the north side of the imaginary square, stands the cathedral, a considerable building, with large glass windows, which, however, as well as the tiles, are in a wretched state of repair; so much so, that the ravens, which abound in the country, are very troublesome during the time of service, by getting on the roof, and disturbing the congregation with their noise and dirt. Another building requires to be mentioned, situated almost by itself, on a large green, which occupies this part of the town, that is, the court of justice, where all causes are tried under the presidency of the *Tatsroed*. It is nothing but a large wooden building, with two or three good-sized, but nearly unfurnished, rooms, which are, when not otherwise employed, in the occupation of the tailor of the place. Many of the houses in

the town, as well as (though more rarely) those in the country, have small gardens attached to them, fenced in with high turf walls, and generally kept neat and free from weeds; but this latter circumstance arises, perhaps, more from the paucity of indigenous plants of any sort, and the tardiness of their growth, than from any particular industry of the inhabitants in destroying them. Cabbages, especially the rutabaga, turnips, and potatoes, with sometimes a few carrots, are attempted to be cultivated, but never arrive at any great degree of perfection. Probably, the best garden, both in point of soil and situation, in the town, was that of Mr. Savigniac; certainly, none was half so much attended to. Here we had, in the month of August, good turnips about the size of an apple, and potatoes as large as the common Dutch. Radishes and turnip-radishes were very good in July and August. Mustard and cresses grew rapidly, and well. Mr. Phelps ordered some seeds of hemp and flax to be sown as soon as we landed; but, with all the care and attention that was given up to them, at the expiration of two months, the former had not reached to more than one foot high, and the latter to above six or eight inches: neither showed any appearance of flowering, and, at the end of two months, had ceased to grow, becoming materially injured by the frosts. I do not mean to be under-

stood, that this garden is by any means a fair criterion to judge of the progress of vegetation in Iceland; for a more sheltered spot and richer soil were hardly to be met with. In other gardens, and especially out of the town, vegetation was extremely languid, and, even in the month of August, when the cabbages ought to be in their best state, I was in many gardens where a half-crown piece would have covered the whole of the plant, and where potatoes and turnips came to nothing. It must be remarked, however, that this was an extremely cold and wet season: in finer summers, with care and well sheltered gardens, some of our more hardy vegetables may, doubtless, repay the natives for the labor of cultivating them \*. On the outskirts of the town are a few scattered Iceland-built houses;

\* It was not till after my return from Iceland, that I met with *Horrebow's Natural History of Iceland*, where I was somewhat surprised to find a chapter on the fruits of the earth; containing an account of the vegetables, which may be, and which are, produced there, differing extremely from what I have above stated. That author begins, by saying, "All kinds of things may be produced, fit for a kitchen-garden, and brought to proper maturity; (and, why not?) for this island is as proper for vegetation as Norway, having large plains and fields, and a great deal of good ground." I believe I need only mention, on the one hand, the total want of timber in Iceland, and, on the other, the immense forests which are met with in Norway, to convince



but, with the exception of these, almost all the houses of Reikevig, are of Norwegian construc-

any one that the former country is not so proper for vegetation as the latter. He proceeds, however, in page 37, to state, that, " In the year 1749, when I came to Bessested, " one of his majesty's palaces or seats, in Iceland, I found " the garden in excellent order, and full of all kinds of " vegetables, fit for a kitchen: such as parsley, celery, " thyme, marjoram, cabbages, parsnips, carrots, turnips, " peas, beans, in short, all sorts of greens wanted in a " family. I can vouch, with the greatest truth, that I never " saw a garden with better things of the kind in it. They " were all of good growth, and had all the properties that " good garden-stuff ought to have. They were all in such " plenty, that considerable parcels of them were dried and " laid by for the winter, such as sugar-peas, and the like. " I, myself, have taken up a turnip that weighed two pounds " and a half. Hereby, I do not intimate, that all were so big, " but, only, that they are of a very good size. They have " gooseberry-bushes, that produce fine and ripe berries." I should be sorry to contradict any assertion of Mr. Horrebow's, (who, in many respects, is entitled to considerable attention, and who appears to me to endeavor to separate truth from error, in several instances) to which he says, he was an eye witness; but this I must be allowed to say, that I never heard at all, in the island, of many of the vegetables which he mentions, as coming to such perfection; and, as to gooseberries, I have the authority of the *Tatsroed*, for stating, that they cannot be cultivated to the least advantage. Kerguelen, in confuting Mr. Horrebow's affirmation, that he ate currants from the garden at Bessested, inclines too much to the opposite extreme, when he says, " I believe it " to be as difficult to raise turnips in Iceland, as pine-apples " at Paris."

tion, and, indeed, principally inhabited by Danes; so that this cannot properly be called an Icelandic town; nor is there such a thing in the whole country; for, depending, as the natives must do, almost entirely upon the scanty produce of their own island, and requiring a considerable tract of country for the maintenance of a few half-starved sheep, such societies, as would form a town, or even a village, would be highly prejudicial and unnecessary. There are merchants, who reside in other parts of the coast; but by far the greatest number of Icelanders bring their produce to this place; some coming from the most northern and eastern parts. Iron is what they are most anxious to procure, for their horses shoes, their scythes, and implements for cutting turf and digging. Those who live in the interior of the country, and have no opportunity of going down to the coast in the fishing season, take back, in exchange for their tallow and skins, the dried heads of the cod-fish, and such of the fish themselves, as are injured by the rain, and not fit for exportation. These form the principal article of their food, and are eaten raw, with the addition of butter, which, after the whey has been expressed, is packed down in chests, and kept for several years. Their drink is either water, or sour milk, or whey, and sometimes, but rarely, new milk from their cows or cwes. *Skiur*, which is

thick eurd, may also be reckoned a common article of food: this they prefer after it has acquired a sour, and even a rancid taste; though, when fresh, or when it has attained only a slight degree of acidity, and is eaten with cream and sugar, it is really an enviable article of luxury. The country immediately about Reikevig, and, indeed, for twenty or thirty miles from it, is ugly, barren, and scarcely to be called hilly. An extensive fresh-water lake comes close up to the back part of the town, but is on every other side, except that nearest the town, surrounded by bog, with here and there a piece of rock interspersed. Not a tree or shrub is anywhere to be seen, and all attempts that have been made in the most sheltered parts of the town to cultivate firs and other hardy trees, have universally failed, as have those which have been made for the cultivation of corn. This lake empties itself into the sea by a small stream which runs by the side of the town, in a course of not more than a few hundred yards. On the eastern side of the lake, on a gentle elevation, where a tolerably rich herbage is produced, a prodigious number of great pieces of rock are scattered about, in the utmost disorder; some of them are of vast size, three or four times the height of a man, and about as wide as they are high; yet there is no mountain

in the neighbourhood from which they could have rolled; nor could I find any cavities near the place on which they stood, that would render it probable they were thrown up by an earthquake; neither do they appear, just in that spot, to have undergone the operation of fire, although some rocks, close by, have evidently been in a state of fusion. On the shore, in several places near the town, are many rudely-formed basaltic columns, standing close together, in a perpendicular direction, some from one to two and three feet in diameter; they are obscurely angular, and, on the top, are generally either concave or convex. They appeared to me exactly of the same nature as those of Staffa, and are found, also, on many of the islands near Reikevig. Being anxious to visit the boiling spring, about two miles and a half to the eastward of Reikevig, the steam from which was pointed out to me from a little eminence near the town, I set out about one o'clock for that purpose. But, after getting enveloped in a labyrinth of bogs during a heavy rain, I was obliged to return without being able to reach it, and with but a few plants, which I did not find the preceding day. This, however, was not to be wondered at, since the most part of the tract I went over was either barren rock, or a morass, where the grasses

showed no appearance of coming into flower. Near the shore, I saw several different sorts of the duck tribe, and, especially, a number of the eider fowl. Cormorants were abundant. Cast upon the beach, were scarcely any but the more common sea-weeds of Scotland, as *Fucus palmatus*, *esculentus*, *digitatus*, *ciliatus*, *dentatus*, *purpurascens*, *saccharinus*, and a variety of the latter with a twisted frond, *plumosus*, *flagelliformis*, *rubens*, and *Conferva fœniculacea* of Hudson. *Fucus ramentaceus*, which has hitherto been found nowhere but in Iceland, was the only rare species, and this was here in great plenty. Some of these were growing in the basins among the rocks. Of shells there were very few. I remarked a large *Balanus*, which seemed to me new. It is well figured in Povelsen and Olafsen's Voyage, plate 14, but I cannot, anywhere, find a description of it. *Mya truncata*, *Venus islandica*, and a beautiful, but to me unknown, species of *Lepas*, a *Bulla*, and a few *Turbinæ*, were the only other shells I met with. Land-birds are extremely rare. All that I saw in this walk were Ravens, the Snow Bunting (here called *Snoe-fugle*), which has rather a pleasant note, not much unlike the Linnet's, but more interrupted, Snipes, and the common Wagtail.

Friday,  
June 23.

Another day of rain kept me almost entirely confined to the town. In the morning, accompanied by Mr. Jorgensen, I made a visit to the Bishop Videlinus. He has a good library; indeed, very much better than I expected to have seen in Iceland: it appeared to contain five or six hundred volumes, among which are several Dutch editions of the Classics, a perfect, but uncolored, copy of the *Flora Danica*, and a fine folio edition of an Icelandic Bible, printed in the island, in 1584, which has a curious and well-executed frontispiece, cut in wood, by the hands of Bishop Guthrandr Thorlaksen, without any other instrument than a penknife: the same person, also, set the letter-press. Bishop Videlinus has, besides, a very beautiful Icelandic manuscript, written in the year 1525, in defence of the christian religion. 'Till within a few years, the residence of the bishops (for there were two) was at Skalholt, but it was found more convenient to have the see removed to the principal place of resort and traffic, so that the clergy have now the opportunity of transacting business with the bishop and the merchant at the same time. When they come, they take up their abode with the bishop, who, on this account, can hardly live upon his salary of fifteen hundred dollars a year, which is all that is allowed him by the

Danish government. He is a stout and handsome man, and wears black clothes, with half-boots. His hair is remarkable for being almost white, though not from age, as he is not more than forty-five. Both he and his lady are native Icelanders; the latter dresses in the true Icelandic fashion, and, indeed, her full dress is extremely rich and handsome. The bishop's library is almost continually filled with visitors, being the principal place of resort for those who are desirous of studying, and who here alone have the advantage of a good collection of books: among other men of learning, I used frequently to meet here Magnus Finnusen, an excellent scholar as well as a good poet. I was indebted to him for a present of many Icelandic books, one of which had for its title, the *Georgics of Iceland* \*! It is considered a scarce book, and a fine poem; though, as the *Tatsroed* told me,

\* My ignorance of the Icelandic language rendered me, unfortunately, unable to read this book, which must have been a matter of considerable curiosity, unless, indeed, it was altogether fictitious; as the Icelanders have no husbandry whatever to employ them, or to be sung about, except the care of their cattle. The author of this work, which, by the bye, is but a small one, could not begin with the words of Virgil,

“ Quid faciat lætas segetes, quo sidere terram

“ Vertere, Mæccnas, ulmisque adjungere vites

many of the rural occupations described in it are by no means applicable to Iceland. If I mistake not, it was written by one Povelsen, an ancestor of Magnus Finnusen, who had himself translated it into Danish verse. As a proof of the talents of this young man, it may not be amiss in this place to mention, that though, at the time of our arrival, he did not know a word of English, yet he made so rapid a proficiency in it, that, during the stay of the Talbot sloop of war, only two months after, he submitted a copy of English verses to one of the officers of that vessel for his correction. An exceedingly long complimentary ode, also, in Icelandic poetry, was presented by him to Captain Jones of the Talbot, with a latin translation by the side.

Saturday,  
June 24.

To-day the captain of our vessel and Mr. Savigniac accompanied me to the little island of Akaroe, situated in the bay, at a short distance from the town of Reikevig,

“*Conveniat, quæ cura boum, qui cultus habendo*

“*Sit pecori? apibus quanta experientia parcis:*

“*Hinc canere incipiam.*”

The oxen and the flocks are all he could have found in Iceland: the corn and the vines assuredly do not exist there; and even the acuteness of my friend, Mr. Kirby, would have been puzzled to have found one of his two hundred and twenty-two species of bees in the island.



for the purpose of seeing the eider ducks, which breed on this, as well as on all the other uninhabited islands, in great quantities. It was a windy day, and we had a rough passage in a little Icelandic boat, over which the waves were continually beating. These boats, which are rowed by two men, are very high, both at the head and stern, and, by being made sharp fore and aft, are capable of being rowed equally well both ways: the larger ones, however, have a rudder. The sides of the boats, instead of bellying out, like ours, are nearly flat, and applied to each other at acute angles, that a transverse section would appear almost like the letter V; at the same time they are so deep, that, when unsupported by a sufficient quantity of water to keep them afloat, they necessarily fall down on their sides, which renders getting in and out very awkward. They are, nevertheless, safe boats, and accidents are seldom heard of from their oversetting. On our landing on the rocky island, we found the eider-fowls sitting upon their nests, which were rudely formed of their own down, generally among the old and half decayed seaweed, that the storms had cast high up on the beach, but sometimes only among the bare rocks. It was difficult to make these birds leave their nests, and so little inclined were many of them to do it, that they even permitted us to handle

them whilst they were sitting, without their appearing to be at all alarmed. Under each of them were two or four eggs: the latter is the number they lay, but from many of them two had been taken for food by the natives, who prefer those which have young ones in them. The eggs are of a pale olive-green color, and rather larger than those of a common duck. In one part of the island, where there was a considerable quantity of rich loose mould, the Puffins \* breed in vast numbers, forming holes three or four feet below the surface, resembling rabbits' burrows, at the bottom of which they lay a single white egg, about the size of that of a Lapwing, upon the bare earth. Our people dug out about twenty of these birds, which they afterwards assured me made an excellent sea-pie. The Icelandic fishermen catch the Puffins, and use their flesh for bait: this, they say, the cod prefer to any thing else. On all the rocks about

\* *Alca arctica* Linn. called in Iceland *Soe-papagoie* and *Præst*, in Cornwall and in the south of Scotland, according to Mr. Neill, *Pope*. In Kamtschatka and the Kurilski islands, the inhabitants wear the bills of these birds about their necks, fastened to straps; and, according to the superstition of those people, their *Shaman* or priest must put them on with a proper ceremony, in order to procure good fortune. See *Latham's General Synopsis of Birds*, vol. v. p. 317.

this island, which were covered at high water by the sea, *Fucus palmatus* of *Linnæus*, called by the natives *Sol*\*, was growing in considerable quantity. As an esculent *Fucus*, this species seems to be preferred to all others, at least in northern countries. On the Scotch coasts, it is eaten raw by the natives, and, in the county of Caithness in particular, I have seen a number of women and children gathering it from the rocks, and making a meal of it, devouring it with avidity. In Iceland, also, it is very commonly eaten, but seldom in a fresh state. It is generally well washed in clean water, and exposed upon the rocks, or on the ground, to dry, when it gives out a whitish powdery substance, which covers the whole plant, and is sweet and agreeable to the palate. It is then packed down in casks, to keep it from the air, and is preserved in this state, ready to be eaten, either raw with fish and butter, or boiled down in milk to a thick consistency, as is more common with people of property, who mix with it, if it can be afforded, a little flour of rye. This species

\* According to Povelsen and Olafsen, *Sol* is a considerable article of trade with the inhabitants of the town of Oreback, who receive in exchange for it butter, meat, cattle, and wool. A *Voet* (about eighty pounds weight) of this *Fucus*, when dried, sells there for seventy fish, at two skillings a fish, or five shillings and tenpence English.

is the true *Alga saccharifera* of Biarne Povelsen, who has written a dissertation upon it. It has been, however, the opinion of many Fucologists, that the *Sol* of the Icelanders is the *F. saccharinus* of Linnæus; misled probably by the name of the latter, which, however, does not give out a *saccharine* powder, but merely saline particles, by no means agreeable to the taste. Of this, Gmelin, in his *Historia Fucorum*, page 198, says, “certumque quoque est, saccharum, quod profert, non nisi salem marinum esse, in substantia Fuci efflorescentem, qui propterea levitè gustatus dulcedinis sensum linguæ imprimit, quique purgantem effectum edit, si Fuci ingesta copia nimia fuerit, sale tum fibras intestinales vellicante.” The learned *Tatsroed* of Iceland has written a full account of the three esculent *Fuci* of his country, *F. palmatus*, *F. digitatus*, and *F. esculentus*, which was printed at Copenhagen last spring. Of this work he very kindly presented me with a copy for myself, and also one for Mr. Turner, with whose *Historia Fucorum* (as far at least as was then published) he was not unacquainted. The number of quotations from various authors in the *Tatsroed's* little work was a sufficient proof of his having paid great attention to the subject on which he wrote, and of his possessing botanicaal books, which a stranger would little expect to meet

with in Iceland. I much regret the loss of these two pamphlets, as they contained, not only a complete account of the mode of preparing the Fuci for food, but also a very accurate representation of the three species, from drawings (if I mistake not) made by the *Tatsroed* himself.

Sunday,  
June 25.

This morning, I visited the more elevated parts of the country about Reikevig, and found them composed wholly of broken, and generally small, pieces of rock, for the most part perfectly barren; in other places, here and there, were some patches of vegetation, among which I met with a few interesting plants. *Vaccinium uliginosum* was abundant, and its charming blossoms delighted me much, as I had never seen it in a good state before. *Dryas octopetala*, of which the inhabitants gather the leaves and make a sort of tea of them, was every where extremely common, but hardly in flower, and the same was the case with *Lychnis alpina*. A remarkably woolly-leaved *Salix*, which I took for *lanata*, and two or three other species of stunted growth, were the only plants that elevated themselves to the height of even five or six inches from the ground. *Saxifraga (triscuspidata? Fl. Scandin.)* grew plentifully among the rocks; *Splachnum vasculosum* and *mnioides* sparingly; but I was most pleased with a fine new species

of *Cornicularia*, allied to *C. bicolor*, but three or four times as large, and all over of a grey color. I met with only one patch of it, growing intermixed with *Trichostomum canescens*, in rocky places. From these hills, though at a considerable distance, I could perceive the steam from the hot spring, and, taking a different route from what I had done when I made a former attempt, I at length, with some difficulty, arrived at it. When full a mile from the spot, the superior verdure of the grass, that was within the influence of the heat, was very remarkable. What struck me as most extraordinary in this spring, though I afterwards found it not to be uncommon in Iceland, was the circumstance of its being actually situated in the middle of a cold stream, bubbling up from some little cavities, which were formed in a whitish siliceous incrustation, that covered a considerable portion of the bed of the river, and extended on one side of it, even as far as the shore, where its surface was covered with numerous minute mammillæ. This incrustation is a deposit from the water, and the mammillæ are probably caused by the irregular falling of the water upon it in drops. On dipping in the water my little pocket thermometer which was graduated to no more than 120° of Fahrenheit's scale, but was the only one I had with me at the time, the quicksilver instantly rose to the top

of the tube. I found lying dead in the hot water a number of eels \*, not more than four or five inches long: these had, doubtless, been conveyed down by the rapidity of the current to the heated part of the water, which, as it affects the whole width of the stream, must be an effectual barrier to the migration of fish, and other aquatic animals: I remarked, however, no others in this water, except one or two specimens of a *Dyticus*, which I was not able to catch, but which appeared to be the same as our *D. acuductus*. Almost in the hottest part of the water, I gathered *Conferva spiralis* Dillw.; but it had lost all its color, and had probably only floated into that situation, not being really a native of it; a species, also, which appeared to me to be new, grew attached to the banks, at a very short distance from the bubbling water: it was most nearly allied to Dillwyn's *Conf. dissiliens*. *Conf. vaginata* Dillw. flourished in great perfection on a bank of earth, which rose immediately from the heated water, where it was constantly exposed to the steam. In the same situation, and equally vigorous, were *Gymnostomum fasciculare*, *Fissidens hypnoides*, and

\* Povelsen and Olafsen have mentioned the circumstance of small eels being found dead near the heated waters of Iceland, and remark that, although large eels are known to exist in the river, they have never been met with lying dead, as the smaller ones.

*Jungermannia angulosa*, all, except the last, bearing ripe capsules. On my return, I saw plenty of Snipes in the boggy places, and, among the rocks, an arctic fox \* (*Canis Lagopus L.*) which was changing its white winter dress for a summer one, being partly white and partly grey. These animals are extremely numerous in this country, living upon the Ptarmigans and their eggs, as well as upon young lambs; their fur is thick, but too short for muffs and tippets of the present day, although some of the grey-colored ones are exceedingly fine and beautiful. They sold in Reikevig for about one shilling and sixpence a skin. This fox is probably not to be considered as originally a native of Iceland; for the Icelanders have a tradition †, that one of the ancient kings of Norway, to

\* The dusky appearance of this animal, which I had always supposed was only the summer coat, (or that of a young fox which had not reached its second winter,) I find is noticed by Mr. Pennant, in his *Arctic Zoology*, and considered as making a distinct species, though for what reason I do not see; since he himself observes that the color of the young fox is dusky. Kerguelen says there are black, blue, red, and white foxes in Iceland. It may not be improper to observe, in this place, that I never saw the common fox in Iceland, nor heard, from any of the natives, of its being found there.

† This tradition, in all probability, rests upon no better authority than one which is prevalent in Ireland, that the



punish the inhabitants for their disaffection to the mother country, sent over some foxes to the island, where they have rapidly increased, to the great injury of the flocks.. The few rats and mice \*, that are said to exist here, are brought by the ships from other countries. Thus it

breed of magpies, which now infest that island to such a degree, as to be highly injurious, was originally imported by the English to plague them. It is more likely, if the Icelandic foxes be not really natives of the country, that they found their way thither from the neighbouring coast of Greenland on the floating masses of ice.

\* Speaking of the native animals of Iceland, Pennant, in his *Arctic Zoology, Introduction*, page lxx. suspects, “ that  
 “ there is a species allied, as Doctor Pallas imagines, to the  
 “ *Æconomic Mouse*; for, like that, it lays in a great maga-  
 “ zine of berries, by way of winter stores. This species is  
 “ particularly plentiful in the wood of Husafels. In a coun-  
 “ try where berries are but thinly dispersed, these little ani-  
 “ mals are obliged to cross rivers to make their distant  
 “ forages. In their return with the booty to their maga-  
 “ zines, they are obliged to repass the stream; of which  
 “ Mr. Olafsen gives the following account: ‘ The party,  
 “ which consists of from six to ten, select a flat piece of  
 “ dried cow-dung, on which they place the berries on a  
 “ heap in the middle; then, by their united force, bring  
 “ it to the water’s edge, and, after launching it, embark,  
 “ and place themselves round the heap, with their heads  
 “ joined over it, and their backs to the water, their  
 “ tails pendent in the stream, serving the purpose of  
 “ rudders.’ When I consider the wonderful sagacity of

appears, that the truly indigenous animals of the class, *Mammalia*, are reduced to the small number of amphibious ones, which are found on their shores. The white bear is now and then conveyed to their northern coasts, by the floating ice islands, from the opposite shore of Greenland, but none had been over since the preceding year, and those were soon dispatched by the people living in the neighbourhood. Their skins are always the property of the king of Denmark. \*Just before I entered the town of Reikevig, on my return in the afternoon, I was surprised to find a guard of twelve of our ship's crew, armed with muskets and cutlasses, standing before the go-

"beavers," continues Mr. Pennant, "and think of the management of the squirrels, which, in cases of similar necessity, make a piece of bark their boat, and tail the sail, I no longer hesitate to credit the relation." I am sorry such a ridiculous story should have been believed by a British zoologist. Iceland certainly produces no species of *Mus* which our country does not possess, and the mice that are found there are not likely to be furnished with any instinct or faculties superior to those of our own mice. The circumstance related above is laughed at by the more sensible Icelanders, and the species that performs these extraordinary feats, which, according to Povelsen, is the *Mus sylvaticus* of Linnæus, is not, to my knowledge, found in that country.

\* For an account of this revolution, see Appendix, A. and B.

vernor's house, and, presently after, the governor himself, Count Tramp, came out of his house, as a prisoner to Captain Liston, who, armed with a drawn cutlass, marched before him, and was followed by the twelve sailors, who conducted the Count on board the Margaret and Anne. I also observed the British colors flying over the Danish, on board the Count's ship, the Orion, which, I afterwards learned, had been previously made a prize to our English letter of marque. I had all along observed a great dislike on the part of our countrymen to the governor: this, as well as the apparent acts of violence, that had just been committed, was caused by information which Mr. Phelps had received, from what might have been supposed good authority, that Count Tramp had been using his influence to prohibit the trade with the English, contrary to the articles of an agreement, entered into by him and the captain of an English sloop of war, that had been in Reikevig harbor just before our arrival. During this transaction, the inhabitants of the town, most of whom were witnesses to it, offered no resistance, but looked on with the most perfect indifference. Many of them were idling about the town (it being Sunday), armed with their long poles, spiked at one end with iron, which they use for the purpose of assisting them in walking over the frozen snow. Half

a score of the lustiest of these fellows might have overpowered our sailors, who were almost as wholly unacquainted with the use of fire-arms as the Icelanders, and were, moreover, a most wretched set, picked up from the vilest parts of Gravesend. In the evening, the bishop waited on Mr. Phelps, and entreated that the Count might be allowed to have his liberty, or, at least, to remain on shore as a prisoner. This being refused, he begged that he himself might be permitted to go on board, and speak to him; but, being disappointed in this request, also, he came to me, and, after expressing the pleasure he felt on the information he had received, that my object in visiting Iceland was of a peaceable nature, as a naturalist, adding every now and then, "*tibi semper pax est,*" he hoped that I would use my influence with Mr. Phelps, to permit the governor, to come on shore for a few hours; at the same time offering, as a surety for his returning to the ship, that his own son, who was then standing in tears by his side, should be sent on board, during the Count's absence. It was thought proper, however, not to grant this wish. We witnessed a more affecting scene, soon after, when the Count's secretary, a most amiable young man, about seventeen years of age, a native of Norway, came and pleaded strongly for the release of his master;

or, if that could not be complied with, that he himself might be permitted to go on board, and remain with him in his confinement. When the latter was acceded to, he dried his tears, and, after expressing his gratitude for the permission, hastened to convey his bedding, &c., and those of the Count, on board the ship.

Monday,  
June 26.

After the preceding day's transactions, it was thought that some disturbance might be raised by the Danes residing in the town, or by the natives; but all was quiet, and, to prevent any effectual opposition on their parts, the arms of the inhabitants were secured, which did not amount in all to above twenty wretched muskets, most of them were quite in an useless state, and a few rusty cutlasses. An incessant and heavy rain, till about six or seven in the evening, prevented my botanising, but, as we had no darkness even at the hour of midnight, I could just as well pursue my employment then as in the middle of the day. The unpleasant light, caused by the horizontal rays of the sun striking on the ground, so beautifully described \* by Linnæus, when botanising in Lapland, is not

\* "Fugit me quid sit, quod visum in alpibus nostris,  
" tempore nocturno, ita confundit, ut non tantâ claritate  
" possimus objecta distinguere ac mediâ die, licet sol æque  
" clarus existat; sol enim horizonti proximus radios ho-

experienced here; for the sun, in this part of Iceland, is never altogether above the horizon at midnight, nor, if it had been so, would it have had that effect this summer, there being no one period, that I recollect, during the continuance of the longest days, when the horizon in the north was perfectly free from clouds. At such times as the sky is not altogether overcast, the light at midnight, at this season, is about as great as that of a moderately dull noon in winter in England. In a walk of a few miles to the south of the town this evening, I met with *Rubus saxatilis* (sparingly in flower), *Polypodium arvenicum*, plentiful, *Trichostomum ellipticum*, and *Hypnum filamentosum*, growing among the rocks. In bogs I found two new species of *Carex*, and *Meesia dealbata*, with fully formed capsules. This evening Mr. Jorgensen took possession of the governor's house, and removed his residence thither; but I do not recollect, exactly, whether it was from this period, or, as I rather think, shortly after, that he was considered as governor of Iceland.

“ rizontales dispergens vix pileo ab oculis abigi potest;  
 “ umbræ dein herbarum extenduntur in infinitum et impli-  
 “ cantur inter se, tremunt deinde spirante aquilone, ut vix  
 “ videre et distinguere queamus objecta diversissima.”—  
*Linnaei Fl. Lapp. edit. 2da. p. 137.*

Tuesday,  
June 27. This being the day appointed for paying our respects to the old *Stiftsamptman* \* Stephensen, Mr. Phelps, Mr. Jorgensen, and myself embarked at twelve o'clock in an Icelandic sailing boat, with eight rowers, and had a passage of about four miles to his house, which stands on the pleasant little island of Vidöe. As we approached the island, we got a view of the house, in a well-sheltered situation, between two hills, and, at a little distance, it had the appearance of a very respectable residence, being larger than any house I had yet seen. It is built of stone cemented together, has a number of glass windows, and is covered with a boarded roof. However, when we landed and came nearer, we perceived the great want there was both of carpenters, bricklayers, and glaziers. In such of the windows as still preserved their glass, it was of the most ordinary quality, but in many instances the panes were broken, though this was concealed from view on the outside by a wooden shutter. The door-way was in the centre, but

\* *Stiftsamptman* is the Icelandic title for the governor, and, consequently, belongs to Count Tramp. But, as this gentleman (Stephensen), on account of his services to the country, was allowed to retire from his government, and still retain the title of *Stiftsamptman*, I shall, by way of distinction, apply it in this work to him, and, in mentioning Count Tramp, shall use the term of governor.

hid by a miserable sort of wooden porch, on each side of which was a door for entrance, which, if kept in better repair, might answer very well for a screen to the cold winds, but, in its present shattered state, is neither fit for use nor ornament. I could compare it to nothing so much as a pig-stye placed against the wall, and made rather higher than usual. However, with all this want of artificers, which appeared on the exterior of the house, there was a possessor within, whose reception of us and whose excellent fare would do credit to the ex-governor of any country, and deserve to be mentioned rather particularly. Indeed, I am the more tempted to enlarge upon this subject, as it is the first opportunity I have had of seeing the manners of a well-bred Icelandcr, and it is scarcely possible to have a more favorable one. When we were within a few hundred yards of the house, the *Stiftsamptman* came to welcome us to the country, and to his little island. He had a fine and healthy countenance, and, although in his seventy-eighth year, had the perfect use of his faculties. In conversation he was extremely fluent and animated. He wore, on this occasion, his full dress uniform as *Stiftsamptman* of Iceland, except the sword. His coat was of scarlet cloth, turned up with green, and ornamented with gold lace; his pantaloons of blue cloth,



with gold trimmings: and he had half-boots with gold bindings and tassels, and a three-cornered hat with gold tassels, trimmings of the same, and a long white feather. We were immediately ushered through the portico, where we were obliged to stoop at the door-way, into a spacious hall, with a large wooden staircase; and hence through a large and lofty parlor into his bedroom, where I presented to him a letter of introduction, and a present of prints and books from Sir Joseph Banks, whose very name made him almost shed tears. During the time that Mr. Jorgensen was translating the letter to him, he frequently interrupted his reading, to relate some of the many noble and generous acts which Baron Banks (as he called him) had done for his countrymen. He asked a hundred questions about him in the most affectionate manner, particularly respecting his age and health. Then he related anecdotes of what passed during Sir Joseph's stay in the island thirty-seven years ago, in a manner which at once convinced us of the excellence of his memory, and of his gratitude to, and high esteem for, the great benefactor of Iceland. He told us of his liberal presents, of the splendor with which he travelled, and of the Icelanders, who, during the war with Denmark, were made prisoners by the English, but released, and supplied with money

till their return to their country, by Sir Joseph Banks' generosity. London, he observed, might produce as good a man, but it could not produce a better. When we asked him to return to England with us, he said, he would, if he were but ten years younger, were it only to see Baron Banks. He was delighted with the presents from Sir Joseph, and especially with some fine engravings of the Geysers, taken from drawings made by Sir John Stanley, in 1789. This gentleman the *Stiftsamptman* frequently mentioned, and I was vexed that my not having the honor of being acquainted with him prevented my answering many questions, that were put to me respecting him. During our conversation, some rum and Norway biscuit were offered us, and we then took a little walk about the island, which is scarcely more than two miles in circumference, and is one of the most fertile spots belonging to Iceland, producing some of the best sheep, besides excellent cows, horses, peat, and good water. We were shown with great pleasure the immense number of eider ducks which breed on Vidöe, and which were now sitting on eggs or young ones, exhibiting a most interesting scene. The *Stiftsamptman* made us go and coax some of the old birds, who did not on that account disturb themselves. Almost every little hollow place, between the rocks, is

occupied with the nests of these birds, which are so numerous, that we were obliged to walk with the greatest caution, to avoid trampling upon them; but, besides this, the *Stiftsamptman* has a number of holes cut in the smooth and sloping side of a hill, in two rows, and, in every one of these, also, there is a nest. No Norfolk housewife is half so solieitous after her poultry, as the *Stiftsamptman* after his eider ducks, which, by their down and eggs, afford him a considerable revenue; since the former sells for three rix dollars (twelve shillings) a pound. Cats and dogs are, at this season of the year, all banished from the island, so that nothing may disturb these birds. One year a fox got over upon the ice, and caused great alarm; he was, however, though with difficulty, taken, by bringing another fox to the island, and fastening it by a string near the haunt of the former, by which means he was allured within shot of the hunter. Such an island as Vidöe is well bestowed on the present owner, by the Danish government, for the services done to his country, during the fifty years that he was in office. It is considered worth one hundred dollars (twenty pounds) a-year, in addition to which, the full pension of fifteen hundred dollars is continued to him, as if he were still actual governor; nor is it as a magistrate alone that this gentleman is

deserving of the greatest praise, but also as a man of science. His researches into the history of his own country, and his valuable communications on various subjects relating to it, which have been sent to Copenhagen, have gained him many honorary marks of distinction from different learned societies, and those, not merely of Denmark and Norway, but also of other nations. It has seldom, if ever, fallen to my lot to see, even in those places which are most distinguished for the cultivation of science, so large a collection of diplomas and honorary medals, as in this remote corner of one of the most remote countries of Europe. I met with no plants upon the island, that I had not seen in the neighbourhood of Reikevig, except *Erigeron alpinum*, which, however, was not in flower. We had scarcely reached the extremity of our walk, when a servant came to announce that dinner was on the table: consequently we were obliged to return, though rather against our inclinations; for the earliness of the hour, which was not more than half-past one, and our having already taken some refreshment, had kept us from being very hungry. We found the table set out in the large room which I have already mentioned. It had a pretty good boarded floor, and walls that once were white-washed. The furniture consisted of five wainscot chairs, a table, and two large

chests of drawers, on which were displayed such articles of use as approached the nearest to China: some of them, I believe, really were so. Two closet doors were also opened, and exhibited a considerable quantity of excellent silver plate. Two large and old-fashioned mirrors occupied the space between the windows, and beneath them were marble slabs, placed upon gilded feet; but they were broken, and lay completely out of a horizontal direction. About sixty prints and drawings, some of them in frames, and a few glazed, concealed in some measure the nakedness of the walls: they were, it must be confessed, for the most part, of a very ordinary stamp; but, as many of them were portraits of the *Stiftsamptman's* friends, or prints of the sovereigns, and other great men of Denmark, they had their value, and their names and titles were detailed to us with much satisfaction. It might truly be said to be the best collection of prints and pictures in the country. When we sat down to table, a little interruption was caused by the breaking down of the chair upon which his Excellency had seated himself; but this was soon settled, as there fortunately was still a vacant one in the room to replace it. The arranging of a dinner-table is attended in Iceland with little trouble, and would afford no scope for the display of the

elegant abilities of an experienced English house-keeper. On the cloth was nothing but a plate, a knife and fork, a wine glass, and a bottle of elaret, for each guest, except that in the middle stood a large and handsome glass-eastor of sugar, with a magnificent silver top. The natives are not in the habit of drinking malt liquor or water, nor is it customary to eat salt with their meals. The dishes are brought in singly: our first was a large turenne of soup, which is a favorite addition to the dinners of the richer people, and is made of sago, elaret, and raisins, boiled so as to become almost a mucilage. We were helped to two soup-plates full of this, which we ate without knowing if any thing more was to come. No sooner, however, was the soup removed, than two large salmon, boiled and cut in slices, were brought on, and, with them, melted butter, looking like oil, mixed with vinegar and pepper: this, likewise, was very good, and, when we had with some difficulty cleared our plates, we hoped we had finished our dinners. Not so, for there was then introduced a turenne full of the eggs of the Cree, or great tern, boiled hard, of which a dozen were put upon each of our plates; and, for sauce, we had a large basin of cream, mixed with sugar, in which were four spoons, so that we all ate out of the same bowl, placed in the middle of the table. We petitioned hard to be excused

from eating the whole of the eggs upon our plates, but we petitioned in vain. "You are my guests," said he, "and this is the first time you have done me the honor of a visit, therefore you must do as *I* would have you; in future, when you come to see me, you may do as *you* like." In his own excuse, he\* pleaded his age for not following our example, to which we could make no reply. We devoured with difficulty our eggs and cream; but had no sooner dismissed our plates, than half a sheep, well roasted, came on, with a mess of sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*), called by the Danes seurvy-grass, boiled, meshed, and sweetened with sugar. It was to no purpose we assured our host that we had already eaten more than would do us good: he filled our plates with the mutton and sauce, and made us get through it as well as we could; although any one of the dishes, of which we had before partaken, was sufficient for the dinner of a moderate man. However, even this was not all; for a large dish of *Waffels*, as they are here called, that is to say, a sort of pancake, made of

\* In Kamtschatka, according to Kracheninnikow, when a feast is given to a person for the purpose of gaining his friendship, the master of the house eats nothing during the repast; "Il a la liberté de sortir de la Jourte quand il le veut; mais le Convié ne le peut qu'après qu'il s'est avoué vaincu."

wheat-flour, flat, and roasted in a mould, which forms a number of squares on the top, succeeded the mutton. They were not more than half an inch thick, and about the size of an octavo book. The *Stiftsamptman* said he would be satisfied if each of us would eat two of them, and, with these moderate terms we were forced to comply. For bread, Norway biscuit and loaves made of rye, were served up; for our drink, we had nothing but claret, of which we were all compelled to empty the bottle that stood by us, and this, too, out of tumblers, rather than wine glasses. It is not the custom in this country to sit after dinner over the wine, but we had, instead of it, to drink just as much coffee as the *Stiftsamptman* thought proper to give us. The coffee was certainly extremely good, and, we trusted it would terminate the feast. But all was not yet over; for a huge bowl of rum punch was brought in, and handed round in large glasses pretty freely, and to every glass a toast was given. If at any time we flagged in drinking, "Baron Banks" was always the signal for emptying our glasses, in order that we might have them filled with bumpers, to drink to his health; a task that no Englishman ought to hesitate about complying with most gladly, though assuredly, if any exception might be made to such a rule, it would be in an instance like the present. We were threatened



with still another bowl, after we should have drained this; and accordingly another actually came, which we were with difficulty allowed to refuse to empty entirely; nor could this be done, but by ordering our people to get the boat ready for our departure, when, having concluded this extraordinary feast \* by three cups of tea each, we took our leave, and reached Reikevig about ten o'clock; but did not for some time recover the effects of this most involuntary intemperance †. At table we were waited upon by two females ‡, so exceedingly handsomely dressed, that I concluded they were not common servants,

\* On afterwards relating the anecdote of the *Stiftsamptman's* dinner to Count Tramp, he assured me that he had partaken of a similar one himself, when he first went over to the island, at which time soup was served upon the table made from the boiling down of a whole bullock.

† Indeed, we were somewhat in the same predicament as the guest of the Kamtschatdale, of whom Kracheninikow further relates, " Il vomit pendant son repas jusqu' à dix fois; aussi après un festin de cette nature, loin de pouvoir manger pendant deux ou trois jours, il ne sauroit même regarder aucun aliment, sans que le coeur ne lui souleve."

‡ As I had this day, for the first time, an opportunity of observing carefully the dress of an Icelandic lady, which is different from that of other countries, I shall avail myself of the present occasion of describing it at some length; a

and I afterwards understood that my conjectures were right, and that it was always the custom for the ladies of the house to wait at table when any strangers are present. Accordingly the two

thing I am the better able to do, since I had the good fortune to bring one of the richest in the island safe to England with me. I have preserved, also, an Icelandic account of the different articles it is composed of; from an English translation of which, that the governor has been so good as to procure me, I have borrowed a great part of what follows. To begin then with the *Faldur*, or head-dress: this is the most singular and unbecoming part, and I feel such a difficulty in making my description of it intelligible, that I

think it right to annex an engraving of it. The inside is composed of a number of pieces of paper, folded into an oblong shape, and neatly covered with two white linen handkerchiefs, in such a way that, below the bottom of the paper, they are formed into a sort of cap, that fits the head, and goes on nearly as far as the ears, which are, however, always exposed, whilst the hair is carefully twisted into a knot on the crown of the head, and entirely concealed. From the top of the head to the extremity, the *Faldur* measures eighteen



inches, and, from a cylindrical shape below, becomes gradually compressed, till the upper part is quite flat, and bends over in the front in a manner that somewhat resembles an ostrich feather, though sadly inferior to it in elegance. Its width at the top is five inches and a half; lower down, near the head, four inches and a half. The part

who performed this employment (which is here not considered a menial one) were, the eldest, the widow of a clergyman, and, the youngest, her daughter, both of whom live in the family,

which covers the head is bound round, to keep it on more securely, with two handsome chequered silk handkerchiefs like a turban, but more tight. The upper part is stiffened with numerous rows of pins. Three gilt silver ornaments are fastened to the front of the *Faldur*, about eight or ten inches above the top of the head, of a spherical shape, hollow, ornamented with open work, and richly embossed; from these hang knobs of the same metal, and rings with leaf-like appendages; in the centre of the ring is an embossed figure of the Blessed Virgin, with our Saviour in her arms. The next article I shall mention is the *Upphlutur*, or bodice; which is made of fine green velvet, bound with a narrow strip of gold lace, with two broad bands of the same materials, and of elegant workmanship, in front, and three on the back; this is fastened before, all the way down the middle, by means of six large clasps of silver gilt, on each side the opening, as large as a half crown, and finely embossed with flowers: and these clasps are rendered more conspicuous by being fixed upon a border of black velvet, with a red edge. From the bodice depends a green petticoat of fine cloth, which goes over several others of wadmal. Over this is worn another petticoat (*Fat*) of fine blue broad-cloth, which, of course, conceals the green one: it is bound with red at the bottom, just above which is a broad border of flowers of various colors, worked in tambour. Over the petticoat in front, is worn an apron (*Svynta*) made of the same materials, ornamented with flowers like the petticoat, and bordered all round with red. From the upper part of it hang three large silver gilt ornaments; the centre one

and are maintained by the liberality of our host, who is himself a widower. They were both handsome in their persons, and had beautiful complexions. During the dinner, a large sheep,

spherical, the lateral ones hemispherical; all hollow, richly ornamented and embossed, and having a silver leaf depending from each, which, together with many of the other ornaments, when the wearer is in motion, contribute no little to making a jingling noise, like horses with bells attached to them. Just beneath these ornaments the petticoat is fastened by means of the *Lyndi*, or girdle, which is nearly five feet in length, and composed of a number of oblong pieces of silver, about an inch and a half long, and one inch wide, sewed with the extremities close together, upon a piece of green velvet, so that it forms a number of joints, and is easily bent round the body, and fastened with a buckle; one end is suffered to hang down in front of the apron, and nearly reaches the bottom of it. All these joints are gilt, and beautifully ornamented with open work, and raised knobs of silver. The jacket (*Treja*), which goes over and conceals a part of the bodice, is made of black velvet, the seams and borders of the sleeves ornamented with fine gold lace, with another stripe of the same down the breast, and gold embroidery near the opening in front, which, at the bottom, is never fastened, but left wide, to exhibit the ornaments of the bodice. The *Kraga* is a stiff and flat collar, an inch and half wide, completely encircling the neck, and fastened to the upper part of the jacket; this is also embroidered with gold, and sets off the pretty face of an Icelandic girl to great advantage; from the opening in the sleeve hang spherical ornaments, called *Ermaknappa*, of silver gilt, instead of buttons. The *Halstrefell* is merely a piece of white linen put round the neck, over which is

the finest of the flock, was brought into the room for us to see, and was then sent on board our boat as a present. It had horns, was entirely white, and covered with an extremely coarse and

bound the *Hals Sikener*, or neck-handkerchief of purple silk. Around this the *Hals Festi*, neck-chain, three feet and a half long, of silver gilt, and of very curious workmanship, is wound three times, by which means it covers about two inches in depth of the blue silk, and has a very good effect upon it; on one end of it is fastened a large bracelet (*Nisti*) curiously ornamented, and hung round with the initials of the owner: this, also, is of silver gilt. The stockings (*Socka*) of an Icelandic lady are generally of dark blue worsted; the shoes (*Shor*) are made of the skin of seals or sheep: an oblong piece is slit down two or three inches before and behind, and sewed up somewhat in the form of the foot, which it soon takes the shape of by stretching, and is drawn tight by a leather thong running along the edge, and tied over the foot. These are so easily made, that I paid only six shillings for a dozen pair. This dress is applicable only to unmarried ladies of rank. To the wedding-dress two rich ornaments are added: one is the *Koffur*, or fillet, worn round the head-dress; it is made in the same manner, and of the same materials, as the girdle, but more elegantly wrought, and the joints are fastened upon gold lace. In the front are the initials of the wearer embossed, surmounted by a crown set with precious stones. The other ornament is the *Herdafesti*, shoulder-chain, made entirely of silver gilt, of considerable weight, and of most exquisite workmanship. This connects seven circular pieces of silver, each as large as a five-shilling piece, and ornamented with silver wire, twisted, and disposed in various figures. The chain is a double one, going over each shoulder, and is terminated

almost strait long wool, intermixed with shorter hairs. On returning to Reikevig, Mr. Jorgensen, who had entire possession of the government-house, offered me a bed there, which I gladly accepted.

behind by a large silver medal, gilt, two inches and three quarters in diameter, and representing in relief, on one side, the crucifixion of our Saviour between the two thieves, with a number of extremely well defined figures below. The superscription is PECCATA. NOSTRA. IPSE. PERTVLIT. IN. CORPORE. SVO. SVPER. LIGNVM. VT. PECCATIS. MORTUI. IVSTICIE. VIVAM. The reverse represents Abraham about to offer up his son Isaac, and the angel of the Lord staying the hand already lifted to slay his son: the superscription, PATER. MI. ECCE. IGNIS. ET. LIGNA. VBI. EST. VICTIMA. N. DIXIT. ABRAHAM. DOMINVS. PROVIDEBIT. FILI. MI. I have followed, literally, the spelling of the words; the letters, as well as the whole medal, are in excellent preservation. It is supposed to have been struck in Denmark, and has the date inscribed upon the Altar, 1537. The two ends of chain are connected in front by a long transverse piece of silver gilt, elegantly embossed and ornamented; to which is suspended a large cross of the same metal, which hangs down upon the breast, and has, in the centre of it, a box for holding perfumes. The lid of this box bears in relief the figure of the Virgin Mary with our Saviour in her arms, and on the under side, a representation of God the Father, in the likeness of an old man in robes, having a sort of crown upon his head; he is sitting on a throne, and supports with his hands, between his knees, our Saviour upon the cross; while the Holy Spirit, like a dove with outstretched wings, is hovering upon his head: about them are the words VERA. TRINITAS. ET.

Wednesday, This was an entire day of rain, so  
 June 28. that I rambled no further than the beach, where a vast quantity of sea-weed was thrown up, principally *Fucus saccharinus*, of which many specimens were six feet long, and one foot wide. Some of the smaller plants had the frond spirally twisted in a very regular manner throughout their whole length; but, on drying them without pressure, the twisted

VNA. DEITAS. Surrounding these, at the four extremities of the cross, are the symbolical representations of the Evangelists. This cross has been in a family in Iceland, upwards of five hundred years. The *Koffur* and *Herdafesti* are laid aside after the wedding, and the married lady, in addition to the clothes already described, is never to make her appearance abroad without the *Hempa*, an outer coat or habit, of black cloth, with broad borders of velvet of the same color, fastened all the way down before from the chin to the bottom, by means of numerous large clasps of silver gilt, and ornamented with two large circular plates of the same metal on the breasts, richly embossed, and adorned with little leaves, and with the initials of the wearer set in stones. The *Uppslog* are cuffs of black velvet, with gold embroidery. It is needless to say that the Icelandic manufactories do not afford either linen, silk, gold lace, or broad-cloth: these are Danish produce; but all the other articles of the dress are made in the country. Of course, the ornaments of other dresses are not all exactly like what I have here described; but vary according to the fancy of the artist, or the wearer; and few are now to be met with of equal value with these now mentioned.

appearance vanished, and they became quite straight.

Thursday,  
June 29.

Another completely rainy day confined me within doors, or to the town. After breakfast a present of butter and crees' eggs (*Sterna Hirundo*) came from the *Stiftsamptman*, who at the same time wished to know when I proposed sitting off upon an excursion into the country, that he might be procuring me horses and other necessary things. Hitherto, the excessively wet weather had rendered the bogs almost impassable, and the mountains were still every where covered with snow. I therefore determined to wait till this day week before I started. It was proposed that I should go first to the northern quarter of the island, if the weather permitted, and spend some time in Borgafjord, which is reputed the richest and most fertile district in Iceland.

Friday,  
June 30.

Till to-day, the wind had been almost constantly in the south-west, but it has now veered about to the north, and promises a fine and mild day, compared to what we have yet had. With an Icelandic lad for my guide, who went on foot, and frequently faster than I thought it prudent to ride on horseback in such a rocky country, I set out to visit the great bed



of *Hraun*, (pronounced *Hruin*), or lava, about six miles to the south of Reikevig. The part of it, which I first came up to, was within one or two miles of Havnfiord, where its course has been stopped by the sea, after extending a length of twenty-five miles from the eraters, which are supposed to have given birth to this wonderful current. In some parts of the way, there was a track which led us to the spot, but it was entirely lost when we came on a small morass, and in about an hour we reached the *Hraun*. At a little distance, this huge mass of lava has a most extraordinary appearance, its surface being everywhere as much broken and as uneven as that of a greatly agitated sea, and its boundaries very distinctly marked by the lighter color of the natural rock, or by the vegetation which this latter produces, whilst the lava itself is almost black. On leaving my horse, and proceeding on foot, with no little difficulty upon the *Hraun*, I was still more struck with the strange and desolate appearance that surrounded me. The *Tatsroed* of Iceland, who was present at the famous eruption of Skaptar-Jökul, informs me, that the torrents of lava, which ran with a smooth surface whilst in a heated and liquid state, in the act of cooling cracked and broke into innumerable pieces, many of which, of a monstrous size, were, by the expansive force of the air beneath, heaved from their bed, and remained by the side of the

chasm which they once filled up. From a similar cause, the whole of this prodigious mass is composed of an infinite number of pieces of melted rock, of various sizes, some twenty and thirty feet high, and of the strangest figures; scattered about an extent of twenty-five miles in length, and of from two and three to ten miles in width, in the wildest disorder possible. In appearance, a great part of this lava very much resembles the burnt cinders, or coke, which have been used in drying malt, and is nearly of the same color. The greater masses are generally quite bare of vegetation, but, where the smaller pieces form a tolerably level surface, *Trichostomum canescens* grows in great abundance, and reaches to the length of a foot, or a foot and a half, but is always barren. This, in dry weather, from the numerous colorless hair-like points on the leaves, has almost as white an appearance as snow. Among it I met with the *Geranium sylvaticum*, *Bartsia alpina*, and a few alpine *Salices*, but none in flower. *Fragaria vesca* and *Rubus saxatilis* were coming into blossom. *Encalypta alpina*, which is so rare in our own country, was not uncommon on the lava.

Saturday,  
July 1. A fine range of mountains to the southward of Reikevig, called the Helgafel mountains, had hitherto been so completely covered with snow, that I knew it was in vain to

attempt visiting them. As the snow was now, however, in some measure melted away, and as they did not appear to be at a greater distance than twelve or fourteen miles, I resolved, if possible, to climb some part of them to-day, and accordingly set off on foot, and without a guide, early in the morning for that purpose. But, after going in as direct a line towards the nearest part of them, by the compass, as the nature of the country would permit, at six o'clock in the evening, I found myself, apparently, as far from the object of my walk as when I set out. This delusion, I apprehend, was owing to the extensive valley that I entered yesterday, through which the lava had made its course, which was concealed from the view of a person looking towards it from the neighbourhood of Reikevig, by intervening hills. Except for the first three or four miles, the rest of my walk was entirely over the *Hraun*; and a more toilsome excursion can hardly be conceived: it seemed to be rendered doubly so, by my being obliged to return without reaching the mountains. The immense quantity of *Trichostomum*, which covered a great part of the lava, and filled up the interstices of it, only rendered walking among it more difficult; for it was impossible to see whether it concealed a deep hole or a piece of lava, which would give way under my feet; and consequently,

I was frequently precipitated upon the sharp edges of the rock. The worst of all was, that I could not well have chosen a more barren spot for plants, in so long a ramble; though I met with one species that delighted me much, and made me for a time forget the fatigue: this was *Andromeda hypnoides*\*, which I found just in flower, on the north side of a huge mass of lava, and only there. *Rhodiola rosea* was tolerably plentiful on the *Hraun*, but scarcely in flower. I also met with *Lycopodium annotinum*, and *Conostomum boreale*. In boggy grounds, before I arrived at the *Hraun*, I found *Orchis hyperborea*, the scent of which is very pleasant, and *Eriophorum alpinum*. On my return, I remarked, on the opposite side of a large lake, a small conical hill, of a red color, looking almost as if it were then in a state of fusion. It appeared to me, that, to arrive at this, I had only to go round the east end of the lake, instead of

\* Besides the beauty of the color of the flowers of this plant, which particularly attracted the attention of Linnæus, during the course of his travels in Lapland, and induced him to say, that, "florens mirum in modum jucundissimo" "florum suorum colore spectatorem allicit," it struck me no less forcibly by the singular elegance of its form and general appearance. The delicate tint of the flowers was here finely contrasted with the uniform blackness of the lava. Its barren shoots, as is observed by Linnæus, exactly resemble those of a moss, or of a small *Lycopodium*.

the west, and that, by so doing, I could come into my old track again; but, after walking a great deal out of my way to reach the east end, I met with a deep and rapid torrent, which emptied itself into the lake, and, to my great disappointment, impeded my further progress. To recompence me, I found growing in this torrent a plant, which I recollected having seen in Mr. Turner's collection, under the name of *Rivularia cylindrica* of Wahlenberg, who gathered it in Lapland, but has not, I believe, yet published it: it grew here seven or eight inches long, and was attached by a small expanded disk to the rocks at the bottom of the stream. Although now not more than half a mile from this little red hill, I was compelled to turn back, and, after getting round the west side of the lake, I hastened to my home, which I reached at twelve o'clock.

Sunday,  
July 2.

This morning, Mr. Phelps, Mr. Savigniac, and myself, went in a boat to the Lax Elbe, or Salmon River, a small stream that falls into Reikevig Bay, about six miles east of the town, thus called, on account of the quantity of that fish that frequent it. Mr. Phelps' object was to look at a water-mill, which, he understood, had been erected near the mouth of it; but of which we found little more than the

skeleton; for the Danes, who had planned it, never finished the execution of it. During the voyage, we were amused with the number of eider-fowl that were swimming about in all directions, with their young, and we also saw several Swans and Mergansers (*Mergus serrator*), besides many black Guillemots (*Colymbus Troile*), and abundance of seals were continually playing within the reach of gun-shot from our boat. Near the mill, a causeway of stones had been formed across the river, with three openings, in which were boxes for catching the salmon as they return down the river from spawning. Twenty were taken by these means in one night, and so plentiful were they in a pool a little below this spot, that in a few minutes one of our boatmen caught six, by striking a pole, with three barbed points at them. Three or four others also were caught, by the man leaning over the bank, and suddenly seizing them with his hands. On wet ground, near the mill, *Splachnum ampullaceum* and *Buxbaumia foliosa* were not uncommon. As soon as we reached Reikevig in the evening, we were informed that several persons had called on Mr. Savigniae, to say, that a conspiracy was in agitation amongst the Icelanders, who intended to surround the government house, and, after having secured such persons as were in it, to take possession

of the Margaret and Anne by surprise, as they understood the crew consisted only of twenty-seven men. This tale appeared, at first, too improbable to deserve attention; but, on the arrival of the *Tatsroed* on purpose to inform us that he had received an offer from fifty Icelanders to join him, if he would raise the same number, and seize upon our vessel, it seemed necessary to put a stop to this projected insurrection. Accordingly, Mr. Jorgensen, who had previously placed arms in the hands of eight natives, and formed them into a sort of troop, set off with his soldiers for the house of Assessor Einersen, who was supposed to be one of the chief movers of the conspiracy. A horse was taken for him, upon which he was placed, and, guarded by Jorgensen and his cavalry, was marched, or rather galloped into the town, and confined for a few days in the government house.

Monday,  
July 3. Three days of tolerably fine weather were followed by one of almost continued rain, and indeed, it was hardly possible to stir abroad the whole week, on account of the wet. I rode, however, one morning, to the hot spring, where I found a tent pitched, and as many Icelandic women and girls as it could possibly hold, sheltering themselves in it from the weather. They had

Tuesday,  
July 4.

come with their linen, which was brought on horses from the town, to the hot spring, where all the clothes of the people, for many miles round, are washed. Some of them had a few little miserable potatoes \*, not so large as a full-sized walnut, which they were cooking in the spring for their dinner, and which they offered me. I had carried with me some eider-ducks' eggs, for the purpose of trying how long it would take to boil them hard, and I found they required ten minutes, whilst lying in a part of the water where the thermometer rose to 200°.

Saturday,  
July 8. After a stormy night of wind and rain, the weather cleared up about nine o'clock, and, being furnished with horses, tents, &c., and a guide by the *Stiftsamptman*, I set out for the Geysers, which I proposed visiting before I went into Borgafjord; this I was the more anxious to do, as it seemed probable, from the many unlucky events which happened, and were inimical to the trading between the Icelanders and the English, that we should not make any long stay, and Mr. Phelps was very particular in desiring me to come back at the

\* These potatoes, the growth of Iceland, and the best the island afforded this year, were not only wretchedly small, but very bad; not being mealy within, but full of a yellowish tasteless mucilage.



expiration of a fortnight at longest, lest the vessel should be ready for sea; for that there was no prospect of my getting to England this year, if I did not return with the Margaret and Anne, since the Flora, a ship of Mr. Phelps', whose arrival he expected soon after our own, was not yet come, and no other British vessel was expected. Three horses were loaded with tents, provisions, &c., and a fourth was a relay. These were fastened to each other in a line, by a rope of twisted horse-hair, tied at one end to the tail of the first horse, and, at the other, to the under jaw of that which was next to it; and so on with the rest. My guide rode before, holding a line, fastened to the mouth of the first luggage-horse, so that they all followed exactly the same track, and, so accustomed are these horses to this mode of travelling, that, if they are not tied, they will still keep following each other, to the great annoyance of any person who may happen to be riding them, and may wish to go a little faster than the rest, or to leave the regular line. A man from the ship, of the name of Jacob, who, although a German by birth, understood sufficient of Danish to act as interpreter between me and an Icelander, who spoke that language, rode a sixth horse, and I a seventh; yet even these, numerous as they may appear for one person, were found not sufficient for our journey. There is,

for some distance, a sort of beaten way, along which we went with greater ease than I had expected. Before we arrived at the doors of the first house we met with, the inhabitants came out to offer us sour whey and milk, in large wooden bowls, carved with no other instrument than a knife from birch-wood, and covered with a lid, on which, and sometimes on the two ears, are cut leaves and other ornaments. They hold about a pint and a half, and are used by all the natives to carry their butter, when they go upon a journey, as well as to drink their whey and milk out of, when at home. These good people were examining, with great attention, a pistol, which Jacob had slung at his girdle, and which they were very anxious to know the use of; but this it was not so easy to explain to them, nor would it have been prudent in our present situation, when we might be called upon to make use of it in our own defence, against these very persons, whose ignorance was our surest protection. From this place, which I understood was called Kirkat, and which lay due east from Reikevig, we took nearly a northerly course, in our way to the head of Thingevallé-vatn, or the Lake of Thingevallé. The weather was so rainy and thick, that we scarcely saw any thing of the country, till we arrived at the foot of the mountain, Skoul-a-fiel, whose three lofty and cone-

shaped summits are plainly seen from Reikevig, and by far exceed in height any of the neighbouring hills. At the foot of this, a deep and narrow chasm caught our attention, which seemed as if it had been formed by some violent convulsion of nature, and continued for some way by the side of our road. Near it, I also remarked the perpendicular side of a hill, composed of basaltic columns, jointed here and there, like those in Staffa, but not more than eight or ten inches in diameter, and less regularly columnar. From this place, till we got to the banks of the Lake of Thingevalle, nothing interesting occurred. The country, through which we passed, consisted either of a dreary moor, over which large masses of rock were every where scattered, or of a disagreeable morass, into which our horses every now and then sunk up to their bellies. In one of these morasses, I passed a woman, driving a horse, loaded with the trunk of a tree, which had been dug up close by; it was so large, as to appear nearly as great a burthen as the beast could well walk under, and was, probably, five or six feet long, and nearly a foot in diameter. I do not recollect meeting with any remarkable plants, but what I had before seen about Reikevig, except an *Orchis*, with a singularly inflated and semi-transparent nectarium, of which I could find no description in the *Flora Scandinaviæ*. Several sorts of dwarf willows were common, as well as

*Bartsia alpina*, *Geranium sylvaticum*, and *Conostomum boreale*. When we had reached about half way of our day's journey, we stopped half an hour to bait our horses, and arrived at Heiderbag, where we proposed to remain the night, between ten and eleven o'clock. The priest Egelosen, at whose I called to deliver a letter from the *Stifts-amptman*, rose from bed, and assisted us to fix our tents, and unload the horses; but the heavy rain had wetted almost every thing, so that we passed but an uncomfortable night, lying in our damp clothes, and on the moist and swampy ground, where our tents were pitched.

Sunday,  
July 9. Early this morning, the priest came to invite us to breakfast at his house, which I readily agreed to, taking with me tea, coffee, and other provisions; a precaution absolutely necessary, for his house would afford nothing but milk, skur, butter, and fish. I was even obliged to send back to my tent for a kettle to boil the coffee in. The only part of the house to which we were admitted was that in which the fish, tallow, wool, milk, &c., were kept, for this being the best part of an Icelandic building, is used for the reception of strangers. It had walls of alternate layers of turf and stone, without either cement to unite them, or plaster to conceal their nakedness, and the floor was the bare earth. One chair was all our host could

furnish, and, indeed, there would not have been room for more, so completely was the place lumbered up with old chests, old clothes, &c. What little provision there was in the house was most willingly offered, and it was with difficulty I could prevent him from killing a lamb, to entertain us better. This man had been secretary to the *Stiftsamptman*, who had procured for him the curacy of Thingevalle, (there being no church at Heiderbag), which would be the means of his ultimately obtaining a more lucrative situation. At present, his income is extremely narrow, being only six rix dollars a quarter (twenty-four shillings) from government, but the marriage and burial fees amount to something more; the former ceremony, I think, is performed for two marks; in addition to that, he has a house to live in free of expence, and some glebe, which enables him to keep five cows, and twenty-eight sheep. Three miserable cottages, also, stand upon his glebe, for one of which he receives four dollars, for another three, and for a third two dollars per annum. The chief employment of the female part of his family, besides knitting, is making butter, skiur, and sour whey, which constitute almost their only food. In the winter, if the weather is very severe, the priest is obliged to kill some of his cows and sheep, for want of a sufficient quantity of hay, and in such cases, only,

can they afford to live upon flesh. After breakfast the priest visited his nets in the lake, which had been set for the first time for catching a fish, which the Danes call *Forelles*, and which is allied to our char, but, I think, quite distinct. Although I compared it accurately with the descriptions of the various species of *Salmo* in *Shaw's Zoology*, which I had with me, I could not find that it agreed with any of them. Only one was caught, which we cooked, and found very delicious\*. At noon our friend was obliged to take leave of us, as he was under the necessity of setting off for Reikevig, where he was to preach a sermon before the bishop on the following (Monday) morning. As there was every appearance of the rain, which fell in torrents the whole day, continuing, and of our being consequently detained, the priest assured us he would, if possible, be home the following day, that he might accompany us to Thingevall, where his principal, as he called him, lived, and would receive us kindly. We hardly expected to see him return at the time appointed; for, in addition to his own weight, his horse had to carry two large chests, con-

\* The season of the year in which the *Forelles* abound in Lake Thingevall was now approaching: about the 29th of July they are caught in the greatest plenty, and of a large size, some of them weighing from ten to fifteen pounds.

taining tallow, wool, and worsted stockings, which were to be bartered for iron and other articles of necessity, at Reikevig.

Monday,  
July 10. A little better weather this morning induced us to put our luggage out of the tents to dry; but this was scarcely done when it began to rain, and continued to do so, without intermission, the whole day. We were not able to light a fire, but had to send our provisions to the priest's house, which was full a quarter of a mile off, to be cooked.

Tuesday,  
July 11. After a night of wind and heavy rain, about ten o'clock the weather cleared up, and, with the exception of a few showers, was fine all day. A brighter atmosphere now permitted us to catch a glimpse of the neighbouring scenery; and the first thing that drew our attention was the immense Lake of Thingevalle just before us, of which we had hitherto seen nothing, except the margin. It is reckoned fifteen miles long, and from five to twelve miles wide. Near the middle are two fine black insulated rocks, of considerable size and height; the largest called *Sandey*, the smaller one *Nesey*, upon which, thousands of the *black-backed Gulls* (*Larus marinus* L. *Svart Bakr Isl.*) annually rear their young. North and south of this lake,

were some grand rugged mountains, but at a considerable distance from the place in which we were, and mostly covered with snow. Whilst we were looking at this fine and wild scenery, the priest came down to us, having returned late the night before, after a journey of two days on horseback in incessant rain, during which time he did not change his clothes; not even when he had to preach before the bishop. We now proposed taking a walk by the side of the lake, and setting off on our journey early in the afternoon. We found the margin every where flat, and the water appeared extremely shallow for a considerable way into the lake, but in some places the natives cannot fathom the depth. The shores and the bottom, as far into the lake as we could see, were formed of small black fragments of rock, except that in a few places, at a little distance from the shore, there are some entire and romantic masses, on which I found several mosses that I had not before met with: some of them, indeed, were quite new to me. A beautiful *Lecidea*, with a white and powdery crust, and red shields with an elevated margin, grew in small patches upon so hard a substance, that I was not able to procure the smallest piece. In the lake was abundance of *Rivularia cylindrica*. At four o'clock we set out, accompanied by the son of the priest of Thingevalle and the priest



Egglösen, for Thingevalle, which was only at the opposite side of the head of the lake, and not more than five or six miles distant; yet, owing to the badness of the road, and to our stopping to look about us, it was eight o'clock before we reached it. Nearly our whole ride lay along the shores, on a ground as fatiguing for the horses as sand would have been, and composed entirely of small broken pieces of lava, in many places nearly as fine as sand itself. Among this, wherever the numerous streamlets, which ran into the lake, had deposited a small quantity of soil, the bright yellow green of *Bartramia fontana*, and the pink-colored flowers of *Sedum villosum*, were finely contrasted with the blackness of the ground. In some places, at a short distance from the shore, such of the rock as had been melted was in an entire state, and marked on the surface all over with numerous elevated semicircular lines, in a manner not unlike the shell of an oyster\*, if such a comparison may be allowed. We passed a tolerably wide stream, just below a cascade of considerable size, which reminded me of the upper fall of the Clyde; but there were no trees,

\* As a figure will give a better idea of this appearance than words can possibly do, I will beg to refer for an excellent representation of this kind of unbroken lava, to plate 35 of *Bory de St. Vincent Voyage dans les quatre principales Isles des mers d'Afrique*.

and scarcely a blade of grass, to clothe the surrounding rocks. Having reached the North-eastern extremity of the lake, our guide told us we were shortly coming to the pass of Almannegiaa, which I had heard much of, as one of the greatest curiosities in Iceland. We already found the ground broken into a number of great openings, of various length and width; some so deep, that the darkness prevented our seeing the bottom, which in others was concealed by ice and snow. On a sudden we came to the brink of a great precipice, down which we looked into Almannegiaa, a monstrous chasm, extending almost as far as we could see, in a direct line, nearly north and south: through this our road lay. A smaller opening branches off in a south-west direction, and, a great number of large pieces of rock having fallen into it, the natives, without any assistance from art, make it serve as an entrance to the great chasm. Here, however, we were obliged to have all the luggage, even the saddles, taken off the horses, and carried on the shoulders of our people. The horses were then driven down between the great stones which composed the descent. A more rugged pass\* can hardly be conceived. As we descended by

\* "Ce chemin est aussi dangereux que difficile; il y a une infinité de degrés *taillés* dans le roc, par où les hommes

this rude but natural staircase, the sides, which were perpendicular, became proportionably higher, till, winding round some huge fallen pieces of rock, we entered the great chasm. A grassy bottom of considerable width, and extending as far as we could see, afforded a sufficient, though not a very luxuriant, pasture for our horses; and this determined me to have our tents fixed here, that we might remain all night in this remarkable spot. On the left of the entrance to my tent, rose a perpendicular wall, of, probably, two hundred feet, black and craggy, with here and there a little vegetation, and a stunted birch, which took root among the ledges of the rock: it was on the lofty summit of this that our priest told us criminals used to be executed \*: on the

“grimpent, et mènent leurs chevaux, qui montent ces degrés, en faisant des sauts qui ne les avancent pas toujours.”—*Povelsen and Olafsen*, § 863.—I presume, by the word *taillés*, Messrs. Povelsen and Olafsen do not mean to imply *cut by art*; for I certainly could not perceive that any artificial means had been employed, nor could they have been so to advantage, without more powerful engines than the Icelanders are possessed of.

\* On looking into the French edition of *Povelsen and Olafsen's Travels*, I find the above place mentioned as “la roche escarpée d'où l'on précipitait jadis, dans le bûcher, les victimes condamnées à être brûlées pour crime de sorcelerie.” *Tom. v. p. 363.*

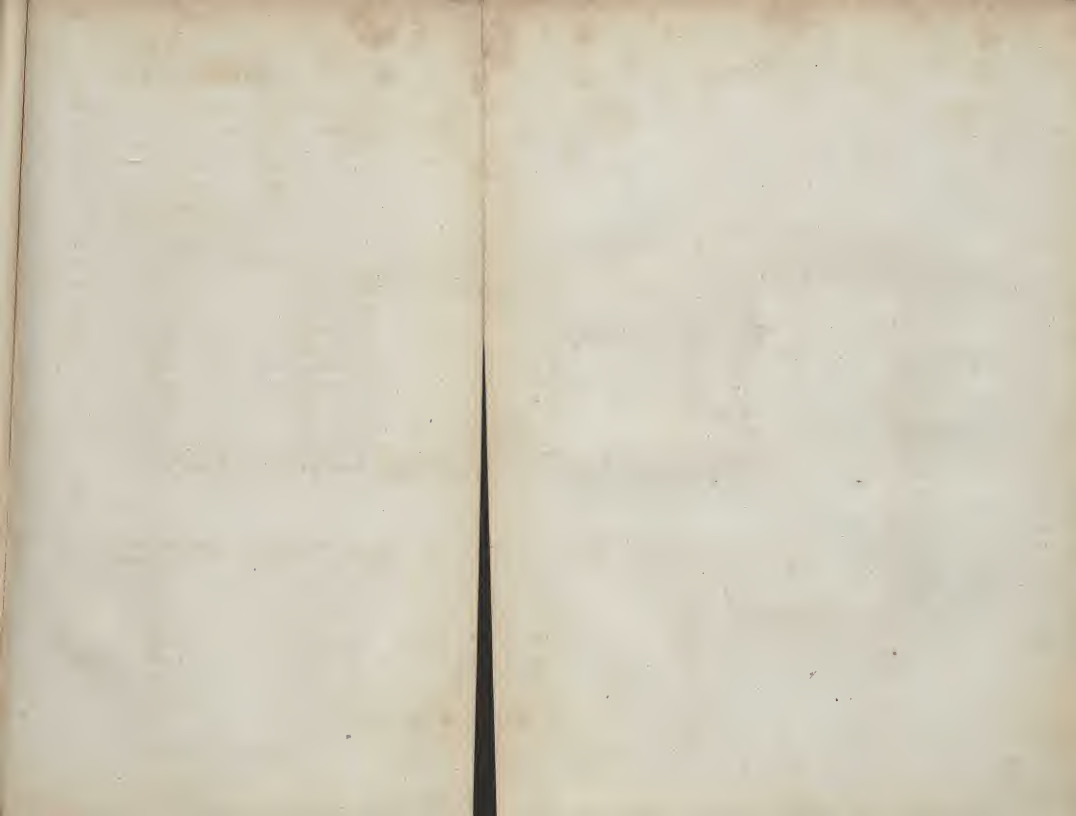
opposite side, and at about the distance of twenty yards, rose another wall, equally perpendicular, more craggy, but not half the height of the former, and, owing, I suppose, to its northern exposure, which caused the moisture to remain longer, covered with a more abundant vegetation, especially of moss (*Trichostomum canescens*) and *Saxifrages*: before us, at the distance of about one hundred yards, a little bend, in the direction of the chasm, appeared to shut us in by a lofty precipice; behind us was the pass or entrance to the chasm, which I have just described, and by the side of it a continuation to the westward of the high walls of the chasm; but the passage was almost choaked up by a vast number of loose pieces of rock, which had fallen from the precipices above. However, we had now no time to examine the place more; for it was necessary to pay our respects to the priest of Thingvalle, who lived scarcely a mile from the place. We therefore left our luggage and tents in charge of the guides, and, going eastward in the chasm, came to a little opening on the south side, through which we had to pass. When we got here, we looked down into an immense plain, which was every where intersected by chasms in the earth as far as the eye could reach, crossing each other in various directions, though most of them were rent from east to west: three in particular seemed

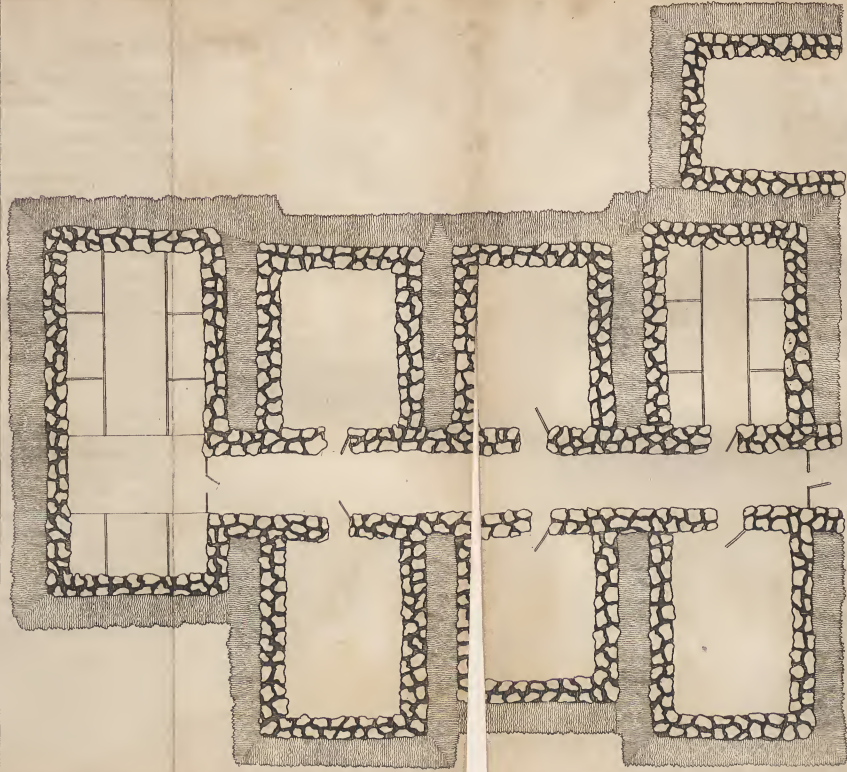
to extend, in uninterrupted lines, the whole width of the plain, and were terminated on one side by the lake Thingevalle. Immediately below us was the river Oxeraa, and, just on the other side, in the midst of this most extraordinary country, are situated the church and parsonage of Thingevalle\*. The verdure upon these buildings, and the unusual fertility of the small patch of ground which immediately surrounded them, together with the numerous herds

\* This place takes its name from the word *Althing*, or the seat of the court of justice, which was once there, but was before that time, according to Povelsen and Olafsen, at Kialar-noes, and is now at Reikevig. The Oxeraa divided the *Althing* into two parts: the consistory, which was upon the eastern bank, was held every year in the church of Thingevalle, but only for the bishoprick of Skalholt; for the northern bishoprick, the consistory was held at Kugemire, in the canton of Skagafjordur. Upon the western bank of the river was situated the building, made use of for the session of the inferior court, called *Lavretten*. The *Lavretten* was held in the open air till 1690, when a building was constructed similar to the rest belonging to the *Althing*, that is to say, with walls of lava, and a roof covered with rafters and laths, ornamented on the outside with wadmal. *Thorleosholm*, a little island in the river Oxeraa, was the place of punishment for the criminals.—See *Povelsen and Olafsen*. § 905.—*Tingwall* is the name of a place in the Shetland Islands, where formerly the chief court of justice was held.—See *Mr. Neill's interesting Account of the Orkney and Shetland Isles*, and *Edmonstone's Zetland Islands*.

of cattle, made a pleasing contrast with the rest of the country, which was, as the French editors of Povelsen and Olafsen term it, "horriblement "bouleverseé par le feu souterrain." We went out at the above-mentioned opening, and, crossing the Oxeraa, arrived at the parsonage by a road fenced in on each side by a low stone wall. A fine pair of rein-deer's horns, fastened against the side of a building here, particularly caught my attention. These animals were first introduced into this country (according to Von Troil) in the year 1770, from Norway, by order of Governor Thodal. Ten out of thirteen died on the passage. The three remaining ones have done extremely well, and bred so fast, that at this time Count Tramp reckons that there are about five thousand head in the island. They are, however, quite useless to the natives, for no attempts have been made to domesticate them, nor can the inhabitants afford to buy powder and ball to enable them to kill them for provision. They herd together in the wildest and least frequented parts of the mountains, and are not shot without extreme difficulty. We found the priest, whom we were come to visit, smoking his pipe \* in the front of his house, surrounded by his wife and numerous

\* This is a luxury in which only the richer Icelanders can afford to indulge. A pipe in the mouth of an Icelander is,







domestics, who had come out to gaze at us. His dress bespoke but little of the clergyman, not differing, that I could perceive, in any respect from that of an Icelandic peasant. He even wore the common blue cap, which concealed but a small portion of his white and venerable hair that hung over his shoulders. He offered us milk, fish, or any thing that his dwelling afforded, which could be of service to us. His house was a pretty good one, and more extensive than is common in Iceland, where, generally, a low fence of stone or turf encloses a considerable portion of ground, and, in the midst, stands a cluster of little buildings or cabins, which, taken collectively, form an Icelandic house: the walls of these are extremely thick, especially at the base, formed of layers of stone and turf, not standing perpendicularly, but leaning a little inwards, and about seven or eight feet high; a sloping roof of turf, laid on birch boughs, makes the whole height of the buildings, which even thus does not reach above twelve or fourteen feet. It is to be observed, that to all these, except one building, (which is, nevertheless, united by walls to the rest), a single entrance serves: so that, going

therefore, not a common sight, and is mostly confined to Reikevig, where they learn the custom from the Danes, who are always smoking.

along a strait passage, you come to others which branch off to the right and left, and communicate to the different chambers or rather cabins, of which the whole house is composed. One or two are occupied as sleeping rooms, where two or three beds, elevated about four feet from the ground, are placed by the side of the wall, the head of one touching the foot of another. The bedstead is made of boards, and has high boards on the side, so that, except in being larger, it differs but little from such as are frequently seen in ships' cabins. Curtains, and all other kinds of bed-furniture, are unknown. The beds themselves are either made of down, or are merely a loose heap of *Zostera marina*, over which are thrown three or four thick coarse pieces of wadmal. One room is appropriated to the loom, another serves as a sitting room, and a third as a kitchen, where the fire is made of turf, or, as is the case at Thingevalle, of small twigs of birch. Sometimes, also, the same entrance serves for the dairy, but the priest of Thingevalle had a separate building, differing, however, in no respect from the rest, where the milk and cream were kept in large square shallow wooden troughs, standing upon stools all round the apartment. The fish-house, where, besides the dried fish, wool, clothes, tallow, saddles, and the few implements of husbandry are placed, is consider-

ably larger than the other buildings, to which, however, it is united, but has a separate entrance. The fronts of all these places resemble the gable ends of English houses, and are formed of unpainted boards, standing vertically. With regard to the inside of the houses, both walls and floors are but seldom boarded: the sides are usually nothing but the black stone and turf, and the bottom only the bare ground. Generally, there are small openings, either in the walls or roof, by way of windows; but these are rarely glazed, and more frequently covered with the amnion of the sheep, which allows but a small portion of light; yet even this is the case only in one or two of the rooms. A chimney, or rather an aperture for the emission of the smoke, usually made with a tub, is seen only in the best houses, in others the smoke is left to find its way out at the door, by which, also, the only air that they can possibly receive is admitted. The son of the old priest accompanied us in a walk among the neighbouring chasms; which are, every where, so numerous, that we could scarcely go ten feet without coming to the edge of one that barred our further progress in that direction. Some at the bottom have snow and ice, others contain the purest water that can possibly be conceived, but so deep, that in many places no bottom is to be found, yet so clear, that, on throwing in a stone,

its descent may be traced with the eye for a considerable length of time. We saw abundance of small fish swimming here, some of which we caught, and found them to be the young of the Thingevalle trout; so that, although at a considerable distance from the lake, in all probability some of the numerous subterraneous caves communicate with it. A little herbage covers the intermediate spaces between the chasms, but the more common alpine *Lichens* and *Mosses* occupy a great part of the surface. *Dicranum purpureum* astonished me by its size and abundance. In some of the caves, among the drippings of the rock, several plants of *Veronica fruticulosa* were displaying their lovely blossoms, and, on the edge of the caves and precipices, *Polygonum viviparum* grew in such profusion as to form thick tufts, several feet in diameter, and of great size. Cattle are often sent here to graze, but not without the annual loss of several, which fall into the holes and perish. The priest Egclosen had himself a narrow escape from death, having one evening fallen into a chasm that was half filled with snow, where he remained till the next morning, when he was searched for, and, fortunately, discovered in time to save his life. On returning to the house, we found the women and girls milking the sheep, which were for this purpose enclosed in a large oblong four-sided wall,

made of lava and turf, in alternate layers, with a door for the admittance of the women, and a small square opening, just high enough to permit the sheep and lambs to be driven in; a still smaller one communicates with another little enclosure, into which, through this aperture, which is not large enough to admit the sheep, the lambs are put, whilst the mothers are milked; otherwise, they would be restless and unwilling to stand still. Many of these sheep afforded a quart of milk, of a rich quality, but that which comes of the second milking, is of, by far, the best; for it is the custom here, having milked the whole flock, to begin again and milk them a second time. The cows are milked in the open ground, with their hind legs tied by means of a horse-hair line. From the milking place, we visited the church, which stands upon a little eminence, at a short distance from the minister's dwelling. It was of a simple construction; in form, an oblong quadrangle, with thick walls, leaning a little inwards, composed of alternate layers of lava and turf. The roof was of turf, thickly covered with grass, and from the top of this to the ground, the building was scarcely more than sixteen or eighteen feet high. The entrance end alone, was of unpainted fir planks, placed vertically, with a small door of the same materials. I was surprised to find the body of

the church crowded with large old wooden chests, instead of seats, but I soon understood that these not only answered the purpose of benches, but also contained the clothes of many of the congregation, who, as there was no lock on the door, had free access to their property at all times. The bare walls had no covering whatever, nor the floor any pavement, except a few ill-shapen pieces of rock, which were either placed there intentionally, or, as seems most probable, had not been removed from their natural bed at the time of the building of the church. There was no regular ceiling: only a few loose planks, laid upon some beams, which crossed the church at about the height of a man, held some old bibles, some chests, and the coffin of the minister, which he had made himself, and which, to judge from his aged look, he probably soon expected to occupy. The whole length of the church was not above thirty feet, and about six or eight of this was parted off by a kind of screen of open work (against which the pulpit was placed) for the purpose of containing the altar, a rude sort of table, on which were two brass candlesticks, and, over it, two extremely small glass windows, the only places that admitted light, except the doorway. Two large bells hung on the right-hand side of the church, at an equal height with the beams. I observed that the Icelanders pull off

their hats, on entering the church. We left our friend Egelosen to take his rest at Thingevalle; but, preferring to sleep in the tent myself, after being abundantly supplied with trout and milk, we returned to Almannegiaa. On walking to the east of the chasm, I met with a few scarce plants: among them were *Carex atrata*, extremely fine, *Saxifraga rivularis*, *Veronica fruticulosa*, *Osmunda lunaria*, *Polypodium arvenicum*, and *Hypnum Silesianum*. I much regretted not being able to spend more time here; but, as a visit to the Geysers was the principal object of my journey, I thought it best to accomplish that first, and, if there were leisure, to wait here a few days on my return: we therefore proposed, should the weather be suitable, to continue our route early in the morning.

Wednesday,  
July 12. The morning proved fine, and we had scarcely breakfasted, when Egelosen and Thorlavsén (son to the priest of Thingevalle), called us to proceed on our journey. They both kindly offered to accompany me some way, that they might point out such objects as were most worth our attention. We stopped at Thingevalle, to take leave of the priest, and, having refreshed ourselves with some rich cream which he offered us, we then pursued our course in a south-easterly direction, among the innu-

merable cracks, rents, and hills of rugged lava, which rendered travelling extremely fatiguing for the horses, and by no means free from danger; for a false step, or a rolling stone, would easily have thrown both the animal and rider to the bottom of a chasm. The passages between many of these chasms were scarcely of sufficient width for a single horse, and were, also, so full of holes, that it required horses used to this country to attempt to go along them; but the most fatiguing part of this day's journey was when we had to go through the three long chasms, which I have already mentioned as extending across the plain. They were of considerable depth every where, except in the parts where we crossed them, and there, they were half filled up with loose pieces of lava, forming a rude natural causeway. At the entrance of one of these\*, we were obliged to have all the luggage taken off the horses, and carried over on mens' shoulders. We were then full half an hour in crossing a place of not more than two or three hundred yards; except that we were occupied some little time, in helping the horse of the

\* Called *Hrafnagíaa*. Povelsen and Olafsen, speaking of the numerous openings in the ground about Thingevalle, say, "Celle de *Hrafnagíaa* embarrasse sur-tout beaucoup les voyageurs; parce qu'il y a bien peu d'endroits où l'on puisse la passer ou la traverser."



priest Egclösen from a hole, into which he had fallen among the rocks, and where he had torn the skin more than half way down his leg. This misfortune, which lamed the poor animal considerably, and which, to a native of any other country, who, like this man, was worth only one horse in the world, would have been a cause of uneasiness, if not of complaint, had no such effect on Egclösen: he did not repine at what had happened, but went cheerfully on his way, with his limping and bleeding horse, only observing on the accident, that "it could not be helped, the place was so bad." I know not whether it arises from a peculiar resignation to the will and providence of God, produced by real piety, or whether it is ascribable to the effect of climate, and to the poverty and distress which attend upon the whole life of the Icelanders, that they seem to feel less for the calamities of themselves or of whatever surrounds them, than is the case with the natives of other countries. When I was lamenting the number of lives, which, Egclösen assured me, were lost among the holes that are here everywhere met with, he stopped me by saying, "it is God's will that it should be so." On arriving at the opposite side of the chasm, we found ourselves in a somewhat better track, but, as our friends from Heiderbag and Thingevålle were not thoroughly acquainted with this country, it was advised that

we should call at a peasant's house, which was but little out of the way, where we might procure something to apply to the leg of the wounded horse, and at the same time might enquire after a guide, who would be able to direct us to some remarkable caves in the neighbourhood. On reaching the cottage, there was only an old woman at home, who, nevertheless, made us welcome, and immediately produced some excellent milk for our refreshment, and some *Syre*, or sour whey, which answered both for washing the horse's wounds, and for drink to our guides. There being no man in the way, the woman undertook to be our conductor, and, without either shoes or stockings on her legs and feet, with extraordinary agility, sprung cross-legs upon a spare horse that we had, though destitute of saddle and bridle, and took the lead of our little cavalcade. She pointed out to us the entrances to several large caves, one of which in particular, called *Undergrandur*, is said to penetrate a considerable way into the ground. We alighted from our horses, and went in as far as we thought it prudent, without lights. The entrance was about ten or twelve feet high, and about twice that width, but both the height and width increased as we advanced. For some way in, the snow had been drifted, and still lay unmelted, intermixed with ice. Beyond this, vast

black pieces of rock, of an enormous size, covered the bottom, and similar ones hung suspended from the roof, which seemed to threaten every minute to add to the number of those below. We climbed over the heap upon the ground, and groped our way, till we almost lost sight of the light at the entrance. Darkness prevented our proceeding further, and the coldness of the place, and dampness owing to the constant dripping from the roof, made us glad to return to the open air. We looked into two or three other caves, but they presented nothing particularly interesting, being mostly barren of all vegetation and dark. At the mouth of one I found a miserable specimen of *Andromeda hypnoides*, and a few plants of *Pyrola minor*. Our female guide now took leave of us, after having given us directions for our route, which lay almost entirely among broken lava. Egclösen soon told us that we were approaching the crater of a volcano, and recommended to us to leave our horses, as it would not be easy to approach it with them, and walk to the spot. We quitted a somewhat level tract of fragments of lava, heaped one upon the other, and came on a gently rising eminence of no great elevation, but composed of lava, cracked into innumerable pieces, which were still lying in their original bed, and not at all scattered about: the surface

was tolerably smooth, except that it was marked with elevated semicircular lines. At the summit of this hillock was a great mass of rock, of nearly a conical shape, composed of calcined matter, which had evidently been formed from the melted rejectamenta of a volcano; indeed, this was the rim or mouth of one, and elevated about ten or twelve feet from the above-mentioned lava. On climbing to its summit, we found the edge extremely rugged, sharp, and vitrified, having an orifice from six to seven feet wide, and gradually becoming narrower for a few feet as it descended, then widening again, and forming a hole, whose depth I was by no means able to ascertain. That it did not descend exactly in a vertical direction for any great length of way, was made evident by throwing in a stone, which soon struck upon some projecting ledge or bend in the pipe. The color of this mass on the outside was a deep greyish brown, almost inclining to black, and in some places a deep red, considerably darker than the lava it stood upon, which appeared to have been exposed to a less degree of heat. There was no smoke, nor any smell of sulphur to be perceived; nor, to judge from the grass that grew in thick tufts some way down the crater, had there been any for a great length of time. The natives had no tradition of its having thrown out fire, neither was

the place itself known to many who lived in this quarter of the island. Sir John Stanley seems to have passed over a part of this same bed of lava, during his travels, and was at a loss to imagine whence such a prodigious mass could have issued. I should have been equally so, if it had not been for the priest Egclösen, who alone, of several Icelanders now with us, was acquainted with this crater, which undoubtedly gave birth to a portion, at least, of the lava that surrounds it. Having spent some time here, and made a few sketches of the spot, as well as the violence of the wind would allow me, we took leave of Egclösen and Thorlavsen, and continued our journey. We descended from the little eminence on which the crater stood, and arrived in a short time at the foot of a great mountain, whose sides appeared entirely composed of fragments of bare rock, with, only at great intervals, small patches of *Trichostomum*: near the summit the snow lay in considerable quantity, over, perhaps, a solid bed of rock\*. As we passed round the foot of this huge and lumpish mountain, other more lofty ones, and with more rugged summits, but

\* I have observed mountains in Iceland more lofty than this one, composed entirely of loose pieces of rock, with their summits perfectly free from snow; whilst others in their vicinity, of much less elevation, but solid in their structure, were thickly covered with snow.

almost of a black color, came in sight. On reaching the bottom of a steep hill, we entered a small and fertile valley, which appeared the more so, perhaps, from being shut in, almost on every side, by these high black mountains. At one extremity of this valley, upon an eminence of lava, we remarked several conical masses of rock, which appeared to be the apertures of extinguished craters, and exactly of the same nature as the one we had just left. They, however, were too far from us to examine, as it would have detained us a day more, before we could arrive at the Geysers. I therefore proposed staying here, if possible, on my return, and contented myself with going a little way up a gulley, in one of the mountains, to look at a cave, which an Icelander in our party had assured us was worth seeing, though I must confess I found in it nothing remarkable. It was an opening in the side of the mountain, barely six feet high, by twenty or thirty feet deep, excavated in a black sand stone, which, (at least, that part of it that had not been exposed to the air,) was of a very shining quality. Although the whole of this mountain appeared to be composed of sandstone rock, yet it was not all equally soft: some lay in interrupted, but horizontal, strata of several feet in thickness, and of a very firm and compact nature, not being so easily

washed down by the torrents of snow water, as the rest of the mountain, but remaining firm, and projecting from its sides in various places, and of a browner color. Continuing our journey, we crossed a rugged moor of considerable extent, and at length entered an immense plain, a great part of which was either a morass, or covered with the Lake *Apn-vatn*. From the water near the margin we saw at a distance, at a place called *Laugardalr* \*, a great quantity of steam rising in three or four columns. On approaching, we found it arose from some boiling springs, one of which was of considerable size, and proceeded from an opening in the rock in a very shallow part of the lake, throwing up a beautiful jet about four feet in height, and of nearly the same width. At the margin of the water, nearest the hot spring, was a border of sulphur, which covered the stones with a thin yellow crust. Three or four other boiling springs, also, were close by, some a little way in the lake, and others rising from the dry ground, but all of a small size. The rest of our road to *Middalr*, where we proposed passing the night, was along the margin of the lake, and we reached the place about eight o'clock in the evening; having travelled the whole day without resting

\* *Laugar* is a term applied to the warm baths, in Iceland.

the horses. Our tents were placed near the church and the house of the priest, who soon came down to welcome us, and offer any thing we might want that his house would afford. As the most necessary, I first requested that we might have some fire prepared to cook our victuals by; during which operation I was witness to a scene that afforded me no small degree of amusement. After Jacob had been gone into the house some considerable time with the fish that was to be cooked for our dinners, I began to be rather impatient, and begged to be shown into the kitchen, that I might see if any thing had happened. I was conducted thither by a female who took hold of my hand, and led me through a dark passage and a bed room, where there was but a small portion of light admitted from an aperture in the roof, into the cooking room, whence so much smoke was rushing out through the sleeping room, as the only vent, that I hesitated about proceeding, till I found myself dragged in. I with difficulty discovered two or three filthy females sitting on the ground, or on some broken chests, and in the middle of them Jacob upon the bare earth. A fire was also on the ground between his legs, over which he held some fish cut in slices, in the fryingpan, an article which caused considerable astonishment among the women. Close by him sat a pretty



Icelandic girl, who had won Jacob's regards so much that he every now and then, with his knife, turned out a slice of the fish for her; while she, in return for every piece thus offered, rose from the ground, hugged him about the neck and kissed him. This innocent custom, in use both among the male and female Icelanders, upon the most trivial occasions, was here exemplified in a very strong and ludicrous manner, and so occupied the attention of Jacob, (who, probably, mistook for a mark of affection, what was in reality nothing more than an expression of gratitude,) that I was obliged to tap the honest fellow on the shoulder, and remind him that I had not yet had my dinner, and that I wished to have some of the fish saved for me. Before going out of the house I was anxious to make some trifling present to the mistress of it, a little, dirty, ugly, old woman, by no means free from cutaneous diseases. I presented to her a snuff-box; but her modesty would at first only allow her to suppose that I meant the contents of it for her. As soon, however, as she was made to understand that the box, also, was to be included in the gift, I had the mortification to find myself, before I was aware of it, in the embraces of this grateful old lady, from which I extricated myself with all possible haste, and performed a most copious ablution at the nearest stream. Of the poverty of the clergy, as well as of the com-

mon people in Iceland, I had heard much previously to my coming to Middalr. I was even assured by the priest Egclosen, that instances were not wanting of people of his profession having been reduced in bad winters to such a state, for want of the necessaries of life, that they have been obliged to beg a scanty subsistence from house to house; till, through cold and weakness and hunger, they have perished miserably among the mountains. Their salaries are, usually, exceedingly small: that of the priest of Middalr was only twenty rix-dollars a-year, of which he received four from the king. It is true he added some little to his income by exercising the trade of blacksmith, but the miserable maintenance which these two professions supplied him with may be easily conceived, when I mention, that I observed both him and two or three persons of his family eagerly picking up from the ground the heads and entrails of the fish, which Jacob, in preparing for cooking, had thrown away. After dinner, the priest brought down to my tent a present of a large quantity of the *Lichen islandicus* (*Fiallagros Isl.*). It is, perhaps, in no country found in such plenty, as in this from which it takes its name. The extensive desert tracts of *Skaptar-fel Syssel* produce this plant in the greatest abundance, and numerous parties from great distances migrate thither, with their horses, tents, and provisions, in the summer

months, and remain some time, for the sole purpose of gathering it. They then convey it on their horses to Reikevig, or any other factory, and dispose of it to the Danish merchants. Povelsen and Olafsen observe, that a person can collect four tons or a horse-load in a week, and that a peasant is better off with this quantity of the lichen, than with one ton of meal\*. It is said to require three years before it has arrived

\* Kerguelen, in the *Account of his Voyage to the North*, gives us an extract from a letter of an Icelander, (Mr. Olave) whom he met with in Patrifjord, where the qualities of this Lichen are very highly extolled; perhaps more so than they deserve. "I send to you, Sir, (says Mr. Olave) a herb, " which, resembling Lung's-wort, serves among the Icelanders as a succedaneum for bread; it is called Iceland-moss, and grows on the rocks of the loftiest mountains; " so that with truth we may say, God gives us bread from " stones. It never grows in earth or soil of any description, " nor casts forth roots. It affords a noble feast; the powder of it is taken in milk, and is so pleasant and salubrious, " that I prefer it to every kind of flour; it is, besides, an " excellent stomachic, and a most safe medicine in a dysentery."—Amongst many other good qualities of the mind which Icelanders in general possess, contentment with the station in which Providence has placed them, and a strong sense of gratitude for the supplies which the Deity is pleased to grant to them, are, certainly, the most predominant. Cut off by the situation and poverty of his native land from almost all communication with happier climates, where plenty and luxury abound, an Icelander is ignorant even of their existence, and eats his dried uncooked fish,

at its full growth; for, having once cleared a spot of ground by gathering the lichen, the natives wait always that length of time before they visit the same place again, when they find another harvest. The only necessary preparation previous to cooking is to steep the lichen in clean cold water for some time, for the purpose of extracting the strong bitter taste which is peculiar to it; it is then dried in the sun, reduced to powder, and boiled up with milk, till it has become of such a consistency as to be quite a jelly when

and rancid butter with a grateful heart. He possesses the *amor patriae* in as strong a degree as the inhabitant of any country. Volcanoes, which have laid waste his whole island, earthquakes, disease, and famine, cannot drive him from his native shores. The few who have gone over to Denmark have expressed the greatest desire to return home, although the kindest treatment, and every thing that was likely to make them comfortable, had been employed to induce them to remain. The man, who was my guide during most of my excursions in Iceland, had himself passed two years in Copenhagen, and although, as he confessed to me, it was a milder climate and he had better living in Copenhagen, yet he had much rather spend his days where he then was. Besides the *Lichen islandicus*, Povelsen and Olafsen notice three other species of *Lichen* which are occasionally eaten, *Lichen proboscideus*, the *Coralloides tenuissimum nigricans* of Dill. and *L. nivalis*. This latter, which grows in great quantity about Reikevig, is called by the natives, *Maringraus*, or the *Virgin Mary's Grass*, and is said to be extremely agreeable food, and of a sweet taste.

cold. As an article of food it is commonly eaten, dressed in the above-mentioned way, and considered both very wholesome and nourishing; nor does it by any means possess that purgative quality, which Linnæus and others have attributed to it; but which may exist in the bitter that has been previously extracted by the steeping in water. I do not think its medicinal virtues, in pulmonary complaints, for which it is so highly valued in other countries, are at all generally known to the Icelanders, many of whom expressed great surprise when I told them of it. The good old priest, after having presented his Iceland-moss, requested some medical advice, supposing from my fondness for plants that I must be a physician. In this I was sorry to be obliged to undeceive him, and, indeed, I could only do it with great difficulty. He wished me much to examine his hip, which had been some years ago dislocated, and had healed very awkwardly for want of surgical assistance. A wound, which he received at the same period, had ulcerated, and he had been able to procure no application since that time twelvemonth, when, as he said, a gentleman, with a star upon his breast, gave him a plaister. He was travelling to the Geysers, but who he was he could not tell. When I at length assured him that it was not in my power to render him any service,

his wife's diseases were enumerated, and I was entreated to examine her sores. On my declining this, he resolved to turn physician himself, and begged me to give him some rum to bathe his wife's breast: to this I consented; but, after having applied a portion of it to that purpose, he drank the rest, without being at all aware of its strength, which, however, had no other effect than in causing this clerical blacksmith with his lame hip to dance, in the most ridiculous manner, in front of the house. The scene afforded a great source of merriment to all his family, except his old wife, who was very desirous of getting him to bed, while he was no less anxious that she should join him in the dance. The wife, however, at length gained the victory, and he retired in great good humor\*.

\* I should be extremely sorry, if, by this little anecdote, I am supposed to intimate that drinking is a common vice among the Icelanders. I have every reason to think very much the contrary. Indeed, this very circumstance is a convincing proof how unaccustomed the priest of Middalr was to spirituous liquors: otherwise, the small quantity he drank, which could not at any rate have exceeded a wine-glass full, would not have elated his spirits so much. At Reikevig, it is true, drunkenness, and almost every other vice, have been introduced by the Danes, but they are confined solely to the town, and principally to the Danes themselves. I do not recollect, during the whole of my stay in the island, that I saw half a dozen natives much in liquor,

Thursday,  
July 13.

This morning we had rain and squalls. After breakfast the priest came down, and begged that he might be allowed to accompany me to the Geysers; but this I could by no means consent to, as it was my full intention to proceed to Hecla, and to return by a another

and those were all in Reikevig. Their morals are extremely correct. It is not without the most thorough contempt for the author of such a falsehood, that I read the following passage, extracted from *Anderson's History of Iceland*; "these people know very little of God, or his will; for the value of two marks, or sixteenpence, they will perjure themselves even to the prejudice of their nearest relations; full of wrath and revenge, extremely lascivious and vicious, and errant thieves and cheats. What, then, can be expected from a people that have no awe or check, and live in an unbridled licentiousness, without any restraint ashore and at sea, frequent opportunities unobserved, and consequently unpunishable, and continually indulging themselves in the filthy sin of drunkenness?" These absurd falsities are scarcely deserving of refutation. Were such conduct, as is here mentioned, really to exist, it could not but be productive of the most serious consequences to the nation: the prison-houses would be filled with persons, who would have been gradually led on to commit the worst of crimes. Yet, that such is not the case in Iceland, may be believed, when it is known that there is only one prison for 48,000 inhabitants, and there, at our arrival, which was a little previous to a sitting of the court of justice, there was only one criminal in it, (and even this was more than had been the case for a long time), and five or six persons confined for small offences.

route. He insisted, however, upon conducting me some way on my road, and especially across a river, which he called *Brueraa*, and which, owing to the late wet weather, he thought might probably be too deep to cross to-day. He accordingly went to his wardrobe in the church, dressed himself in his best clothes, and was ready to start with us. We continued our journey along the foot of a barren mountain, at no great distance from the marshes. Here and there, indeed, we met with a few stunted birch trees, but no plants that I had not seen elsewhere. Leaving the mountain, and crossing a disagreeable swamp, we, in about two or three hours, arrived at the most fordable part of the *Brueraa*. There was already a party of horsemen, resting their horses a little, to prepare them for the fatigue of passing through this stream, the bottom of which is exceedingly rocky, and the river itself both wide and deep, but at this time considered fordable. The packages of fish, wool, &c., were carefully fastened by ropes to the top of the horses' backs, so that they might be as little exposed to the water as possible; and the horses, being then tied in a line one behind the other, all reached the opposite shore in safety, though the smaller ones were compelled to swim. A foal, which was tied by the neck to the tail of its mother, was dragged through, and landed on



the other side of the river, more dead than alive, through fear and cold. Our party followed, and was equally fortunate in getting over without any accident, (except the wetting of the luggage and ourselves,) though the water reached to the middle of the body of our tallest horses. Here, after procuring us some milk from a cottage close by, the priest took his leave of us. In the vicinity of the house were two or three boiling springs, which were used by the inhabitants for the purpose of cooking, as well as for that of washing their clothes. At a few miles distance, on our right, we saw a very considerable column of steam, rising from the marshes, at a place which the guides called *Reykum* \*, and which they said I might visit on my way to Skalholt. Our journey now lay either entirely over a morass, which proved extremely fatiguing to our horses, or upon the edge of it, where a quantity of loose soil had been washed down from the mountains by the torrents, and was scarcely more firm. At about five o'clock in the afternoon we obtained the first view of the mountain, called *Laugerfell*, from which the Geysers spring. It is of no great elevation,

\* This is not the *Reykum*, or *Rykum*, which Sir John Stanley has given so full and so admirable an account of: many places are called by this and similar names, derived from the Icelandic word *Reik*, or *Reyk*, which signifies *smoke*; such are *Reykholt*, *Reikevig*, *Reikholtstal*, *Reikanaes*, &c.

and, according to Sir John Stanley, who had an opportunity of ascertaining by admeasurement, rises only three hundred and ten feet above the course of a river which runs at its foot. It is, however, remarkable for its insulated situation; being entirely surrounded by a morass, which extends for a very considerable way in every direction, except towards the north, where it is not separated by an interval of more than half a mile from higher mountains. The north side is perpendicular, barren, and craggy; the opposite one rises with a tolerably gradual ascent, and from this, near its base, we saw a number of columns of steam mounting to various heights. We quickened our pace, and at eight o'clock arrived at the foot of the hill. Here I left my horses, &c., to the care of the guides, and hastened among the boiling springs, happy in the prospect of soon beholding what may justly be considered as one of the most extraordinary operations of nature. The lower part of the hill was formed into a number of mounds, composed of what appeared to be clay or coarse bolus, of various sizes: some of them were yellowish white, but the greater number of the color of dull red brick. Interspersed with them, here and there, lay pieces of rock, which had rolled, or been washed down by the rains, from the higher parts of the mountain. On these mounds, at irregular

distances, and on all sides of me, were the apertures of boiling springs, from some of which were issuing spouts of water, from one to four feet in height; while in others, the water rose no higher than the top of the basin, or gently flowed over the margin. The orifices were of various dimensions, and either covered on their sides and edge with a brownish siliceous crust, or the water only boiled through a hole in the mound, and became turbid by admixture with the soil, which colored it either with red, dirty yellow, or grey. Upon the heated ground, in many places, were some extremely beautiful, though small, specimens of sulphuric efflorescence, the friability of which was such, that, in spite of the utmost care, I was not capable of preserving any in a good state. I did not remain long in this spot, but directed my steps to the loftiest column of steam, which I naturally concluded arose from the fountain that is alone, by way of distinction, called *the Geyser*. It lies at the opposite extremity of this collection of springs, and, I should think, full half a quarter of a mile distant from the outermost ones which I first arrived at. Among numerous smaller ones, I passed three or four apertures of a considerable size, but all so much inferior to the one I was now approaching, that they scarcely need any farther notice. It was im-

possible, after having read the admirable descriptions of the Geyser, given by the Archbishop Von Troil and Sir John Stanley\*, and, especially, after having seen the engravings made from drawings taken by the last-mentioned gentleman, to mistake it. A vast circular mound, (of a substance which, I believe, was first ascertained to be siliceous by Professor Bergman,) was elevated a considerable height above those that surrounded most of the other springs. It was of a brownish grey color, made rugged on its exterior, but more especially near the margin of the basin, by numerous hillocks of the same siliceous substance, varying in size, but generally about as large as a molehill, rough with minute tubercles, and covered all over with a most beautiful kind of efflorescence; so that the appearance of these hillocks has been aptly compared to that of the

\* I need scarcely refer my readers for a more full account of the Geyser than it is in my power to give, to the letters of Von Troil, who accompanied Sir Joseph Banks in his voyage to Staffa and Iceland: the work is too well known to every one. The two excellent letters of Sir John Stanley on the hot springs near Rykum, and on those near Haukardal, are to be found in the third volume of the *Transactions of the Society of Edinburgh*. In the same volume, also, is to be met with a full account of the analysis of the water of the hot springs, by the late Dr. Black of Edinburgh.

head of a cauliflower. On reaching the top of this siliceous mound, I looked into the perfectly circular basin \*, which gradually shelved down to the mouth of the pipe or crater in the centre, whence the water issued. This mouth lay about four or five feet below the edge of the basin, and proved, on my afterwards measuring it, to be as nearly as possible seventeen feet distant from it on every side; the greatest difference in the distance not being more than a foot. The inside was not rugged, like the outside; but apparently even, although rough to the touch, like a coarse file: it wholly wanted the little hillocks and the efflorescence of the exterior, and was merely covered with innumerable small tubercles, which, of themselves, were in many places polished smooth by the falling of the water upon them. It was not possible now to enter the basin, for it was filled nearly to the edge with water the most pellucid I ever beheld, in the centre of which was observable a slight ebullition, and a large, but not dense, body of steam, which, however, increased both in quantity and density from time to time, as often as the ebullition was more violent. At nine o'clock I heard

\* To compare great things with small, the shape of this basin resembles that of a saucer with a circular hole in its middle.

a hollow subterraneous noise, which was thrice repeated in the course of a few moments; the two last reports following each other more quickly than the first and second had done. It exactly resembled the distant firing of cannon, and was accompanied each time with a perceptible, though very slight, shaking of the earth; almost immediately after which, the boiling of the water increased together with the steam, and the whole was violently agitated. At first, the water only rolled without much noise over the edge of the basin, but this was almost instantly followed by a jet\*, which did not rise above ten or twelve feet, and merely forced up the water in the centre of the basin, but was attended with a loud roaring explosion: this jet fell as soon as it had reached its greatest height, and then the water flowed over the margin still more than before, and in less than half a minute a second jet was thrown up in a similar manner to the former. Another overflowing of the water succeeded, after

\* I have followed Sir John Stanley in using the word *jet* for this sudden shooting of the water into the air, which continues but a few seconds, because I do not know that we have any term more applicable in our language. The French employ the word *élançement* in the same sense, which seems to convey a better idea of the thing, but cannot well be made into English.

which it immediately rushed down about three-fourths of the way into the basin. This was the only discharge of the Geyser that happened this evening. Some one or other of the springs near us was continually boiling; but none was sufficiently remarkable to take off my attention from the Geyser, by the side of which I remained nearly the whole night, in anxious but vain expectation of witnessing more eruptions. It was observed to us by an old woman, who lives in a cottage at a short distance from the hot springs, that the eruptions of the Geyser are much most frequent, when there is a clear and dry atmosphere, which generally attends a northerly wind; and we had the good fortune of being enabled to ascertain the accuracy of her observation, the wind, which had hitherto continued to the south-west, having this evening veered about to the north. At twenty minutes past eleven on Friday, July 14. the following morning, I was apprised of an approaching eruption by subterraneous noises and shocks of the ground, similar to those which I had felt the preceding day; but the noises were repeated several times, and at uncertain, though quickly recurring intervals. I could only compare them to the distant firing from a fleet of ships on a rejoicing day, when the cannon are sometimes discharged singly, and sometimes two or three, almost at the same

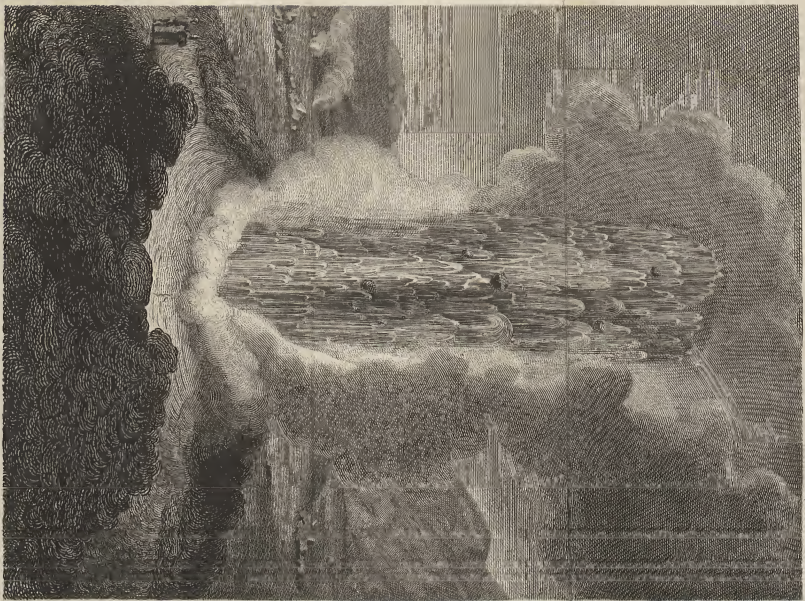
moment. I was standing at the time on the brink of the basin, but was soon obliged to retire a few steps by the heaving of the water in the middle, and the consequent flowing of its agitated surface over the margin, which happened three separate times in about as many minutes. I had waited here but a few seconds, when the first jet took place, and this had scarcely subsided before it was succeeded by a second, and then by a third, which last was by far the most magnificent, rising in a column that appeared to us to reach not less than ninety feet in height, and to be in its lower part nearly as wide as the basin itself, which is fifty-one feet in diameter. The bottom of it was a prodigious body of white foam; higher up, amidst the vast clouds of steam that had burst from the pipe, the water was seen mounting in a compact column, which, at a still greater elevation, burst into innumerable long and narrow streamlets of spray, that were either shot to a vast height in the air in a perpendicular direction, or thrown out from the side, diagonally, to a prodigious distance\*. The excessive

\* Darwin, in his *Botanic Garden*, vol. i. page 128, has a few lines upon the Geyser, which are rather more poetical than correct:

“ High in the frozen north where Hecla glows,

“ And melts in torrents his coeval snows;





Engraved by W. H. Edwards from the "English Land" columns of "Harper's."

*Captain of the "Harper's."*



transparency of the body of water, and the brilliancy of the drops as the sun shone through them, considerably added to the beauty of the spectacle. As soon as the fourth jet was thrown

“ O'er isles and oceans sheds a sanguine light,  
 “ And shoots red stars amid the ebon night ;  
 “ When, at his base entomb'd, with bellowing sound  
 “ Fell Geyser roar'd, and struggling, shook the ground ;  
 “ Pour'd from red nostrils, with her scalding breath,  
 “ A boiling deluge o'er the blasted heath ;  
 “ And wide in air its misty volumes hurl'd  
 “ Contagious atoms o'er the alarmed world :  
 “ Nymphs, your bold myriads broke the infernal spell,  
 “ And crush'd the sorceress in her flinty cell.”

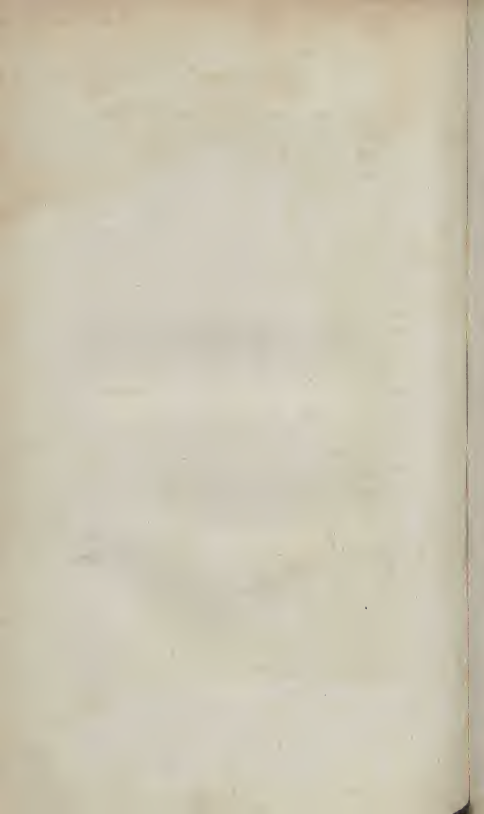
In these two last lines the Doctor alludes, as he tells us in a note, to the eruption of a volcano which happened subsequently to the time of Sir Joseph Banks' being there, and which extended as far as the Geysers, and overflowed them with its lava. Whence he could have obtained this piece of information, I am at a loss to guess : certainly it was not from any book of good authority, for no such circumstance has happened.—This reminds me of a similar error in Doctor Adam's *Geography*, where it is said that Hecla is constantly spouting out fire and hot water, and, with the regard to the religion of the Icelanders, that most of them are Lutherans, but that there are some Pagans. The *Tatsroed*, who possesses a very mild temper, which I never saw ruffled even in trying circumstances, was still unable to restrain himself when he pointed out these inaccuracies to me, and denied the veracity of them with considerable warmth : quoting passages from English authors who had written previously to the time of Doctor Adam, and who had stated the facts as they

out, which was much less than the former, and scarcely at the interval of two minutes from the first, the water sunk rapidly in the basin, with a rushing noise, and nothing was to be seen but the column of steam, which had been continually increasing from the commencement of the eruption, and was now ascending perpendicularly to an amazing height, as there was scarcely any wind, expanding in bulk as it rose, but decreasing in density, till the upper part of the column gradually lost itself in the surrounding atmosphere. I could now walk in the basin to the margin of the pipe, down which the water had sunk about ten feet, but it still boiled, and every now and then furiously, and with a great noise, rose a few feet higher in the pipe, then again subsided, and remained for a short time quiet. This continued to be the case for some hours. I measured the pipe, and found it to be exactly seventeen feet over, and, as I have before mentioned, situated in the very centre of the basin, which was fifty-one feet in diameter. The pipe opens into the basin with a widened mouth, and then gradually contracts for about two or three

really were. He begged me, on my return, to make Doctor Adam acquainted with the incorrectness of his remarks upon Iceland, that they might be altered in a future edition of his work.—But the time is past; for the worthy Doctor is dead: “*requiescat in pace.*”

View of the River of Saguenay when empty, immediately after an Englishman.





feet, where it becomes quite cylindrical, and descends vertically to the depth, according to Povel-sen and Olafsen, of between fifty and sixty feet. Its sides are smooth, and covered with the same siliceous incrustation as the basin. It was full twenty minutes after the sinking of the water from the basin, before I was able to sit down in it, or to bear my hands upon it without burning myself. At half past two o'clock it was again nearly filled, the water having risen gradually, but at intervals, attended every now and then with a sudden jet, which, however, did not throw it more than two or three feet higher than the rim of the basin. A few minutes after, there was a slight eruption, but the greatest elevation to which the water was ejected, was not above twelve feet. At four o'clock in the afternoon my guide was witness to another, while I was away. I had been visiting the other hot springs, and, amongst them, that which Sir John Stanley calls *the Roaring Geyser*, in which, though the water rose and fell several feet at uncertain intervals, and was frequently boiling with a loud and roaring noise, I still did not perceive that it ever flowed over the margin of the aperture. Its pipe or well does not descend perpendicularly, but, after going down some way in a sloping direction, seems to continue in a nearly horizontal course. Around its mouth lies a considerable quantity of red earth,

or bolus, and on one side of it I observed, what appeared to me, a curious mineralogical production: it was imbedded in a hard kind of rock, but was of itself exceedingly brittle, and apparently fibrous; looking much like asbestos, but materially differing from that mineral in its extremely fragile nature. On going to the foot of the hill, near the spot where the waters of the Geyser join a cold stream, among the numerous rills which the heated water had formed, I met with some uncommonly beautiful specimens of incrustations. Every blade of grass and every leaf or moss that was washed by these waters, was clothed with a thin covering of the same siliceous substance as the great basin was composed of, but of so delicate a nature that it was scarcely possible, even with the utmost care, to bring any of them away perfect. I remarked, in particular, a *Jungermannia (asplenioides)* so beautifully coated with this incrustation, that it looked as if it were a model of the plant in plaster of Paris. One specimen was so protected under the shelter of larger plants incrustated together, that I was able to convey it in safety to Reikevig. The plants I met with by the side of the river, which I had not remarked before, were *Carex Bellardi* and a new species, *Koenigia islandica* in great profusion, and *Funaria hygrometrica*. Leaving the river, I walked over several vast mounds of



red earth, at the north end of the Geyser, in my way to the top of the mountain. Here and there a boiling spring was forcing its turbid and discolored waters through holes in the surface. Some were completely in the thick muddy state of a puddle, and were bubbling, as any glutinous substance would do over a fire. In many places was heard a rumbling noise like the subterraneous boiling of water, although there was no orifice near, by which the fluid could make its escape. On these spots, which were so much heated by subterraneous streams that I could scarcely bear my hands upon the ground, I found a great profusion of *Riccia glauca* \*, growing in patches, and extending almost uninterruptedly over a space of ten or twelve feet in diameter. The soil for more than half way up the mountain was composed of a coarse reddish kind of earth, intermixed with some other of a dirty yellow color, with small intervals of hard rock, and with this terminated the highest of the hot springs, which, however, was but a feeble one. Thence to the summit the mountain was entirely

\* I think, but dare not trust too implicitly to my memory, that I saw abundance of it in fructification. I made no memorandum on this subject, and the specimens which were intended to enable me to answer this, as well as other questions relative to natural history, were all, unhappily, lost.

formed of a loosely laminated rock, whose strata seemed to lie in almost every direction, but chiefly vertically. There was no appearance whatever of any part of the hill having been in a state of fusion. Many of the strata were still in their original bed, and the pieces which had fallen from them had their edges very sharply defined, and had broken off in laminæ, of about an inch in thickness. The stone is extremely hard and compact, of a rusty brown color, in some specimens more inclining to grey, and with a perfectly smooth and flat surface. Sir John Stanley supposes that its substance is chiefly argillaceous, and that, like every other stone in the island, it has undergone some change by fire. I met with nothing remarkable on the summit, where there is a considerable extent of flat surface, almost covered with *Trichostomum canescens*, intermixed with the *Lichen islandicus*; and from each extremity of this plain arises a conical eminence, unequal in height, of the same nature as the rock it springs from, and producing no plants that are not to be seen equally abundant in various other parts of the country. The most scarce were *Trichostomum ellipticum*, which grows in tolerable plenty upon the dry rocks, and *Andraea Rothii*, which, though it has been found in but few countries, is very abundant in Iceland. The top of Laugerfell

afforded me a very commanding prospect. Just beneath me, facing the south-east, was to be seen, at one view, the steam rising from upwards of a hundred boiling springs, among which the great Geyser, from its regularly circular figure, looked like an artificial reservoir of water. A little stream at the bottom of the hill formed the boundary to these, beyond which was an extensive morass whose sameness was only interrupted by the rather wide course of the river *Hvitaa*, winding through it. The view was terminated, in that quarter of the compass, by a long range of flat and tame mountains, over which towered the three-pointed and snow-capped summit of *Hecla*, which rises far above the neighbouring hills, and is, in clear weather, plainly visible when standing by the Geyser. In the north-east was situated the church and farm of *Haukardal*, and a continuation of the morass, bounded by some lofty jökuls of fantastic shapes. In the north-west, at a small distance from the place where I stood, and, indeed, only separated from it by a narrow portion of the morass, with a small river winding through it, rose another chain of mountains, thinly covered with vegetation, beyond which some jökuls showed their white summits. In the south the morass was extended almost to the coast, and looked like a great sea, having three or four rather lofty, but completely insulated

mountains, with flat summits, rising from its bosom. It was my custom, during my stay in this place, to cook my provisions in one or other of the boiling springs; and, accordingly, a quarter of a sheep was this day put into the Geyscr, and Jacob left to watch it, holding it fastened to a piece of cord, so that, as often as it was thrown out by the force of the water, (which very frequently happened) he might readily drag it in again. The poor fellow, who was unacquainted with the nature of these springs, was a good deal surprised, when, at the time he thought the meat nearly cooked sufficiently, he observed the water in an instant sink down, and entirely disappear; not rising again till towards evening. We were therefore obliged to have recourse to another spring, and found, that, in all, it required twenty minutes to perform the operation properly. It must be remembered, however, that the quarter of an Icelandic sheep is very small, perhaps not weighing more than six pounds, and is, moreover, extremely lean. I do not apprehend that longer time would have been necessary to have cooked it in an English kitchen; for the hot springs in Iceland, at least such of their waters as are exposed to the air, are never of a greater heat than  $212^{\circ}$  of Fahrenheit; so that when I hear travellers speaking of having boiled their eggs in two mi-

nutes in such springs, or of having cooked their meat in a proportionably short space of time, I do not doubt the fact, but I must be allowed to suspect that their victuals would not be dressed to my taste. The next eruption of the Geyser, which took place at half past nine, was a very magnificent one, and preceded by more numerous shocks of the ground and subterraneous noises, than I had yet witnessed. The whole height to which the greatest jet reached, could not be so little as a hundred feet. It must be observed, however, that I had no instruments with me for measuring elevations, and therefore could only judge by my eye; Jacob and myself watching at the same time, and each giving his estimate. The difference between us was but trifling, and I always took the lowest calculation. My method was, to compare the height of the water with the diameter of the basin, which I knew to be fifty-one feet, and this jet was full twice that height. The width of the stream is not equally easily determined by the eye, on account of the steam and spray that envelops it: in most instances, not more, probably, than eighteen or twenty feet of the surface of the water is cast into the air; but it occasionally happens, as was the case now, that the whole mass, nearly to the edge of the basin, is at once heaved up: all, however, is not spouted to an equal height; for the

central part rises the highest, but, having gained some elevation, the spray divides, and darts out little jets on every side, that fall some way over the margin of the basin. After this last discharge, the water subsided about fifteen feet in the pipe, and so remained some time, but in about two hours the funnel was filled to within two feet of the edge. As often as I tried the heat of the water in the pipe, I always found it to be  $212^{\circ}$ ; but, when the basin was filled, on immersing the thermometer as far from the margin as I could reach with my arm, I found the heat never more than  $180^{\circ}$ ; although in the centre it was boiling at the same time. It seems probable that the height to which the Geyser throws its waters may have increased in the course of a few years; as, when Sir Joseph Banks visited Iceland in 1772, the greatest elevation to which the water rose, was ascertained to be sixty feet; while in the year 1789, its height was taken by a quadrant, by Sir John Stanley, and found to be between ninety and one hundred feet, and this day, if I am not mistaken, it was still greater. Povelzen and Olafsen were probably deceived, when they imagined they saw the loftiest jets reach to the height of sixty toises, or three hundred and sixty feet. Previous to the last eruption, Jacob and myself amused ourselves with throwing into the pipe a number of large pieces of rock and tufts

of grass, with masses of earth about the roots, and we had the satisfaction to find them all cast out at the eruption, and many of them fell ten and fifteen feet beyond the margin. Some rose considerably higher than the jets which forced them up; others fell down into the basin, and were cast out again with the next discharge. The stones were mostly as entire as when they were put in, but the tufts of grass and earth were shivered into numerous small black particles, and were thrown up by the first jet in quick succession, producing a very pretty effect among the white spray. This whole day had been fine with but little rain.

Saturday,  
July 15.

At one o'clock this morning there was an eruption of the Geyser, which was repeated at half past three, and again at a quarter before eight, and at half past nine; after which, the fountain continued to spout water about every two hours. All the eruptions were attended by the same circumstances as those of yesterday, and were preceded by similar tremblings of the ground and subterraneous noises; but none of them threw the water to any great elevation; the highest not appearing to exceed fifty feet. Close to the edge of many of the hot springs, and within a few inches of the boiling water, in places that are, consequently, always

exposed to a considerable degree of heat, arising both from the water itself and the steam, I found *Conferva limosa* Dillw. in abundance, forming large dark green patches, which easily separated and peeled off from the coarse white kind of bolus that they were attached to. In a similar situation, also, I met with a new species of *Conferva*, (or rather *Oscillatoria* of *Vaucher*,) of a brick-red color, covering several inches of ground together, and composed of extremely minute unbranched filaments, in which, with the highest powers of my microscope, I was not able to discover any disseminations. The margin of one of the hot springs, upon a white bolus, which was in a state of puddle from its mixture with the heated water, afforded me the finest specimens of *Jungermannia angulosa*\* I ever saw, growing thickly matted in such great tufts, that I could with ease take off pieces of five or six inches in

\* Mr. Barrow, in his *Voyage to Cochinchina*, gives us a very interesting account of the hot springs in the island of Amsterdam, which lies in latitude  $38^{\circ} 42'$  south, and longitude  $76^{\circ} 51'$  east. "Some of them," he says, "are running freely, others ooze out in a paste or mud. In some of the springs Fahrenheit's thermometer ascended from  $62^{\circ}$  in the open air to  $196^{\circ}$ ; in some to  $204^{\circ}$ ; and in others to  $212^{\circ}$ , or the boiling point. In several places we observed patches of soft verdure, composed of a fine delicate moss, blended with a species of *Lycopodium* and another of *Marchantia*. These green patches were found to be



diameter. The under side of these patches had very much the appearance of purple velvet, owing to the numerous fibrous radicles of that color which proceeded from the base of the stems, and suffered themselves to be detached, without difficulty, from the soil they had grown upon. In water, also, of a very great degree of heat, were, both abundant and luxurious, *Conferva flavescens* of Roth, and a new species allied to *C. rivularis*. After a day, almost the whole of which had been showery, with the wind in the south-

Sunday, west, a fine, but cold, morning, attended  
 July 16. with a northerly wind, afforded me a most interesting spectacle, the idea of which is too strongly impressed on my mind, ever to be obliterated but with memory itself. My tent had been pitched at the distance of three or four hundred yards from the Geyser, near a pipe or crater of considerable dimensions, in which I had hitherto observed nothing extraordinary. The water had been almost constantly boiling in it, and flowing gently over the mouth, thus forming a regular channel, which, I believe, had never

“ floating on a hot paste, whose temperature, at eight or  
 “ ten inches below the surface, upon which the roots of the  
 “ plant spread, was 186°. This was the more remarkable,  
 “ as the same species of *Lycopodium*, or club-moss, grows  
 “ with great luxuriance, even in the winter season, on the  
 “ black heaths of North Britain.”

ceased running during the whole time of my stay. My guide, however, had informed me that sometimes the eruptions of this spring were very violent, and even more remarkable than those of the Geyser, and it was on this account that he had placed the tents so close to it. At half past nine, whilst I was employed in examining some plants gathered the day before, I was surprised by a tremendously loud and rushing noise, like that arising from the fall of a great cascade, immediately at my feet. On putting aside the canvass of my tent, to observe what could have occasioned it, I saw within a hundred yards of me a column of water rising perpendicularly into the air, from the place just mentioned, to a vast height; but what this height might be I was so overpowered by my feelings, that I did not, for some time, think of endeavouring to ascertain. In my first impulse I hastened only to look for my portfolio, that I might attempt, at least, to represent upon paper what no words could possibly give an adequate idea of; but in this I found myself nearly as much at a loss as if I had taken my pen for the purpose of describing it, and I was obliged to satisfy myself with very little more than the outline and proportional dimensions of this most magnificent fountain. There was, however, sufficient time allowed me to make observations; for, during the space of an hour and

half, an uninterrupted column of water was continually spouted out to the elevation of one hundred and fifty feet, with but little variation, and in a body of seventeen feet in its widest diameter; and this was thrown up with such force and rapidity, that the column continued to nearly the very summit as compact in body and as regular in width and shape, as when it first issued from the pipe; a few feet only of the upper part breaking into spray, which was forced by a light wind on one side, so as to fall upon the ground at the distance of some paces from the aperture. The breeze, also, at times, carried the immense volumes of steam that accompanied the eruption to one side of the column of water, which was thus left open to full view, and we could clearly see its base partly surrounded by foam, caused by the column's striking against a projecting piece of rock, near the mouth of the crater; but thence to the upper part, nothing broke the regularly perpendicular line of the sides of the water-spout, and the sun shining upon it rendered it in some points of view of a dazzling brightness. Standing with our backs to the sun, and looking into the mouth of the pipe, we enjoyed the sight of a most brilliant assemblage of all the colors of the rainbow, caused by the decomposition of the solar rays passing through the shower of drops that was falling between us

and the crater. After the water had risen to the vast height above described, I ventured to stand in the midst of the thickest of the shower of spray; where I remained till my clothes were all wetted through, but still scarcely felt that the water was warmer than my own temperature. On the other side of the spout, the column was so undivided, that, though upon the very brink of the crater, within a few inches of the water, I was neither wetted nor had I a fear of being scalded by any falling drops. Stones of the largest size that I could find, and great masses of the siliceous rock, which we threw into the crater, were instantly ejected by the force of the water, and though the latter were of so solid a nature as to require very hard blows from a large hammer, when I wanted to procure specimens, they were, nevertheless, by the violence of the explosion, shivered into small pieces, and carried up with amazing rapidity to the full height of, and frequently higher than, the summit of the spout. One piece of a light porous stone was cast at least twice as high as the water, and falling in the direction of the column, was met by it, and a second time forced up to a great height in the air. The spring, after having continued for an hour and half spouting its waters in so lofty a column, and with such amazing force, experienced an evident diminution in its

strength; and, during the space of the succeeding half hour, the height of the spout varied, as we supposed, from twenty to fifty feet; the fountain gradually becoming more and more exhausted, and sometimes remaining still for a few minutes, after which it again feebly raised its waters to the height of not more than from two to ten feet, till, at the expiration of two hours and a half from the commencement of the eruption, it ceased to play, and the water sunk into the pipe to the depth of about twenty feet, and there continued to boil for some time. I had no hesitation in pronouncing this to be, what is called by Sir John Stanley, the *new Geysers*\*; although the shape and dimensions of the crater differ somewhat from the description given by that gentleman. But, after a lapse of twenty years, it is not to be expected that, with two such powerful agents as fire and water, constantly operating, a spot like this should be suffered to remain without any alteration. The outline of the aperture is an irregular oval, seventeen feet long and nine feet in width; on only one side

\* The term *Geysers*, it may be here remarked, is derived from an Icelandic word which implies a vomiting forth, or boiling out in a furious manner, and at intervals. "Nomen habet (the learned rector of Skalholt writes to Sir Joseph Banks) a verbo islandico *ad giosa evomere, ebullire; aquas enim per intervalla in altum evomit.*"

of which there is a rim or elevated margin, about five or six feet in length and one foot high; but the ends of this are ragged, as if it had formerly been continued the whole way round the crater, and it is therefore probably a portion of the same wall, which Sir John Stanley describes as nearly surrounding the basin at the time he was there, and as being two feet high. The well is formed by no means with the almost mathematical accuracy of that of the Geyser, but is extremely irregular in its figure, and descends in rather a sloping direction; its surface being composed of a siliceous crust, of a deep greyish brown color, worn smooth by the continued friction of the water. For several yards, in one direction, in the neighbourhood, where the water flows off in a shallow stream, the bed of this is composed of a thin white covering, of a siliceous deposit. During the eruption of the new Geyser, I could not perceive that it in any way affected the neighbouring springs. I remarked no particular sinking of the water in any, nor did I observe that any boiled more violently than usual. The Geyser, which was filled almost to the rim of the basin, previous to the eruption of the new Geyser, from which it is distant about four hundred yards or more, remained, as nearly as possible, in the same state of fulness during, and after, the eruption. Sir John Stanley, also, ob-

served the same circumstance, so that in all probability their subterraneous streams are quite independent of each other\*. We were informed by the people living in the neighbourhood, that in the spring of last year (1808), a violent shock of an earthquake was felt, which made an aperture for another hot spring, and caused the whole of them to cease flowing for fifteen days. The ground, at that time, appeared to be lifted up some feet; a house was thrown down, and all the cattle, which were at pasture, ran home to the dwellings of their masters, and showed symptoms of the greatest terror. Earthquakes in this quarter

\* *Horrebow*, indeed, seems to lead to a contrary conclusion, from the following observations: "In the parish of *Huusevig*, " at a farm called *Reykum*, there are three springs which " lie about thirty fathoms from each other. The water boils " up in them in the following manner: when the spring or " well at one end has thrown up its water, then the middle " one begins, which subsiding, that at the other end rises, " and after it, the first begins again, and so on in the same " order by a continued succession, each boiling up three " times in about a quarter of an hour." Page 21.—*Povelsen* and *Olafsen*, also, mention a remarkable circumstance, which proves a communication between the two springs, called *Akraver*, in the canton of *Olves*, situated at the distance of an hundred toises from each other. On throwing in the lead, for the purpose of sounding the depth of one of these wells, they found the water immediately diminished a foot and a half in depth, whilst at the same time it flowed over from the other well.

of the country are not unfrequent. One happened but a short time previous to the visit of Sir John Stanley, who conjectures, that this probably enlarged the cavities, communicating with the bottom of the pipe of the new Geyser; for it is to be remarked, that till then, (June, 1789) that spring had not played for a considerable length of time with any degree of violence\*. A party of Horsewomen †, well dressed, and riding, some astride and some on the saddles of the country, who were passing the Geysers,

\* See *Edinburgh Transactions*, v. iii. p. 150.

† These ladies with their long riding coats and their tall head-dresses had, at some distance from the spectator, very much the appearance of a little troop of horse soldiers.—An Icelandic lady's saddle is totally unlike an English one, being furnished with a semicircular elevated back, like that which is attached to some of our old-fashioned chairs; so that a lady sits as much at her ease as the travellers in the passage of *Quindiu* in the *Cordilera of the Andes*, who are described by *M. Humboldt* as inhumanly riding in chairs strapped on the backs of their fellow men. Sitting sideways, therefore, the Icelandic women lean their backs against this support, and place their feet upon a small board, which is affixed to the saddle at a proper height by means of two straps. The back of the saddle is often richly ornamented with brass, carved or embossed into various figures: the girths, also, are furnished with rich silver buckles and with plates of the same metal, and the saddle-cloth frequently affords a beautiful specimen of the abilities of the owner at working in tambour.



and directing their course towards Haukardal, reminded me that service was about to be performed at the church of that place this morning, and therefore, as I saw no probability of a second eruption of the new Geyser immediately taking place, I resolved to leave it, and hear an Icelandic sermon. Accompanied by Jacob and my guide, I crossed a swamp which lay between us and the church; but, previously to entering it, we called upon an old lady, a rich farmer, who lives in the immediate vicinity, and whose hospitality is celebrated by Sir John Stanley. She was eighty-five years of age, and still enjoyed good health, though her faculties were much impaired, so that she scarcely recollected the visit of my countryman. A young man, however, whom she had adopted as her son, remembered him well. Her house, at this time, scarcely deserves the praises which Sir John has given it; for it was as dirty as any I had yet entered, and the closeness of the bed room, into which we were ushered, was far from pleasant, and, I should suppose, equally far from wholesome. Yet in these confined rooms, where the external air is scarcely admitted, do the natives spend their time during the long winters, except, indeed, such of it as is necessarily employed in looking after their cattle; and here, too, by excluding the air,

and by means of thick walls and a roof of turf, they are enabled to live without a fire in their sitting room throughout the year. I heard the riches of the inhabitant of Haukardal much talked of; they consisted of ten cows, five rams, and about an hundred sheep. An Icelandic churchyard is often in part enclosed by a rude wall of stone or turf, and the area, excepting only as much as is occupied by the building, is thinly sprinkled over with elevated banks of the green sod, which, alone, serve to mark the burial places of the natives. This spot, previous to the arrival of the minister, on a sabbath affords a most interesting spectacle. Numerous parties of men, women, and children, who had come on horseback, and in their best apparel, were continually saluting each other; and any person, that had been absent from the place of worship for a more than usual length of time, either through illness or any other cause, was kissed by the whole congregation. As they were little accustomed to see strangers, they all flocked around us, presenting us with milk and cream from the neighbouring farm, and asking us an hundred questions. Many were surprised at our having come so far for the sake of seeing the Geysers, which they are accustomed to look at with the utmost indifference. The dress of the female

children was like that of their parents, and some of them had even an equal number of silver ornaments; most of them wore the *faldur*, but some of the younger ones had, instead of it, small caps of black velvet or cloth, which fit close to the head and are tied under the chin, ornamented with gold lace, and frequently terminated by a silver gilt knob. Caps like this used formerly to be much more generally worn by the children than they are at present; and it is to be remarked, that not only the cap, but the *faldur*, also, when the wearer is on a journey, is carefully wrapped round with two or more chequered silk handkerchiefs, being preserved with the greatest care, as constituting a part of their dress, of which the Icelanders are particularly proud. Before the commencement of service, the priest read prayers to a woman after child-birth, who was sitting on a low stool at the church door: and this short ceremony was concluded by his laying his hands on her as she knelt. During the whole time, the woman seemed very much affected, and some who were standing round were extremely attentive. The church which (like most others in the island, fronted the west) was similar to the one at Thingevalle, but more commodious, in having benches instead of chests to sit upon. At the time I entered, the priest was at the altar, dressed in a long black

gown of wadmal, buttoned from top to bottom in the front, black worsted stockings, and seal-skin shoes : his hair was hanging down a great length, reaching to his shoulders \*. The women and young children alone sit in the body of the church, the men being ranged round the altar, near which, also, was reserved a place for Jacob and me. It is these latter only that sing, if that monotonous and inharmonious noise which I heard on entering may be called singing, where every one strained his throat to the utmost, and gave out at the same time a most powerful effluvium of tobacco juice, which, mixing with the natural fish-like smell of the natives, rendered my stay among them in such a confined place by no means agreeable. As soon as the singing had ceased, one of the congregation put upon the priest a white surplice of unbleached linen, and over that a robe, on which was coarsely embroidered a large figure of a cross. He then chanted some prayers from a book, which, with more singing, performed sometimes sitting and sometimes standing, lasted about half an hour. Upon the altar lay a large snuffbox, a cup, and plate

\* This is the case with all the natives, who consider it sinful to shorten the hair which God has caused to grow. It is for the same reason, I suppose, that a few, probably of the more orthodox, neglect to shave, and rather put up with the inconvenience of a long beard.

of silver, with a bottle of white wine, and a box of red wafers, not at all differing from such as are used in other countries to seal letters with. Of the first mentioned of these articles the priest made frequent use; with the rest he prepared, during the time of singing, for performing the ceremony of the sacrament. He then ascended the pulpit, and, after repeating a few more prayers, delivered, in rather a quick but impressive manner, a sermon of about half an hour's length, after which the sacrament\* was administered to the congregation, kneeling at the altar; to the men first, and then to the women; the priest putting a wafer and some wine into the mouth of every individual, and repeating at the same time a short prayer. This ceremony terminated the service, except the blessing and salutation, which were bestowed separately upon every one of the congregation, as well male as female. As soon as the whole was concluded, the priest spoke

\* The robes of the priest, and the wafers administered at the receiving of the sacrament, are institutions nearly related to those of the Romish church, and, together with the doctrine of consubstantiation, are maintained by the followers of Luther, whose religion is the established, and, indeed, the only one, of Iceland. The serious attention manifested by the simple natives during their devotions would have done credit to christians of any persuasion, or of manners however refined.

to us, apparently much pleased at seeing strangers in his church; and, on hearing that we were about to set off for Skalholt in our way to Heela, he begged that we would call at his house, which lay in the road, and would permit him to accompany us to that place, which we thankfully promised to do. Between the church of Haukardal and the hill Laugarfell, the morass abounded in the beautiful little *Ramunculus lapponicus* in full flower, while in the drier parts grew *Carex Bellardi*, forming a considerable portion of the herbage. At the northern foot of Laugarfell the minute *Konigia islandica* was in great profusion and perfection, as was also *Eriophorum capitatum* of Schrader, a species lately discovered in Sweden. On my return to the tents, I found both the Geyser and the new Geyser in pretty nearly the same state of fulness as when I left them, and they continued so till about eight o'clock, when there was an extremely fine eruption of the former. The day had been clear but cold, with the thermometer at 41°.

Monday,  
July 17. During the whole of the preceding night, both the Geyser and the new Geyser had remained perfectly quiet, but at four this morning we were gratified in seeing another eruption of the latter, equally magnificent as that of yesterday, though it did not last in all

above an hour, and ceased spouting more abruptly than the former one; in every other respect the appearance was the same, and a second sight of this phænomenon did not at all detract from its impressive splendor. During my stay among the hot springs, besides collecting a number of fine and beautiful specimens of the siliceous incrustation and other mineralogical productions, I filled from the Geyser and the new Geyser half a dozen bottles with water, none of which afterwards effervesced, or was subject to any change, but continued altogether quiet\*, after having been corked, and tied round the mouth with fresh sheepskin.

\* Unlike the water taken from the largest well of the springs near Reykum, in the parish of Huusevig, of which Horrebow relates, page 22, that, "if it is poured into bottles it will still continue to boil up twice or thrice, and at the same time with the water in the well. Thus long will the effervescence continue after the water is taken out of the well; but, this being over, it soon quite subsides and grows cold. If the bottles are corked up the moment they are filled, so soon as the water rises in the well they burst in pieces: this experiment has been proved on many score bottles, to try the effects of the water."—I fear there can be but little more credit attached to this story, than to the one which the same author mentions in a page or two following of his work, but which he has endeavored very candidly and justly to disprove. I allude to the account of a particular species of bird; which is affirmed, say Povelsen and Olafsen, by persons worthy of faith, to be found in the hot springs, and not only to swim upon the surface of, but also

Having now completed a number of sketches of the most interesting features of this remarkable spot, particularly of the two Geysers, and having concluded such notes and observations as I was able to make during my stay there, I found myself obliged to proceed on my journey. As I had learned that it was impossible to reach Hecla without first going to Skalholt, at nine this morning our horses were loaded, and we started for

to dive into, the boiling water. This ornithological rarity is reported to be of the form and size of a duck, of a deep brown color all over the body, except that there is a very conspicuous white ring round the eye. At the approach of a human being it dives and remains under water a long time, and sometimes, continue our Icelandic historians, it never comes up again! Much more curious matter, relative to this creature, may be found in the "*Voyage en Islande*," tom v. p. 88—89, whence I will extract a few lines, in the words of the author, or rather, of the French editor, for the amusement of such as may not possess the work. "Nous n'osons pas démentir tant d'assertions et des attestations de personnes dignes de foi; mais regarder ces oiseaux comme naturels, à combien de contradictions ne nous mettons nous pas en bute? Leur plumage, leur bec et leurs jambes défendus par une peau calleuse, pourraient, si l'on veut, supporter l'eau bouillante en nageant, mais en plongeant, que deviendraient leurs yeux?" After starting other probable objections to the power of diving in the hot waters, possessed by these birds, they conclude their remarks by saying, "nous croyons donc que si ces oiseaux existent, ce doit être des amphibiens; en ce cas, ce serait une grande et intéressante nouveauté pour les naturalistes."



that place. Frequently, as we went along, did I look back to catch a last glimpse of the scene which had afforded me a higher gratification than any thing I ever beheld in my life, and a pleasure which was only diminished by the want of an agreeable companion who could have been a partaker of the enjoyment with me. At about twelve o'clock at noon, we arrived at the house of a kind peasant, whom we had seen at church the day before, and who, knowing we were this morning to pass his cottage, had stationed himself at the door with all his family, in their best dresses, to invite us to enter and take some refreshment. We were shown into the fish-house, where some cushions were placed for our accommodation upon one of the chests that hold their clothes, and some excellent new milk was set before us. From my host I first learned the difficulty, or, as he said, the impracticability of reaching Hecla after the late heavy rains, which would, in all likelihood, preclude any possibility of access to the mountain, or, even if the intermediate obstacles could be removed, and the base of the hill attained, would, most certainly, render climbing impracticable, by reason of the torrents of water rushing down on every side. I did not give much ear to this piece of information, though it was echoed by my Reikevig guide, who now began to show evident symptoms of fear at the

prospect of visiting Hecla, and I determined, at all events, to proceed to Skalholt, as the only place where I should have a chance of obtaining more certain tidings, and guides to accompany me. Near this house I met with an itinerant beggar, of which there are many in Iceland; some of whom adopt this mode of life through idleness, and others through actual inability to do any sort of labor that might support them. The scanty supply of food which they necessarily procure by such means, in a country where even the most industrious are often reduced to a state bordering on starvation, renders these poor wretches real objects of pity and deserving of relief from travellers. I was surprised and mortified to find that this wretched being, who could scarcely crawl along, but who kept company with us some way on one of our relay horses, was not able to eat a morsel of the ship-bread and meat which I gave him; so accustomed had he been to a milk and fish diet, and such a stranger was he to a kind of food essentially different both in flavor and hardness. Our way lay over a great part of the same morass that we had previously crossed in a contrary direction after leaving the river Brueraa, of which stream we again came in sight during the course of this day's journey. We went only a little more circuitous route to see the hot spring of Reykum, which I before mentioned,

as visible to me at a distance. It is, indeed, in its present state, but little worthy of notice to any one, who had witnessed the finer eruptions of the Geysers: its water rises from a rugged aperture not more than two feet in diameter, and is thrown up to the height of six or seven feet in frequently repeated jets; but the spray is cast to a considerable distance, and the eruptions are attended with a loud and rumbling noise, owing to the vast quantity of air which rises at the same time with the water. Some stepping stones in the river lead to a more quiet, but still hot, part of the channel, formed by this spring, and afford a convenient station for the people of the adjacent house, when they cook their provisions or wash their clothes. The inhabitants of this solitary dwelling, which is at a distance of about thirty yards from the spring, assured me, that in the winter, in very clear and frosty weather, the height of the spout is sometimes so great, that, if the wind lies in a favorable direction for the purpose, the heated water and steam are driven into their house, to such a degree as to compel them to seek a temporary residence elsewhere. Inconsiderable, however, as I found this spring of Reykum, it, nevertheless, with its accompaniments, forms an object both beautiful and interesting, amid the dreariness of the surrounding scenery. The grass, growing near its margin,

was longer and more luxuriant than almost any I had seen in the country, and some little rocky islands in the stream, a few yards below the crater, were clothed with a rich bed of *Sphagnum latifolium*, intermixed with *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, and the elegant little *Épilobium alpinum*, then in full blossom. Our course had hitherto been westerly, but we now turned our faces to the south, and looked towards Skalholt, pursuing a tolerably good track, which led us through a less boggy soil to the house of the priest whom we had met at Haukardal, and whom we now found busily engaged in cutting peat\* from a neighbouring morass for his winter fuel, dressed in clothes made of undyed worsted, with a long blue cap upon his head. The church, hard by, however, which contained his wardrobe, afforded this worthy man a suit of black wadmal, in which he attired himself to accompany us to Skalholt. It required some caution to wade through the morass which lay between us and that place, but the immediate entrance to the small cluster of houses that composed this village, which was but a few years ago the residence of

\* The instrument used for this purpose is called *Torf-Liaar*, and is well figured in the Atlas of the "*Voyage en Islande*," tom. viii. f. 3. In shape it is not much unlike an instrument used in this country for cutting hay on the stack, and it is employed in the same way.

the bishops, and the capital of Iceland, was, if possible, still worse, being an extremely wet and boggy soil, interspersed with large pieces of rock. One good turf house, and three or four smaller ones are, besides the church, all that now remains of the town. The adjacent country is by no means pleasant, though grass is tolerably abundant. Immediately surrounding Skalholt we remarked the ground formed into a number of little hills, among which was to be seen here and there the steam arising from some hot springs, and on the opposite shores of the river Hvitaa, which is here of considerable width, is situated a small and rather grassy mountain. In the south-east, over a low range of hills, Hecla reared its head full in our view, covered with snow more than half way down from the summit. We had scarcely pitched our tents, when a handsome young widow, of the name of *Joneson*, richly dressed in the Icelandic fashion, came down and invited us to her house, where she set before us some *Ren*, or rye pottage, in a tureen, and a basin of cream and sugar. It was one of the best Icelandic houses I had ever entered, and was, moreover, in every part remarkable for its extreme cleanliness, in which respect our hostess was no less conspicuous. The rooms were wainscotted and painted with blue and red, and there was a good library, belonging, however, to

the school of Besstedr, the lector of which place, who was brother to Madame Joneson, frequently consulted it. The collection contained many of the classics, but consisted chiefly of Icelandic books and manuscripts, relating to the political and ecclesiastical history of the country, mixed with extracts from such works as are most scarce in the island; among which I noticed several pages copied from the Linnæan *Amœnitates Academicæ*. The farm, belonging to this house, was reckoned a considerable one, and had several buildings appropriated to the use of cattle; but of these, the floors are never covered with any sort of litter, so that the poor animals must have but a sorry bed on the bare rock. From the exceeding filthiness of the place, it seemed as if a dung-hill near the outside of the building, was but seldom replenished. At Skalholt, for the first time, I saw people cutting hay; which they do by means of a scythe with a straight stem, about six feet long, from which project, at right angles, two handles, and, as the ground producing their crop of hay is broken into innumerable hillocks, they find it advantageous to use a blade of not more than two feet in length, with which they perform the operation more in the manner of chopping up the grass than mowing it. In the evening, I met with a truly wretched object, a woman, who was afflicted with the malady called among the

Icelanders *Likthrau*; a species of leprosy, or more properly, according to Von Troil, elephantiasis. Her face was so corroded by the disease, that it presented the most disgusting spectacle I ever saw in my life, and her legs and hands were swollen to an enormous size, these latter being, also, covered with a thick and almost white skin, lying in great wrinkles; yet she still complained of no particular pain, and seemed to walk with tolerable ease. This terrible complaint is well known to be hereditary, but it nevertheless frequently happens, that the children of those affected are, for many generations, quite free from it; an instance of which presented itself in the son of this very woman, who was constantly with her, and yet showed not the least symptom of the malady; but, on the contrary, was one of the most healthy and beautiful children which this country had offered to my view. Neither, indeed, does it appear to me to be infectious, any more than another cutaneous disorder common in the island. It is said to have existed in Iceland ever since the first colonization of the country, and is supposed by many to have been brought over at that time from Norway, where, according to some accounts, it may be traced to a period of high antiquity. Its prevalence and virulence are, probably, in a great degree ascrib-

able to the use of woollen clothes\*, and to the mode of living and habits of the natives; for they take but little exercise, except in the fishing season, when they are continually wet with salt water; and their food is peculiarly calculated to promote scorbutic affections, consisting, at the time of fishing, almost entirely of fresh fish, and at other times of dried fish, generally unaccompanied with vegetables. The inhabitants of the canton of Bardestrand, and those who live near Patrifjord, are said to be in the habit of making use of antiscorbutic vegetables, and to be, consequently, more free from the disease. The plants that I met with about Skalholt, were such as I had elsewhere seen, excepting only one or two grasses, which appeared new to me. *Ranunculus lapponicus* was here very abundant, as was the *Konigia*, and a new species of *Carex*, which I had before met with near Reikevig. On the walls of the houses grew *Draba contorta* and *Tortula subulata*: *Angelica archangelica*, too, was not less plentiful here than in very many other parts of the country; but, although certainly employed as an esculent plant, both fresh,

\* The elephantiasis used to be equally prevalent in Great Britain, previous to the introduction and adoption of linen, instead of the woollen clothes then universally worn.



and after having been kept for some time buried in dry earth, and eaten with fish or butter, yet it is by no means so universally adopted, as is the case among the natives of Lapland\*. This whole day was fine and warm, except that

\* This plant is not only an article of luxury among the Laplanders, but is also used by them as a medicine to cure the spasms, arising from cholic, on both which subjects Linnæus expresses himself so beautifully, in his own peculiar language, in the *Flora Lapponica*, that I make no apology for the length of the following extracts:—"Morbo laborant  
 " sæpius Lappones sylvatici vehementissimo, *Ullem vel Hotme*  
 " dicto, qui species Colicæ est, et ad Colicam spasmodicam  
 " Scheuchzeri proxime accedit; corripiuntur enim interanea  
 " circa regionem umbilicalem spasms dirissimis, qui exten-  
 " duntur ad pubem usque, paroxymis parturientium sane  
 " vehementioribus, ita ut miser Lappo, vermis instar, repat  
 " per terram et urinam sæpe sanguinolentam reddat, licet  
 " calculi nulla omnino sit suspicio apud hanc gentem a cal-  
 " culo et podraga privilegiis naturæ defensam; post aliquot  
 " horarum, quandoque diei, spatium, resolvitur ptyalismo  
 " ingenti per quadrantem horæ durante. Dicunt ipsi, quod  
 " hic morbus in Alpibus eos non adrediatur, sed tantum-  
 " modo dum in sylvis per æstatem degunt, hausta scilicet  
 " ibidem aqua semiputrida, vi radiorum solarium calefacta,  
 " vel forte vermiculis scatente. In hoc morbo variis utuntur  
 " medicamentis, et omnibus quidem fortissimis, ut vehemen-  
 " tem morbum æque vehementi oppugnent alexiterio, quale  
 " est radix Angelicæ, cineres aut oleum Tabaci, Castoreum  
 " liquidum, &c.—Caules Angelicæ hujus sunt Lapponum  
 " deliciae et fructus æstivi, quibus benigna natura eos dona-  
 " vit, dura nimis et inimisericordi existente Pomona, quæ

towards the evening a thick misty rain came on. At nine in the morning, the thermometer was at 60°.

Tuesday,  
July 18.

Coffee was early prepared for us by Madame Joneson this morning, and was succeeded by a glass of rum, previously to our taking our breakfast, which consisted of a large

“Lapponum terram nunquam intravit. Caulis hic, antequam umbella absolute explicata est (nam circa florescentiam lignosus evadit), abscinditur prope terram, folia avelluntur et cortex ad basin caulis cultro, dentibus vel unguibus solvitur, detrahiturque a basi ad apicem, cannabis instar, remanente interiori caulis parte nuda nivea concava et pulposa, quæ instar Rapæ vel Pomi cruda editur et quidem summo cum adpetitu, deficiente gratiori in hisce oris vegetabili. Cum pueri vel puellæ mensc Julio cum rangiferis suis per Alpes errantes in pascuis illosque circa vespertinum vel matutinum tempus ad casam, ut vulgantur, reduces comitantur, detruncatis caulibus totum sinum impletum reportant, quos in familia sua distribuunt, et summa aviditate devorant. Gratus hic Lapponibus cibus nec nobis displicebat, leviter enim amarus et simul aromaticus est, immo et gustui et ventriculo arridebat, adsumptis scilicet tamdiu diluentibus ac emollientibus, cibo non salito, carnibus et piscibus sale nullo maceratis, lacte pingui rangiferino, haustaque pura pura aqua; tum, inquam, optime conveniebat, sed nescio num in hortis nostris magis amara sit et acris, vel an gustus nobis in Lapponia fuerit alius, quam extra eam; extra Lapponiam enim nunquam arrisit, forte fercula persica persicum requirunt adpetitum.” *Fl. Lapp. p. 73.*

dish of boiled salmon, eaten with butter and vinegar, and, after it, a mess of mutton, boiled to rags, mixed with melted butter, and eaten with a sweet sauce of oatmeal and sugar. During this repast, the persons, who were sent for the preceding evening to be my guides to Hecla, arrived with the unwelcome intelligence, that, in the present state of the weather and morasses, they neither could nor would undertake to conduct me to that place. The rivers, too, were so swollen, that those, which at other times were said to be deep, were not now to be crossed without extreme danger. My Reikevig guide, also, declared he would not proceed with me, but await my return at Skalholt. It was in vain contending with the obstinaey and superstitious timidity of these men; for, though, owing to the excessive wetness of the season, there would, undoubtedly, have been some difficulty in wading through the morasses, yet their apprehensions principally arose from the necessity there would have been for them to climb a volcanic mountain, \* which many of them believe to be the abode of the damned, and which all the lower

\* This opinion is well known to have existed of old in heathen superstition; following which the classical poets make Ætna the prison of the giants: Gasper Peucer, as quoted by Arngrimus Jonass states the matter, respecting Hecla, very circumstantially:—*Est in Islandiâ, inquit, mons Hecla, qui*

class of people regard with the greatest horror. Although I had been informed by Icelanders of respectability, who had visited this mountain, that I should see nothing remarkable upon it, but what I had seen elsewhere, still I felt a great mortification at the refusal of the guides to accompany me; because, next to visiting the hot springs, the opportunity of climbing Hecla was my grand object in Iceland. At first, I thought of waiting a few days for better weather, but the continuance of the rain, and the little

“ immanis barathri, vel inferni potiùs profunditate terribilis  
 “ ejulantium miserabili et lamentabili ploratu personat, ut  
 “ voces plorantium circumquaque ad intervallum magni mi-  
 “ liaris audiantur. Circumvolitant hunc corvorum et vul-  
 “ turum nigarrima agmina, quæ nidulari ibidem ab incolis  
 “ existimantur. Vulgus incolarum descensum esse per vora-  
 “ ginem illam ad inferos persuasum habet. Inde cum prælia  
 “ committuntur alibi in quâcunque parte orbis terrarum,  
 “ aut cædes fiunt cruentæ, commoveri horrendos circumcirca  
 “ tumultus, et excitari clamores atque ejulatus ingentes  
 “ longâ experientiâ didicerunt.” *Hackluyt's Collection of*  
 “ *Voyages, edit. 1810, vol. ii. p. 590.*—Not very dissimilar  
 is the vulgar belief among the Japanese, except that they, in-  
 stead of imprisoning their damned in the volcanoes, consign  
 them to the boiling fountains; upon which subject Kæmpfer  
 has the following curious remarks:—“ the monks of this  
 “ place (Simabara) have given peculiar names to each of the  
 “ hot springs arising in the neighbourhood, borrowed from  
 “ their quality, from the nature of the froth at top, or the  
 “ sediment at bottom, and from the noise they make as

prospect there was of its clearing up induced me, before the evening, to determine upon departing for Reikevig on the morrow; especially as the fortnight, the time allowed me previous to the sailing of the Margaret and Anne, was within three or four days of its expiration. However, I left it with somewhat the less regret, from hoping it would be in my power to revisit the country at a future time, under more fortunate auspices. I have before mentioned that the bishop's see had been removed from Skalholt to Reikevig: at the same time the cathedral was pulled down, and a new and very neat wooden church erected in its stead. Our fair hostess accompanied us to this building, which, however,

“ they come out of the ground; and they have assigned them  
“ as purgatories for several sorts of tradesmen and handi-  
“ craftsmen, whose professions seem to bear some relation to  
“ any of the qualities above mentioned. Thus, for instance,  
“ they lodge the deceitful beer and sackibrewers at the bot-  
“ tom of a deep muddy spring; the cooks and pastrycooks  
“ in another, which is remarkable for its white froth;  
“ wranglers and quarrelsome persons in another, which  
“ rushes out of the ground with a frightful murmuring  
“ noise; and so on. After this manner, imposing upon the  
“ blind and superstitious vulgar, they squeeze money out of  
“ them, making them believe that by their prayers and inter-  
“ cession they may be delivered from their places of torment  
“ after death.”—*History of Japan*, vol. i. p. 106.

contains none of those reliques of antiquity\* that the cathedral was said formerly to possess, unless, indeed, an altar-cloth, and robes and mitre richly worked in gold, but now very much tarnished,

\* These were, at the time when Olafsen and Povelsen wrote their history, (about 1760) two ancient altar-pieces, and a bishop's staff (*bâton d'Evêque*) of which the upper part was brass, richly gilt. There was, likewise, to be seen the coffin of *St. Thorlak*, who was made bishop of Iceland in 1178, and died in 1193. His *Saga* is said to be full of miracles, and he found worshippers, according to Von Troil, not only in Iceland, but also in Denmark, Norway, England, Scotland, the Orkney Isles, and Greenland, and even had a church dedicated to him at Constantinople. On the thirteenth of August, 1198, his bones were dug up and deposited in a coffin plated with gold and silver, and it was resolved that this day, as well as that on which he was elected bishop, and that on which he died, should be annually celebrated. *Gysserus Einarsson*, who was made bishop in 1540, and was a violent enemy to popery, caused the ornaments to be broken off, and the coffin covered with copper gilt: in such state it was exhibited in the cathedral at the time Sir Joseph Banks was there, (1772). The relique that was shown for a portion of his skull was ascertained to be only a piece of a large cocoa-nut-shell!—While preparing this part of my little work for the press, I have been enabled, through the kindness of Sir Joseph Banks, to have before me, amongst many other drawings made by his artists, two, which represent views in different directions of the cathedral of Skalholt; from these it appears to have been built entirely of boards, in the form of a cross, and, but for a little wooden spire, would have been so like an English barn, that I do not know any thing with

may be considered as such; neither will my memory, at this time, enable me to recollect what I was informed concerning them. The pulpit in the church is extremely well made, and some small, but not ill executed, figures, are painted upon it. A very tolerable Danish painting, also, of the late bishop of the place, Finnur Joneson, who had married a sister of Madame Joneson, is hanging up against the wall; and, underneath the floor, which affords a protection to it from injury, and of which a part lifts up, like a trap-door, to exhibit it, is laid a handsome tablet, richly inscribed in gilt letters, in commemoration of his virtues and learning. The cathedral of Skalholt is reported to have been a noble structure, and perhaps really was so for Iceland, but the foundation, which still remains, and may be traced

which I can so well compare it. The numerous small buildings that were then situated close by the cathedral, and formed the town, were occupied, as Sir Joseph Banks informs me, entirely by the bishop's dependants and twenty-eight boys who were at the school, and were maintained at the expence of the King of Denmark. Among the whole cluster, I can now only recognise the house at present occupied by Madame Joneson; so much is the place altered within these forty years.—Sir Joseph also possesses the drawing of an ancient weapon, seven feet long, which he saw in the cathedral of Skalholt, in shape much like a halberd, and said to have belonged to a famous hero named *Skarphedin*, who died in the year 1004.

extending some paces beyond that of the present building, does not appear to admit of its having been what we should call a large or even a moderately sized edifice. A bishopric was established in Iceland at this place in the year 1057, eighty-three years after the introduction of christianity, till which period the natives were worshippers of idols. The bishop that first filled the see was *Isleif*, the son of one *Gissur*, who, together with a person of the name of *Hjalte-Skeggesen*\*, preached the doctrine of christianity with so much

\* Of these persons Povelsen and Olafsen relate the following anecdote from the *Khristni-Saga*.—"It was *Oluf-Tryggveson*, king of Norway, who, after having been at much pains to induce the Icelanders to embrace the new religion, sent them these two men to complete the work; but their proceedings were near failing of the purposed end; for the volcanic eruption then took place which produced the lava called *Thurraarrhraun*, and just at the time when they were preaching to their countrymen, some messengers arrived with the grievous intelligence †: whence the pagans were led to believe that they saw in this eruption a proof of the anger of their gods, at the blasphemous discourses of the partisans of christianity. It was not a little fortunate then, that at a moment, as critical as it was decisive, one of the pagans named *Snorro-Godi*, a priest,

† "Ecce autem vir cursu anhelus: igneam subterraneum in *Olfus* erupisse, et jam villæ *Thoroddi* pontificis imminere nunciat. Tum ethnici: non mirum, si ejusmodi sermonibus excanduerant Dii, vociferantur. At *Snorrius* pontifex: 'quid igitur excanduerant Dii, cum scopulus cui nunc insistimus conflagravit?' " *Khristni-Saga*, cap. ii. p. 88-90.



success, that, at a general convocation held at the *Althing* in the year 1000, it was agreed, that idolatry should be abolished, and the religion of our Saviour adopted in its stead. The many kind attentions, and the truly hospitable entertainment which I had received from Madame Joneson, made me feel anxious to offer her some little acknowledgment, and I was vexed, on examination of my stock, to find it so much reduced as to render it not a little difficult what to fix upon that might be acceptable. My tea and coffee were already expended, nor could I think of any thing to offer her but a shirt, a few cravats, and a pocket handkerchief. I felt how unworthy such trifles were of her acceptance, in return for so much hospitality, and I was therefore the more pleased to find them received with evident marks of gratification. Her happiness was manifested by a friendly salute, and by the eagerness with which she unfolded and surveyed the different articles. She was greatly puzzled, however, to ascertain

“ (who, perhaps, had conceived a good opinion of the new  
“ faith) succeeded in calming them, by putting to them the  
“ following question, no less laconic than ingenious: ‘ um  
“ hvat reiddnust gudin tha er her brann raunit er na floen-  
“ dum ver a?’ *What, then, was the cause of the anger of the*  
“ *gods, when they burned the rock on which we are now stand-*  
“ *ing?* for all who were present knew that this had happened  
“ before the country was inhabited.”

the use of the frill of the shirt, and led me into no less perplexity by consulting me on the best mode of converting it into an article of apparel that might be serviceable to herself. I was much struck with this incident, as singularly characteristic of the simplicity of manners even of the higher classes of the inhabitants, and trifling as it may appear in itself, I therefore recorded the anecdote in my journal. A rainy afternoon made me come to a determination to turn our backs at once on Heela\*, and return without delay to Reikevig, in pursuance of which, about six o'clock in the evening, having struck our tents and procured guides, we took leave of our kind hostess at Skalholt, and set out upon our journey, proposing to travel on, keeping along the south side of Apnavatn, till we reached Thingevall. The first part of our route was truly execrable, lying over rocky hills, whose surfaces were every where strewed with loose angular pieces of stone. A steep descent brought us to the banks of a deep and wide river, where we found a miserable conveyance for ourselves and luggage in a boat which had been formed out of half a larger one, and was so leaky as to require continual baling till we reached the opposite shore. Our horses were obliged to swim, which they did with great dexterity, keeping

\* See Appendix C. for an account of this mountain.

only their noses above the water, though carried by the rapidity of the current a considerable way down the stream. An extensive rocky moor succeeded, interspersed with disagreeable bog and numerous rivulets, and presenting nothing interesting to the traveller, till, about ten o'clock, our wearied eyes were relieved by the view of Apn-vatn, and of a lofty column of steam from the boiling fountain of Reykum. As we ascended the hills on the west side of Apn-vatn, the rain changed to a thick mist, accompanied by a degree of cold, which I should scarcely have thought could have been experienced south of the arctic circle in the month of July. A flannel under-dress and two great coats, in addition to my usual quantity of apparel, were not sufficient to keep me warm, and I frequently found it necessary to alight from my horse, preferring the fatigue of walking under such a weight of clothes, to the excessive cold experienced during more moderate exercise. About midnight it became apparent from the broken surface of the ground, and the holes which here and there presented themselves, that we were approaching a continuation of the extraordinary country that extends in an easterly direction from Thingevalle, while the duskiness that pervades the atmosphere in the night at this season of the year, together with the fog which now confined our view to within a few yards

around us, but which at the same time increased the apparent size of the objects, added to the gloominess and horror of the scenery. We travelled continually among the great masses of rock that lie strewn in the wildest possible disorder about the chasms which they once served to fill up, and frequently as we went on, were we deceived by the imaginary sight of houses in this solitude, which, on a nearer approach, proved to be only huge rocks, torn from their natural situation by the shock of an earthquake, or some terrible convulsion of nature. To meet with travellers in a country like this, where the track, whenever it appears, affords room for only one horse, is indeed unpleasant, and seldom happens except at this season, when the natives are returning from the mart at Reikevig, or from some fishing station on the coast, bringing with them their supply of fish, and of other articles necessary for their subsistence or convenience. Such a party, loaded with planks for building, we here heard at some distance before us, urging their fatigued beasts to quicken their pace, and their toil was increased by their being obliged to pass us in a place where the excessive inequality of the surface would effectually have stopped the progress of any but Icelandic horses. Soon after this we approached a rocky mountain, at the south-east end of Thingvalle-vatn, and, shortly after, came to

the margin of the lake itself, where, by keeping as near the shore, as the nature of the country would allow, we escaped the worst part of the chasms, which we had some days before experienced so much difficulty in crossing, and we enjoyed, as the mist dispersed, about two or three o'clock on Wednesday, July 19. the following morning, a magnificent view of Thingevalle-vatn, with its two black islands; whilst we ourselves were riding along the banks amidst a small copse of diminutive birch, intermixed with alpine willows, and a considerable quantity of *Geranium sylvaticum*. For a few minutes we stopped to bait our horses in this verdant spot, and then, continuing our way over a track of country that I have already attempted to describe on my road to the Geysers, at about five o'clock we came to the house of the priest of Thingevalle. Unwilling, however, to disturb the family at so early an hour, we crossed the Oxeraa, and once more entered my favorite spot of Almannegiaa; here, proposing, if the weather would allow of it, to spend two or three days. No sooner was our little encampment completed, than I clambered over some loose pieces of rock, which, crossing the chasm, formed a slight barrier; and hence proceeded about a mile up the southern part, where I found that, on the west, the perpendicular face of the rock increased in height as I went along, while

the opposite or eastern side was in many places not a quarter so high. Indeed, in every part of this chasm that I examined, the western side was the highest and quite perpendicular, the opposite one very considerably less in its elevation and leaning outward, so that a section of the chasm would represent the annexed figure.



Among the rocks grew, rather plentifully, *Polypodium hyperboreum*, and a species which appeared to me new, but of which I do not sufficiently recollect the characters to attempt a description of it. On climbing the eastern cliff, and descending on the grassy surface to the margin of the lake, I found, but sparingly, *Isoetes lacustris*. As nothing more remarkable invited me to proceed in a southern direction in the

chasm, I turned to the north, and retraced my steps; when, on looking back, after walking a few hundred paces from my tent, I was amazingly struck with the terrific appearance of the entrance of the pass of Almannegiaa, the descent through which I have previously mentioned. Huge masses on the summit of the precipice scarcely appeared to be attached to the edge on which they stood, so that you would think the slightest breath of wind would hurl them into the plain below; while all around, in addition to these, the great fissures, the rocks projecting from the sides, and the scantiness of vegetation formed a scene truly grand, but at the same time divested of every thing that might be called beautiful. Farther to the northward I met with several plants which I had not before seen in the country: among them were *Saxifraga cernua*, a new *Marchantia* in fructification, two or three *Hypna* with which I was unacquainted, and *Fontinalis squamosa*, also, full of capsules. The noise which I now heard of the falling of water convinced me I was arrived in the neighbourhood of a cascade, of a portion of which I had previously caught a distant glimpse, sufficient to awaken my curiosity and make me feel anxious to approach it; to effect which it was necessary to cross one or two rapid torrents, when, turning round a projecting angle of the cliff, I had suddenly a full view of a very magnificent cataract,

dashing its foaming waters with tremendous roar over the highest part of the precipice, whence they fell in an unbroken sheet upon the rocky base, composed of immense masses of most uncertain sizes, all rounded and rendered perfectly smooth by the force of the current, which, after crossing the chasm in an obliquely winding course, makes its boisterous way through a most romantic opening in the eastern cliff, and then soon unites with the more quiet stream of the Oxeraa\*, at about half a mile from its confluence with Thingevallevatn. At the distance of a few hundred yards from this cascade lay some pieces of rock, which had fallen from the cliff, in such a manner as to enable me, though not without considerable diffi-

\* I have, on my first visit to Thingevalle, mentioned that it was the spot where the court of justice was held, and that near it was the place of execution for criminals. Since that was written, I am informed by Sir Joseph Banks of a peculiar punishment formerly inflicted upon women for the murder of their illegitimate children. "They are drowned," says Sir Joseph in his journal, "in a pool in the river, under a cascade; examples of which are very scarce, but one happened in the youth of the clergyman of Thingevalle, who was (in 1772) fifty years of age. The criminal was tied up in a sack which came over her head, and reached as far down as the middle of her legs; a rope was then fastened to her, and held by an executioner on the opposite bank: after standing an hour in that situation she was pulled into the water, and kept under with a pole till she was dead."

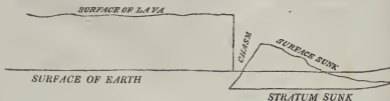


culty, to reach the summit, where I had an opportunity of seeing the stream which supplies the waterfall, as it rolled rapidly, a deep and wide mountain-torrent, over a nearly level bed of unproductive rock. The upper surface of the cliff, as far as I could see, both on this and the opposite side\*, may clearly be perceived to have been in a melted and flowing state from its curled appearance, and in the face of the precipices the different currents of lava are very visible, of various thicknesses, divided here and there by perpendicular fissures. A heavy rain now put a stop to my botanizing, which was, indeed, become an useless occupation, as all the specimens that I

\* From the summit of the eastern cliff there is, as I have before remarked, a sudden declivity into the great plain in which Thingvalle-vatn is situated, and not only the surface of this is curled, and bears the most striking marks of volcanic origin, but, as Sir Joseph Banks was informed, the bottom of the lake, also, exhibits the same appearance.—The following remarks and sketch, from Sir Joseph Banks' journal, will assist in rendering more intelligible my description of Almannegiaa. "The highest cliff was ascertained by measurement to be one hundred and seven feet six inches, the opposite one thirty-six feet five inches, and the width of the chasm one hundred and five feet. The face of the precipice presented to our view, currents of lava, varying in thickness from ten inches to as many feet, each of them being distinguished from the other by its curled and porous surface. Some of them form arches, having run in

might have gathered, would necessarily have been destroyed, and I therefore returned to the tents, whence Jacob and myself took our horses to call upon the priest of Thingvalle, for the purpose of making some acknowledgment for the kindness he had shown us. Near his house I was much struck with the venerable figure of a native, who was employed in cutting the twigs of birch into small pieces, for burning into charcoal. His long beard and the singularity of his dress, gave him very much the appearance of the Iclander represented in the ancient costume of his country, in the third plate of the Atlas of the *Voyage en Islande*. His jacket was ornamented with a coarse sort of lacing, and his little hemispherical cap, fitting close to his head, was precisely the same as

“ hills: all of them, probably, proceeded from one eruption, though in different streams. The lesser height and oblique position of the eastern mass, and, indeed, the chasm itself, it may be conjectured, were caused by some under stratum having given way, and the consequent sinking of all above it, as the figure will better explain.”



the one there figured. This old Ieelander served likewise as fisherman to the priest, and had just drawn from the lake a considerable quantity of the Thingevall trout, which are, at this season, to be taken in the greatest abundance; yet, it nevertheless does not appear that any means are employed for the purpose of curing them for a winter stock, in which state they might afford nourishment to a number of poor people who reside in the neighbourhood. Indeed, I do not recollect seeing throughout this extensive piece of water more than two or three boats engaged in the fishery, and the peasants who lived only a few miles distant from Thingevall-vatn seemed scarcely to know of the existence of such a fish as the forelle. A vast heap of *Lycopodium alpinum* lying near the priest's house drew my attention, and, on inquiry, I found that it was used for the purpose of giving their wadmal a yellow dye\*, which is done by merely boiling the cloth in water, with a quantity of the *Lycopodium*, and

\* For giving the same tint to woollen cloths, according to Povelsen and Olafsen, the inhabitants of Borgafjord and its neighbourhood make use of the *Lichen islandicus* in the following manner: they strew some of it upon the surface of the stuff intended to be dyed, to which it readily attaches itself, and they then roll the cloth upon a cylindrical piece of wood and boil it for six hours in an iron pot; which done, they take it out of the water, unroll it, and lay it in the air to dry:—the color thus acquired is a

some leaves of *Vaccinium uliginosum*. The color, imparted by this process, to judge from some cloth shown me, was a pale and pleasant, though not a brilliant, yellow.

Thursday,  
July 20.

Owing to the continuance of the rain, it appeared to be useless to remain longer in Almannegiaa; therefore, after spending

dark, but excellent, yellow. A deep brown dye is produced by boiling the cloth in water with a quantity of the leaves of the *Sortilyng* or *Arbutus Uva Ursi*, in the same way as practised with the *Lichen islandicus*; and in case it is afterwards desirable to make this cloth black, some fat earth of that color, called *Sorta*, is collected, put into a vessel of water, and stirred about briskly, till it has acquired the consistency of paste; in which state, if suffered to stand a little time, the lower part stiffens into a thicker substance, and a liquid floats on the surface, which being poured off, what remains is daubed over the cloth whilst the leaves of the *Sortilyng* are still attached to it: the cloth then, having been rolled upon a cylinder, is boiled, together with the paste, for some hours; taken from the vessel; suffered to cool and washed in fresh and cold water. Dr. Westring, in his admirable work upon the dyeing qualities of various lichens, has given a figure of *Lichen islandicus* and specimens of four colors that may be extracted from it, by different processes; a pale bright yellow, a rusty red, and two modifications of brown.—I am happy in the opportunity of recommending to the attention of my countrymen this beautiful and elaborate performance, a translation of which (from the Swedish language in which it is written) might possibly be of considerable service to some of our British manufacturers.

the day in making such sketches of the most remarkable of the scenery as the weather would allow, I resolved to leave my guide, with orders to follow me as soon as the tents and luggage were sufficiently dry, and to depart myself with Jacob, at six o'clock in the evening, for Reikevig. The margin of Thingevall-vatn fortunately served us as a guide to Heiderbag; for, otherwise, the excessive fogginess of the atmosphere would have prevented us from reaching the house of the pastor Egcløsen, where it was necessary for us to procure a conductor for the following part of our journey. Indeed, as often as our leaving the shore and losing the track induced the necessity of Jacob's being separated from me in order to recover it, it was only by shouting to, and answering one another, that we were enabled again to join company. At nine o'clock we arrived at the door of the worthy priest, whom we found seated in the fish-house, nursing his infant child, and at the same time employed in preparing his discourse for the following sabbath. A man, who was engaged stowing some fish and wool, in the same building, offered to accompany us on our way, and the priest immediately sent him in search of his horse, which was grazing on the morass. The rain and fog had by this time so increased, that we gladly took shelter and such refreshment as our host

was able to afford. After three hours passed in anxious expectation of the return of our guide, we at length began to fear lest some accident should have befallen him; for the animal could not have strayed far enough to detain him any great length of time; not only because the spot that would afford the poor beast nutriment was very circumscribed, but because it was fastened by its fore legs. The priest, however, did not partake our fears, but was more inclined to think that the intensity of the mist had prevented the man from discovering the horse, a circumstance far from impossible, although he might be within a few yards of him; and, to convince us of the probability of his conjecture, he told us an anecdote of a person, whom he knew, being, during the continuance of an equally thick, but more durable, fog, for two whole days engaged in a similar search. The conjectures of the priest respecting our guide were indeed right, for at twelve o'clock he returned with tidings that he had not been able to find the animal, and he therefore desired to conduct us on foot beyond the most intricate part of our route, an offer that we gladly availed ourselves of, as to have gone to the nearest neighbour to borrow a horse would have occupied full three hours. A glass of rum, with the flavor of which our guide seemed scarcely to be acquainted, and of the strength

of which he had no idea till he had drunk it, had such an effect upon him, that he did not seem to need a horse to carry him faster, and he continued running for more than an hour without once stopping; except, indeed, when he was so unlucky as to strike his foot against a stone, and fall, in consequence of it, among the rocks. This circumstance frequently happened, and at every time he looked back and laughed, as if sensible of the cause of his stumbling; always telling us he was not hurt, and proceeding immediately with his accustomed speed. He several times forded rivers whose waters reached as high as his waist, and tried, by wading in different parts of the stream, to find the shallowest and least rocky places, where we might pass with the greatest ease. When we were crossing a morass, he went before us with a long pole and pointed out the unsound spots, which, however, without this precaution, the sagacity of Icelandic horses is almost sure of being able to discover; for, if they perceive, by a difference in the vegetation, a part which appears insecure to tread upon, they immediately put their noses to the ground, and, as if by the faculty of smell, seem to be sensible of the propriety or impropriety of proceeding. This instinct, indeed, is not peculiar to the horses of this country, for the shelties of Scotland appear

to possess it nearly in as great a degree. After conducting us into a beaten track, at about three o'clock in the morning of the following day, our attentive guide left us, and with equal haste set off on his return to Heiderbag, in order that he might reach the place in time to go through his whole day's work of hay-cutting. The mist now began to clear away, and I saw at but little distance before me the chasm at the foot of the mountain, Skoul-a-fiel. I alighted from my horse and walked along a steep descent to the edge of the precipice, whence I looked directly down into an opening of the ground, which, at the same time that it appeared nearly as deep and quite as terrific as that of Almanegiaa, was more remarkable, from having in the centre, between the two precipices, a perpendicular column of rock, in height nearly equalling the place on which I stood, and surrounded, excepting a small portion, by the waters of a torrent that flowed with great rapidity along the bottom of the chasm. There was no way by which I could arrive at the stream without going a very circuitous route, and I therefore thought it better to hasten to Reikevig, and, if the time allowed me before the sailing of the vessel would permit, to return and bestow a day upon the investigation of this place and the neighbouring



mountain. On our nearer approach to Reikevig, we saw numerous parties of natives with their tents and horses, giving an appearance of life and population, which alone could make the rest of our journey in the least interesting. Wheresoever a green spot presented itself, tents were pitched, and the horses suffered to graze, whilst the owners were reposing themselves after a journey which had been made during the night, according to the general custom of the Icelanders at this season of the year. These people were on their road either to or from Reikevig; in the former case conveying the produce of their flocks or wild animals; in the latter, Danish articles of manufacture, or, as is most usual, fish for their winter's supply. Among those returning from the mart, I recognized my young friend, the son of the priest of Thingevalle, who had been disposing of a cargo of butter and wool for his father. In passing by such a collection of Icelanders, amounting to many hundreds, (a number which, for the space of a month in July or August, is almost always to be seen in the immediate vicinity of Reikevig,) I could not help reflecting on the singular situation of our little party of Englishmen, not exceeding in all five or six and twenty persons, removed from all possibility of succour, enemies to the sovereign of the country, and having, moreover, made the governor prisoner and

claimed possession of the whole island, yet, nevertheless, living unmolested by a single native, and undisturbed, except by a few, who seemed to have interested motives in falsely representing the people as ripe for insurrection. Our state of security was undoubtedly owing to the willingness of the natives to shake off the yoke of the Danes, and to the full persuasion they entertained that it was the British alone who could supply them, in times of scarcity, with necessary subsistence, and keep them from a state of actual starvation; in proof of which, both during the present and my succeeding excursions, the satisfaction of the inhabitants, at the prospect of being placed under English government, was repeatedly expressed to me, and that, not only by the poorer class of people, but also by those high in power in the island. On my arrival at Reikevig, between six and seven o'clock in the morning, so far from finding the Margareet and Anne in readiness to sail, it was even doubtful whether she would be so during the course of the next week, which was to me, and perhaps to me only, a fortunate circumstance, as it afforded an opportunity of seeing more of the country than I had lately expected it would be in my power to do. I determined therefore, following as well the recommendation of Stiftsamptman Stephensen as my own inclination, to avail myself of the kind invitation given me by his son,

the Tatsroed and chief justice of the island, and visit the district of Borgafjord where he resides; but, as the care of my herbarium and the arranging of the other collections made in my late-excursion, required two or three days, I was unable to set out before the following Friday, when the Stiftsamptman again insisted upon supplying me with horses, tents, &c. Independently, indeed, of the preservation of my collections, I had also other motives for thus delaying my journey to Borgafjord: one of them was my wish to be present at the great salmon-fishery, at a river not far from this town, which was to take place on the twenty-fifth of this month, and another was my desire to visit the sulphur-springs of *Kreisevig*, which Count Tranp had obligingly recommended to my attention, as being amongst the greatest curiosities that the island affords.

Sunday,  
July 23. We had been now so long in anxious expectation of the arrival of the *Flora*, another merchant-vessel belonging to Mr. Phelps, which was to sail almost immediately after us, that we began to fear lest some accident should have happened to her on the passage; and I felt myself particularly uneasy on the subject, as I had considerable reason to expect by her my friend, Mr. Borrer, in whose company I had found such pleasure the preceding year,

when he participated with me in the fatigues and enjoyments of a tour through the north of Scotland and the Orkney Islands, that I was most anxious here to possess his society. We were therefore not a little gratified on having word brought to us at two o'clock this morning, that a vessel was beating into the bay, and that she was, in all probability, the *Flora*. On a nearer approach we were certain of her being so; but it was not till four in the afternoon, when she came to an anchor, that I had the disappointment to learn from the captain that there was neither Mr. Borrer on board, nor a single letter from any of my friends in England. The vexation of such a disappointment could not but be severely felt; but the additional regret caused by the idea of my being forgotten by those, whose memory I cherished most fondly when separated from them by such a distance, was done away when I found that the *Flora* had left Gravesend only two days after us, and had been detained ever since on her passage, which occupied no less than seven weeks.

Tuesday,  
July 25. This, which was the day\* appointed for the catching of the salmon in the Lax Elbe, at a place near its confluence with the

\* It is to be observed, that for a few days previous to this, nets had been placed at the mouth of the river, to prevent the

sea, is held as a sort of annual festival by the natives for many miles around, and afforded a scene of gaiety and pleasure that I should scarcely have expected to witness in Iceland. At ten o'clock in the morning I repaired to the spot amidst hundreds of natives, some on foot, but more on horseback, all drest in their best apparel, and presenting a truly interesting spectacle, to which the unusual fineness of the day contributed not a little. On every side were to be seen the happy countenances of the natives, and there was visible among the different ranks of people a degree of familiarity that is, perhaps, scarcely to be met with in any other country; for men, women, and children, of all ages and conditions, the bishop, the tatsroed, the landfogued, amptman and sysselman, the midwife, the washerwoman, and the tailor, were all conversing with each other without restraint, and on terms of perfect equality. The individuals just enumerated, male as well as female, were clad after the Danish fashion; but among the rest, especially of the females, the distinction of dress was more

fish escaping to the sea on their return from spawning; besides which, early in the morning of the same day, for some considerable way up the river, other nets were extended across from bank to bank, at intervals of a few yards, with the view of enabling those who are engaged in catching the fish to do it with the greater facility.

striking; for whilst some, in their less ornamented costume, were riding astride upon their horses, those of higher rank, with finer clothes, were sitting in easy and richly-carved side-saddles, holding in their right hand the rein, and in their left, a whip of black leather, prettily variegated with the white quills of the feathers of the eider-duck, which they contrive to mix in the braids. Seated upon a heap of stones, in one place, was to be seen a chearful groupe of Icelanders with a bowl of skur or of butter before them, which they were eating as a relish to the dry but uncooked heads of the cod-fish; and, at a little distance from them, a party of Danes had laid aside their favorite pipe, and were regaling themselves with slices of smoked salmon, placed between rye-bread and butter, which they every now and then washed down with the contents of their rum-bottle. On arriving at the banks of the river, about six miles from Reikevig, I remarked a numerous party of men and women wading in the water up to their knees or even waists, and catching with their hands the fish which swarmed in the deeper parts of the stream. As soon as caught, they threw them on shore, where another party was employed in counting them and flinging them into wooden panniers, in which they were to be conveyed upon the horses to Reikevig, and there salted. Mr. Savigniac, who displayed

considerable dexterity in seizing the salmon in the river, afforded infinite amusement to his female assistants, who took great pleasure in throwing the largest of the fish at him, and, as often as they could strike him on the head or face or on any part where the blow would be least acceptable, united in a loud peal of laughter. Far from being ashamed of this little trick, they would wade up to him, assure him of his dexterity as a fisherman, and, with great familiarity, ask him to shake hands with them. Before three o'clock in the afternoon two thousand two hundred salmon\* were caught in the Lax Elbe, all of which Mr. Phelps bought of the proprietor of the place, and cured two-thirds of them for exportation†; the remaining third being allotted to those who

\* To catch such a quantity as this would be considered as extraordinary, or even wonderful in any other country. Pennant, speaking of the Scotch fisheries, says, "The miraculous draught at Thurso is still talked of, not less than two thousand five hundred being taken at one tide within the memory of man." *Tour in Scotland*, vol. i. p. 202.

† In this, as in many other points of view, it is unfortunate for the Icelanders that Mr. Phelps' stay was so short among them; for in former years they have had no means of disposing of the salmon they caught; and, as the exporting of them on their own account has been wholly out of their power, all beyond what might be requisite for their own consumption has been necessarily wasted.

gave their assistance at the fishery, as a compensation for their trouble.

Wednesday,  
July 26.

At six o'clock this morning Mr. Phelps and I set off for the purpose of visiting the sulphur-springs of Kreisevig, which are about a day's journey distant from Reikevig. The first nine miles brought us to the house of Mr. Sivertsen, at Havnfiord, at which place, the great bed of lava, called *Gardhraun*, forms a range of cliffs to the sea, close by whose margin masses of lava of vast size are dispersed in such a manner, that a stranger would conceive the passing of them to be scarcely practicable. In other places we were obliged to follow a very devious course, to avoid great holes, of the shape of inverted cones, which had every appearance of being the craters of volcanoes, that had been long since extinguished. Havnfiord contains only two or three merchants' houses and their factories, together with a few peasants' huts scattered about on the small patches of grass that are here and there met with among the *Hraun*, from which, indeed, they are not easily distinguishable; the smaller pieces of that substance composing the walls of the cottages, whose turf roofs only differ from the grassy patches in their superior verdure. A considerable quantity of fish is cured at this place, both



for home consumption and exportation. Among the species used for the former purpose is the *Cyclopterus Lumpus*, to the different sexes of which the natives have given different names; calling the male, *Randmage*, a term applicable to it alone, from the circumstance of its having a red belly, and the female, *Grasleppa*, from being grey beneath. This is one of the most hideous of all fishes in appearance, but is highly curious from the nearly circular fleshy appendage on the underside, with which, while alive, it adheres so firmly to whatever it fixes upon, that a pail of water may be lifted up by means of it. The bony ridge on the back of this animal, in all the specimens that came under my observation, was much more elevated than the figures and descriptions both in Pennant and Shaw had led me to suppose I should find it, and added considerably to the general deformity of the creature. To render it an article of food among the Icelanders, nothing more is requisite than to cut away the muscular part of suction, together with a considerable portion of the skin of the belly, and then remove the entrails, which form the greatest part of the bulk of the fish; after which, the small portion of flesh that remains upon the bones is hung up to dry upon the walls of the houses. Bad weather, as in other journies, also accompanied me on this, and the rain, after we had

eaten our breakfast, poured down with such violence, and continued so long, that we thought it most prudent to accept Mr. Sivertsen's invitation, and remain at Havnfjord the whole night. Indeed, we were far from considering our time mis-employed here, since our host was a gentleman who had twice visited England, and who, from his knowledge of the language of our country and his excellent abilities, was both able and willing to give us information on various subjects relative to his own island.

Thursday,  
July 27.

At an early hour this morning the rain had not in the least abated, neither was there any prospect of its soon doing so, and we therefore determined to disregard it and proceed to Kreisevig immediately; in pursuance of which, having procured a guide and being furnished with provisions, at six o'clock we set off, in company with Mr. Sivertsen's son, a young man who could converse with us a little in English, and who kindly offered to attend us. We rode round the head of the bay of Havnfjord, and continued our route over a very uninteresting and desert country for about six or eight miles, when we came to a part of the great bed of lava which bears the name of *Hvassa-hraun*, where, on account of the unevenness of the surface, we were compelled to travel a slow foot-pace, and, indeed,

to continue doing so almost the whole of the rest of the way. We approached tolerably near the western extremity of the Helgafel\* range of mountains, which, though of no great elevation, had considerable masses of snow lying on various

\* Helgafel is remarkable for having had in its neighbourhood not only the seat of the court of justice, but also, in early times, a temple of idols at the foot of the mountains. " C'est entre Helgafel et Torsnaes qu'un des premiers habitans du pays vint établir sa demeure. Il était Norvègien, et s'appelait *Thorolf-Monstraëskaeg*. On avait construit un baillage et un temple d'idoles au pied de la montagne, vers l'ouest, près d'un golfe; ce qui fait que l'on appelle *Hofstade*, la place et le bâtiment qui existent encore aujourd'hui. On y voit des vestiges des champs et pâturages qu'il y avait alors. *Thorolf* et ses descendans croyaient qu'après leur mort ils viendraient habiter Helgafel; c'est aussi d'après cette idée qu'ils laissaient jouir leurs bestiaux d'une pleine liberté. Il était défendu de les faire aller de force, il fallait attendre au contraire qu'il leur plût d'avancer à leur gré: sur-tout il n'était pas permis de les frapper. Ils regardaient la montagne dont nous venons de parler comme un lieu saint; personne ne s'enhardissait à le regarder qu'il ne se fut lavé la face et les mains. Il en était de même du bâtiment où se tenait le baillage; ce lieu était comme sacré. C'est ce qui lui a fait donner le nom de *Dritskiaer*, qu'il a conservé jusqu'à ce jour. Cette soumission trop rigoureuse en elle-même, ne pouvait pas exister long-temps. Les esprits se révolterent, et il survint une petite guerre civile, qui fit que l'on transportât le baillage plus avant dans les montagnes, à peu de distance d'Helgafel. Cet endroit est situé nord-est, et se nomme encore *Thingevalle*." *Voyage en Islande*, tom. ii. p. 293.

parts of their bleak and barren sides. Leaving these on our left, we passed between several small insulated mountains, sometimes entering vallies abundantly clothed with *Trichostomum canescens*, and so surrounded on all sides by hills of black and porous lava, that for a short space of time it seemed as if our farther progress would be absolutely prevented. In these situations the elegant *Geum rivale* flourished as in more temperate climates, and *Orchis mascula*, which was equally abundant, produced both reddish and white blossoms. The only birds that we met with were numerous coveys of Ptarmigans, which ran about within a few yards of us without showing any symptoms of fear. The nearer we approached to Kreisevig the more broken and uneven the country became, and we were soon within view of some fine black and excessively rugged mountains, which lay between us and the object of our journey, and which we had consequently to cross. At the foot of these we rested our horses for a few minutes, to prepare them for the ascent, which, though steep, was for some way not difficult. At length we approached the brink of a vast hollow, in shape like an inverted cone, the regularly sloping sides of which were composed of loose pieces of rock, while the bottom alone produced a little grass and moss. Into this cavity, which has an Icelandic name signifying *kettle*,

it was necessary for us to descend a few yards, after which, turning to the left, we had to go along a track so narrow, that there was only just room for our horses to set one foot before another, on account of the steepness of the ascent on one side, and the suddenness of the descent on the other; till, on reaching the opposite extremity of the place, we again ascended to the top, and once more continued our journey up the steep sides of this rocky mountain. In many places for a considerable extent the hill had nearly a level surface, upon which were scattered at various distances insulated pieces of rock of immense size, and of the rudest figures, some of them having sharp and apparently vitrified summits, whilst others were rounded off on every side, and had probably rolled into their present situation from the higher peaks of the mountain. Although the singularity of this scenery afforded us no small gratification, our own wet condition, (for the rain still continued unabated,) the excessive cold of these more elevated regions, and the great hailstones, which a strong easterly wind drove against our faces, made us rather wish for the shelter of the vallies. On reaching the highest summit, however, we were inclined to forget our uncomfortable situation, whilst looking down into the valley which surrounds Kreisevig. Our view, indeed,

was confined from the unsettled state of the atmosphere, yet, at intervals, as the gusts of wind dispersed the clouds, we beheld, in the midst of a green and extensive morass below, three or four lakes, with steep and rocky banks, and, in different parts of the sides of the mountain on which we stood, vast bodies of smoke rising to a great height from the then concealed sources. The descent to the marsh was scarcely less fatiguing than the opposite ascent; but on reaching the foot and looking to the more elevated parts of the hill, another picture presented itself. The range of mountains, which we had just crossed, for a considerable length of way were black and rugged beyond conception, and jagged upon the upper parts into the strangest figures that can be imagined. Columns of steam were ascending from various places on their sides, especially in the gulleys; some rising near the base of the hills, others almost adjoining the very summit; and the apertures, that gave birth to these columns, also poured out a bolus of different colors, but more especially white, which was conveyed away by the streams of water, and either streaked the hills with party-colored lines, as it descended with them in their devious courses to the plain below, or formed large patches by a deposition of its substance in the hollows of the rock. As our guide was not sufficiently acquainted with the

country, to be able to point out the particular objects that were most deserving of our attention, we thought it better to procure ourselves a Cicerone to these places from among the inhabitants of a solitary hut at about two or three miles distance; but still we could not resist the present temptation of alighting from our horses, to visit one of the sulphur-springs that lay in our route. It was situated in a valley, at the foot of the precipice; on entering which, we crossed, with cautious steps, some heaps of *Bolus*, intermixed with incrustations of sulphur, and arrived at the edge of the fountain, where, in addition to a whitish and turbid water that was thrown out to the height of two or three feet from an aperture of no small dimensions, we found a muddy paste oozing from other orifices at various distances. All of these sent forth great clouds of steam, which, together with the sulphureous exhalation that was wafted about by the wind in different directions, frequently obliged us to shift our situations. It was in endeavoring to avoid one of these unpleasant gusts, which threatened to annoy me while I was gathering some specimens of the mineral productions of the place, that I jumped up to my knees in a semiliquid mass of hot sulphur and bolus, in which I should probably have sunk to a considerable depth, had I not instantly thrown myself with my whole length upon the

ground, so as to get my hands on a more solid soil; by means of which I dragged myself upon terra firma, and relieved the anxiety which those who saw the accident were entertaining for my safety. An unusual quantity of cloathing about my legs prevented my experiencing any other ill effects from the heated mass than a sensation which was rather uncomfortable than painful, and was not of long duration; so that, after being well scraped from a substance that attached itself like cart-grease, we proceeded on our way. In the midst of an extensive swamp we passed a lake\*, with steep and rocky banks, whose waters surprised us not less by their excessive clearness than by their deep bluish green tint. The sky was clouded, nor was there any thing to be discovered on the shores that could reflect that color, for which we could therefore account by no other means than by supposing that a bottom of greenish bolus had imparted its tint to the waters.

\* It is of this lake that mention is made in the *Voyage en Islande*, where it is observed, tom. v. p. 58, "Le lac Groenavatu, près la soufrière de Kreisevig, est remarquable d'abord par la couleur verte de son eau, qui provient probablement de sa profondeur, et ensuite, par les relations que les riverains font, des créatures singulières qui doivent s'y trouver, et qui se montrent quelquefois un instant au-dessus de l'eau. Une personne nous assura avoir vu un petit monstre de conformation approchant d'un marsouin, mais qui disparut presqu' aussitot qu'il parut."



The numerous shallow pools scattered about the morass neither possessed the hue nor the clearness of the lake, but were strongly impregnated with the sulphate of iron. An hour's ride in this marsh, nearly mid-leg deep in water and among abundance of *Betula nana*, brought us to the residence of the inhabitants of Kreisevig, where we were admitted into a low turf building, which, though small, and much incommoded with dirty clothes, stockings, saddles, &c., afforded room for our little party to take some refreshment, and proved a most welcome shelter from the unceasing inclemency of the weather. As soon as we had recovered the use of our eyes, which the almost total darkness of the place for a time deprived us of, Mr. Phelps expressed his astonishment at seeing, upon a sort of table, two large candles, articles of extremely rare occurrence in this country, and these, also, placed in brazen candlesticks: he began, therefore, to suspect that we must be in the house of some man of property, in spite of the quantity of dirty apparel that, hanging from the beams, seemed to persuade to the contrary: nor could he for some time be induced to credit my assurance that the place where we were was no other than the church of Kreisevig; that the table we leaned on was the altar, and the two candlesticks its constant ap-

pendages. It is a frequent custom with Icelanders, whose dwellings are in the vicinity of a church, to receive their guests in it, as affording a more spacious and convenient apartment than any of their own; and such was the case even here, though in this edifice, except the light admitted by a small door, a little aperture in the wall above the altar about six or eight inches square, was all that answered the purpose of a window. Here, however, we were regaled with some excellent sheep's milk, and, having urged our request to our host that he would accompany us to the sulphur-springs, we, after a short rest, again mounted our horses. Although in the vicinity of a remedy so noted for the cure of a certain disagreeable cutaneous complaint, we observed, by the swellings on the hands of our Kreisevig guide, and by his incessant scratching, that he had not, any more than some other people whom we saw living near the sulphur-springs, made such use of it as would be done in other countries; but, on the contrary, it rather appeared that the disorder was here more than usually prevalent. The first place to which he led us was a spot about two miles from the village, where a thick and muddy water was boiling up from a number of small orifices, occupying a hillock, of some yards in extent, but composed

entirely of *Bolus*\* of various colors; among which, however, red was the predominant one; a bluish gray, also, was extremely abundant, and we met with yellow and yellowish white in smaller patches; all of them extremely soft and unctuous to the touch. These boles of different colors, although not separated from one another by the intervention of any other mineral substance, were in general unmixed, and, by digging to the depth of a foot, we were enabled to see them lying in separate strata, each color being kept quite distinct from the other. In Iceland the only bolus that the natives make any use of is the red, which mixes with oil, and is frequently employed by people of higher condition to color the wooden doors and entrances of their houses. I have also seen tables painted with this ingredient, which looked extremely well. From these beds of bolus we proceeded towards a fountain of considerable dimensions some way up the side of a mountain, passing, as we went along, numerous others of less importance, most of them environed by bolus and sulphur. Of the latter

\* It may be well to observe that *Bolus* is described by mineralogical writers as a viscid earth, less coherent and more friable than clay, more readily uniting with water, and more freely subsiding from it. It is soft and unctuous to the touch, adheres to the tongue, and by degrees melts in the mouth, impressing a slight sense of astringency.

substance, the spring, that we were now approaching, produced the greatest quantity, and the finest specimens, I believe, in the island. We rode some way till the softness of the earth beneath caused the horses to sink too deep to render it prudent to continue that mode any longer, and we therefore left our steeds, proceeding onwards, as far as it was by any means safe to venture, with the utmost caution. The appearance of the surface is often very deceitful; for, when it seems most firm, a thin indurated crust of crystalized sulphur\* and bolus not uncommonly conceals a considerable mass of the

\* Volcanic soils in many parts of the world produce sulphur in greater or less quantities. I have not, however, read of its being found any where in such abundance as in the province of *Satzuma*, in Japan. "It is dug up," says *Kämpfer*, in his history of that singular country, "in a small island which, from the great plenty it affords of this substance, is called *Iwogasima*, or the *Sulphur Island*. It is not above an hundred years since the natives first ventured thither. It was thought before that time to be wholly inaccessible, and by reason of the thick smoke, which was observed continually to arise from it, and of the several spectres, and other frightful uncommon apparitions, people fancied to see there chiefly in the night, it was believed to be a dwelling-place of devils, till at last a resolute and courageous man offered himself, and obtained leave accordingly to go and examine the state and situation of it. He chose fifty resolute fellows for this expedition, who upon going on shore found neither hell nor devils, but a large flat

same materials in a hot and almost liquid state, so that we literally walk "per ignes, supposito eineri doloso." This kind of soil became still more and more dangerous the nearer we approached to the spring, and, indeed, prevented our being so close to it as we wished. An elevated rim, about two feet high and three feet in diameter, composed of a dark bluish black bolus, formed a complete circle round the mouth of the spring, the water in which was sometimes quiet

"spot of ground at the top, which was so thoroughly covered  
 "with sulphur, that wherever they walked, a thick smoke  
 "issued from under their feet. Ever since that time this  
 "island brings in to the prince of *Satzuma* about twenty chests  
 "of silver per annum, arising only from the sulphur dug up  
 "there.—The country of *Simabara*, particularly about the  
 "hot baths above mentioned, affords also a fine, pure, na-  
 "tive sulphur, which, however, the inhabitants dare not  
 "venture to dig up, for fear of offending the tutelary genius  
 "of the place, they having found upon trial that he was  
 "not willing to spare it."—The *Kamtchadales*, as well as  
 the Japanese, have a dread of the hot springs in their coun-  
 try, arising from a similar supposition that they are the  
 abode of demons. Thus, speaking of the boiling fountains  
 of *Opalski*, or *Osernoi*; situated nearly midway between the  
*Lopatka* and *Bolshoi-retsk*, Martin Sauer observes, that the  
*Kamtchadales* suppose them to be the habitations of some  
 demon, and make a trifling offering to appease his wrath;  
 without which, they say, he sends very dangerous storms.  
 See the *Account of an Expedition to the Northern Parts of*  
*Russia*, by *Commodore Billings*, p. 303.

and sunk about two feet in the aperture; at other times it ejected with great noise a turbid and blackish liquid to the height of from five to seven feet. At all times clouds of steam, strongly impregnated with sulphureous exhalations, were issuing from the aperture, but during an eruption of the waters the quantity of both was very considerably augmented. The view of this spring, from a little lower down the mountain, together with the surrounding scenery, had an effect the most extraordinary that can be conceived. From the dark colored and elevated margin of the fountain extended for a great way in every direction the yellow crust of crystalized sulphur, raised into a gently swelling hillock by the soft bolus of unmeasurable depth beneath; and from the centre of this trembling mass a crater was vomiting forth, with a tremendously roaring noise, to the height of four or five feet, a thick blackish liquid, accompanied by vast bodies of steam, which now ascended perpendicularly, and now were driven down the sides of the hill by the frequent eddying gusts of wind which issued from the chasms that abounded in the neighbourhood. A back ground, worthy of such a picture, was supplied by the dark and rugged sides of the mountain that, extending all around, formed a chain of rocks, which, in addition to the rudeness of their figure were the most barren that can

be imagined. A few lichens and mosses alone broke the uniform blackness of their surface; and these, far from being in a luxuriant state of vegetation, were scarcely to be discerned at a little distance, and appeared only minute greyish spots. How unlike to the volcanic scenery of this frigid region must be that of Etna, where, according to the account of an ingenious traveller\*, “ every beauty and every horror are united, and “ all the most opposite and dissimilar objects in “ nature; where in one place you observe a gulf “ that formerly threw out torrents of fire, now “ covered with the most luxuriant vegetation, and “ from an object of terror become an object of “ delight; where you gather the most delicious “ fruits and tread upon ground covered with every “ flower; where you wander over these beauties “ and contemplate this wilderness of sweets with- “ out considering that hell, with all its terrors, “ is immediately under your feet; and that but “ a few yards separates us from fire and brim- “ stone.” The horrors alone of the picture given us by Brydone are to be met with in the volcanic mountains of Kreisevig: for luxuriant vegetation, fruits, and flowers, other countries must be searched, and yet, in spite of the absence of every beauty that could attract, or excite a plea-

\* See *Brydone's Tour through Sicily and Malta*, p. 93.

surable sensation, I doubt whether a traveller ever turned his back upon Etna with more regret than we felt when we quitted the strange but desert scenery of this place. To myself, indeed, the regret was no more than the being deprived of the powers of beholding one of the most awfully impressive scenes that the world can furnish, or even imagination can conceive; but not so with my companion, who had hoped that it might have been possible to have met in the sulphur-springs with an article of commerce that might at once have been highly advantageous to himself, and beneficial to his country, but who now found to his extreme vexation that, small as is the distance of Kreisevig from the sea, the obstacles interposed by the nature of the intervening country were such as forbade the idea of a commercial speculation. To have collected it in a place where the population is so thinly scattered, would have been attended with very great expence; and to have conveyed it on horseback over so rocky a tract as lies between Kreisevig and the nearest harbor, would have been almost impossible; and I therefore read with surprise, in Horrebow, that early in the last century the gathering and exporting of it were objects of considerable advantage to the natives. Myvatn, in the more northern part of the island, is said to be almost the only place, except



Kreiscvig, where this mineral is produced in considerable quantity. We were the more vexed at being obliged to return, because the incessant rain prevented our bringing away any sketch of a spot, of which words can give but a very inadequate idea, and which is in itself alone a sufficient recompense to a mind even the most incurious, for the fatigues and privations necessarily attendant upon the travelling about Iceland. On our return to Havnfiord, by the same route as we went in the morning, nothing peculiarly interesting occurred, except that I met with *Parmelia sarmentosa* on the rocks of lava in some abundance. A little after midnight, wet and weary, we reached Mr. Sivertsen's house, and on the following morning returned to Reikevig, with our horses no less exhausted than ourselves, and mine so lamed by the beds of Hraun, that I was never after able to make use of him.

Friday,  
July 28.

Having been informed that when travelling, as I purposed to do, loaded with much luggage and tents, it would require three days before we could reach the house of the Tatsroed, at Inderholme, in the district of Borgafiord, and that a portion of this time must be allowed for the horses to rest, I thought it best to make the present day's journey extend no further than the foot of the mountain Skoul-a-fiel, which

Saturday,  
July 29.

lay in our route, and afforded pasture for the horses, besides offering to myself the opportunity I wished of devoting the whole of the next day to the examining of the hill and its neighbouring chasm. The fineness of the morning afforded me great pleasure, and, as the wind had veered to the north, I looked forward to a few days of bright and dry weather. Horses and guides having been furnished me on the preceding day by the Stiftsamtman, I sent them forward in the early part of the morning with the baggage and a week's provisions of ship's stores, giving them directions where they should pitch the tents in case they arrived at the journey's end before we should reach them. Mr. Phelps, by kindly permitting Jacob to accompany me a second time, conferred an essential service, as the fidelity and honesty as well as the good sense of this man rendered him an useful servant, and often an amusing companion. The various climates he had visited, and the hardships he had suffered, from his earliest youth, enabled him to endure alike heat and cold, and to bear the greatest fatigue without ever uttering a single complaint. In his broken English he would frequently relieve the wearisomeness which attended travelling over the long and dreary moors of Iceland, by relating the adventures that he had met with in his many voyages and travels, particularly in a journey that

he had made from Petersburg to China. By birth he was a German, but could talk English and Danish, and, besides acting as interpreter, he was of considerable use to me as a butcher, as also in cooking, and occasionally in washing for me\*. I certainly experienced great inconvenience from my ignorance of the Icelandic language, as, except in a very few instances, I could only obtain information from the natives, through the medium of two interpreters; my question being put in English to Jacob, who translated it into Danish to my Reikevig guide, and he, again, in Icelandic, made it intelligible to the person I wished to address. The answer, also, was necessarily returned by the same circuitous way. It was half past six in the evening, before Jacob and myself set out, when we travelled as fast as the roads, which are better in the immediate vicinity

\* These few remarks, which I have thought due to the short but faithful services of this man, were scarcely written down (July, 1810), when I received from Mr. Phelps the unwelcome intelligence, that he was no more. A vessel from Iceland brought the information, that he, together with another of the crew, who after the loss of the Margaret and Anne, had remained at Reikevig, and married and settled there, had gone out one day to sea on a shooting excursion with Mr. Savigniac, when the boat was unfortunately overturned, and the two sailors perished. The body of poor Jacob was thrown on shore the next morning, but that of his companion had not been found.

of the capital than almost any where else, would permit us; stopping only to admire, and to gather specimens of, the elegant *Saxifraga Hirculus*, which adorned, in the greatest profusion, the numerous springs of water that we met with near our road. It was in this journey, for the first time in my life, that I saw its beautiful yellow blossoms, and I thought I could never gather enough of the plant. In about three hours we overtook our luggage horses and guide: despising, however, a conductor in a tract of country, over which we had twice travelled before, we hastened forward on our way, but had scarcely lost sight of our company than we saw reason to regret our precipitancy; for we found ourselves so encompassed by bogs, that we were at a loss how to proceed. In urging my own horse through a swamp, he floundered and threw me, and I had great difficulty in extricating him from his unpleasant situation. Jacob, by a more circuitous route, reached me in safety, and we continued our journey till about ten o'clock, when we arrived at the foot of Skoul-a-fiel, and fixed upon a little verdant plain by the banks of a wide and extremely rapid torrent for the situation of our tents, which did not come up to us before twelve o'clock. At about half a mile from us was a peasant's house, called, if I recollect right, *Skykeaster*, to which I dispatched Jacob, according

to my usual custom, for some fuel to boil our kettle and some milk \*. In the owner of this house, for the first and only time in the island, I met with a deviation from that genuine hospitality which so strongly characterises the inhabitants of Iceland. In all my other excursions I was furnished with milk, fuel, or whatever the house afforded, with the greatest cheerfulness, and with the strongest marks of welcome; and, even if I remained for some days in one spot, I never thought of making a return, except it was in the trifling articles of snuff and tobacco, until

\* For the convenience of having the milk brought down to me, I always sent bottles to the cottagers; but it never came into my mind to inquire what means were employed to convey the fluid into such a vessel from the large and shallow dishes in which it is kept by the natives; in a country, too, where funnels cannot be supposed to be in use among the poorer class of people. I should, probably, to this day, have remained in ignorance of the method; had I not, a little previous to my leaving the country, been informed, as well by the Danes at Reikevig, as by some natives, (persons worthy of credit, and whose names if necessary I could now mention) that the milk is first taken into the mouths of the women, and then spirted into the bottle.—Let it be remembered, that I do not mention this circumstance as one to which either Jacob or myself was a witness, neither could this well have been the case, for the bottles were always taken into the house by the women, and returned filled; but, from the respectability of my informers, and the simplicity of the mode, it really appears deserving of credit.

I was about to take my departure from the neighbourhood. It is therefore as a single instance of avarice and mistrust, that I mention the owner of Skykeaster, who, on coming down to my tent with a few birchen twigs that were not sufficient to boil the kettle, and about a pint of milk, demanded two marks and eight skillings\*. This I paid him immediately, letting him know at the same time that, had his conduct been different, he would have been better recompensed; at which he was so much vexed that he offered to return the money, and furnish me unconditionally with as much more of the milk and fuel as I wanted. A strong northerly wind, which rushed down the gullies of the mountain, made us regret the not having fixed upon a better sheltered spot for our night's rest, and I therefore forded the river, in hopes of finding a more convenient one nearer to the foot of Skoul-a-fiel; but the weariness of our horses, and the difficulty that would have attended their conveying the luggage over the excessively rocky bed of the river, induced us to prefer accommodating ourselves as well as we could to our present station, trusting that, by fixing the tent-pins deeper in the ground, and placing our luggage, saddles, &c., round the bottom of the tent, we should be able, at least in

\* About one shilling and eightpence of our money.

some degree, to keep out the wind and cold. Scarcely, however, had we composed ourselves upon our homely bed, when a most violent blast tore up the pegs, and exposed us to the utmost fury of the elements. In vain did we again attempt to fasten them: the force of the wind immediately drove them out, and the intense cold, and the noise like thunder of the flapping of the canvass prevented our enjoying a moment's rest. Very early in the morning, therefore, of the following day, I hastened to the river, designing to pursue its course, with a view of entering at the deep chasm, and proceeding along it to the perpendicular column of rock, which I had previously remarked on my return from the Geysers. The stream, for some way, ran through a tolerably level country; but, in proportion as I advanced, its banks became more precipitous and rocky, and continued to increase in height and grandeur, so that, not unfrequently, nothing more was to be seen than the steep and craggy cliffs which arose to a great height on each side of me, and the impetuous torrent that ran foaming between them, scarcely leaving a narrow ledge that might afford room for my feet, and repeatedly tumbling in its passage over shelves of rock, thus forming cataracts, which varied in height from two to three and even ten feet. Occasionally, however, a cleft in the

Sunday,  
July 30.

northern side brought to my view the lofty top of Skoul-a-fiel, with its pointed summits, looking as if it took its rise from the very edge of the precipice. At length my further progress was stopped, by the rocks closing in so much as to leave room for nothing at their base but the narrow and furious course of the river. It was near this spot that I found both *Fontinalis squamosa* and *falcata* full of capsules, in a deep pool among the rocks, and mixed with them was also *Rivularia angulosa* in some plenty. The rocks in a steep ascent, which I climbed in order to reach the top of the chasm, produced an *Epilobium* which was not yet in blossom, but appeared, from its broad and glaucous leaves, to be undoubtedly new to me. *Veronica fruticulosa* was here in full flower, and some unknown *Salices*, likewise, rewarded my morning's excursion. Fearing lest I should not have sufficient time to ascend Skoul-a-fiel, if I proceeded any further in the same direction, I returned to the tents, and, after a hasty breakfast, set off on horseback with Jacob, on our way to the mountain. We forded the river, and afterwards climbed a steep but grassy hill, whose swampy summit afforded me some fine specimens of the rare *Splachnum vasculosum*. On descending by the opposite side, and crossing another stream, we came to the base of the mountain, the steep and rocky sides of which we climbed in a



diagonal direction, keeping in a beaten track for some way, but at length directing our course, in the nearest line, for the highest summit. We were soon compelled to leave our horses; for, though the base of the hill had been firm rock, interspersed with a few patches of vegetation, we shortly came to a part from which, to the very peak, the whole was altogether composed of small loose pieces, to the greatest degree barren and desolate; except in those little spots in which the *Trichostomum* had formed a bed, and retained a sufficiency of moisture to supply with nourishment a few miserable specimens of *Salix herbacea* or *Silene acaulis*. It is hardly possible for any person, unless from experience, to form an idea of the fatigue of climbing a mountain of this sort: wherever we placed our foot a vast number of pieces of rock were immediately set in motion, and rolled for a considerable way down, and when the greater steepness of the ascent compelled us to make use of our hands in addition to our feet, these latter were sure of being annoyed by a torrent of the sharp and angular stones striking against them. At length, drenched with perspiration from the violence of the exercise, we reached a ridge of the mountain, which led by a gradual ascent to the summit; great masses of snow lying every where scattered about its precipitous sides. No sooner had

we attained this ridge, than we found ourselves on a sudden exposed to the force of the wind, that, driving over some distant snow-mountains, froze us with cold, and at the same time, from its excessive violence, made it prudent for us to sit down, rather than stand, while we surveyed the extensive tract of country that lay, like a map, spread out beneath our feet. To the north was a wilderness of mountains, many of which far exceeded in height the one upon which I stood, and most of them were thickly elad with snow. In the north-west, the most striking feature was *Snoefel Jokul*, which, taking its rise near the sea, at the western extremity of the syssel of that name, towers to an elevation of not less than seven thousand feet. Its distance from me was between sixty and seventy miles, and I now, almost for the first time, beheld entirely free from clouds this immense rock, appearing like a huge cone of solid snow. The extensive bay of Faxe-fiord was bounded on the south by the narrow neck of land, called *Guldbringue syssel*, producing many mountains of wild and singular forms, springing from among its numerous beds of Hraun. The town of Reikevig was plainly to be seen; as well as its harbor, spotted with the vessels lying at anchor, and the numerous little islands. In the south, the eye wandered over a wide tract of rocky moor, beyond which the distant Helgafel

mountains varied the line of the horizon. We had scarcely time sufficiently to admire this scene, when, on looking upwards, we saw approaching us a thick cloud, which, covering the summit of Skoul-a-fiel, rolled down the sides, accompanied by gusts of wind, still heavier than before, and soon enveloped us in so dense a fog that we could not discover each other even at a very few yards distance. We continued, however, to ascend by the assistance of the compass, and, when the mist had, for a short time, cleared away, we had the pleasure of finding that we had varied but little from our proper course. The nearer we approached to the summit, the more steep we found the ascent, and the more narrow the ridge along which we had to pass; so that I was glad to be able to assist myself in climbing, by laying hold of a few pieces of rock, which, projecting here and there from among the loose ones, seemed to be still in their primæval state. They lay in strata or laminæ which were easily detached from one another; each stratum being vertical and not more than one or two inches thick. The whole was of a reddish yellow color, variously marked and spotted with white, green, and red, so as to have a very beautiful appearance. The highest summit was so much peaked, that it would scarcely afford standing room, even in calm weather; and therefore, with the hurricane which

now blew, I was happy at being able to reach it upon my hands and knees, and then, laying myself down upon the sloping side of the ridge, to look over the northern precipitous edge, and view in safety the rapid motion of the clouds passing towards the place on which I was, across the valley which separated this from other mountains. The superior height of Skoul-a-fiel above all those in its immediate vicinity caused it to attract these clouds more than any of the rest, yet the violence of the wind did not suffer them to remain long upon it, but soon dispersed them after they had rolled a little way down the southern side. Vegetation here was very scanty: in such places as were free from snow, and lay in their original strata, were to be found *Salix herbacea*, *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, *Polytrichum sexangulare*, and *Lichen geographicus*. Nothing could be more easy than our descent among the loose stones, where the principal requisite was to be well provided with stout shoes, and we therefore soon got under shelter from the wind. On our right was a deep ravine, from the bottom of which arose a spring that supplied a little stream, which I resolved to take in my way, in order to see what plants it might produce, while Jacob hastened forward in search of our horses. Here I spent some time in collecting one of the richest botanical harvests I ever made in one day. Some

grasses, a *Veronica*, and a *Gnaphalium*, with five or six mosses were all new to me, and I also found several scarce plants that I had never before seen, though I met with them in other places afterwards; so that with these I not only completely filled two vascula and my game-bag, but at length began to apply my pockets to the purpose of containing my specimens. On my return I found Jacob fast asleep more than half way down the mountain, holding in his hand one of the horses by the bridle. Having mounted our beasts, we made the most haste we could to our tent; and, as it still appeared possible, before the dusk of evening came on, to go in search of the rock in the chasm which I failed of finding in the morning, I set out a second time for the purpose, and, keeping above the chasm, was not long before I came within sight of it: this, fortunately for me, happened near a spot where I was enabled to descend to the very banks of the stream, and procure a good view of this remarkable place. The lofty column of rock was entirely separated on one side from the opposite perpendicular wall of the chasm, to which it was on the other side united merely for a few feet from its base, so that the water did not altogether surround it, though sufficiently so to give it a most remarkable appearance. In the faces of the chasm were several basaltic pillars lying in a horizontal

direction, firmly imbedded in the solid rock, resembling those figured in *M. Bory de St. Vincent's Voyage\**, excepting only that the Icelandic ones did not extend to the base of the rock, but merely occupied a few yards of the surface. The singularity of this place detained me till a late hour; yet, in spite of the fatigue of the day, I had the vexation to find on my return to the tent, that the continuance of the wind and cold caused me to spend as sleepless and uncomfortable a night as the preceding one.

Monday,  
July 31.

After having given up the early part of the morning to the preservation of my botanical riches, we set off upon our journey, proceeding for the first part of the way over a shoulder of Skoul-a-fiel, and then over a mountain called *Swein-a-scaur*, the descent down which, through a gulley where we had to cross a torrent at least twenty times, was excessively steep and rocky, and so exposed to the fury of the north wind that we were compelled to alight from our horses and walk. The ground we trod upon was, however, not altogether bare of vegetation; for

\* See plate xi. of that work, where, on the left hand, is represented a rock containing similar horizontal pillars. Basaltic columns of the kind figured on the right hand of the plate are not uncommon in Iceland.

several grasses and other plants appeared in the places that were free from snow, and at a great elevation *Geum rivale*, which is found in the flat meadows of Norfolk, was no less abundant than its alpine neighbors, *Veronica fruticulosa* and *Arabis alpina*. In some hollows of the rock, that were filled with the water of the torrent, I met for the first time in my life with the *Harlequin duck* (*Anas histrionica*), which, from what I could learn, does not seem to be a scarce bird in Iceland. A very serpentine course, in consequence of the steepness of the hill, at length led us into a rather extensive level tract of country, bounded on all sides by black and lofty mountains. For some way near the banks of a wide stream in the centre of this, a tolerable pasture was afforded for our horses, and we rested ourselves awhile at a dwelling called *Meurawatl*; a thing the more necessary, as a dreary mountain ride lay before us, and we were told it would not be in our power to meet with grass again till we had got round the head of *Hval-fiord* (the bay of whales). The steep and barren sides of *Renewaltehaul*s afforded nothing interesting, but from the summit the distant view of snow mountains in the more northern part of the island was most grand. Here we rode over a bed of rock, curled on the surface, which, though cracked in a few places with deep fissures, had the ap-

pearance of being a solid mass, and of having suffered no change; but not so with a heap of rocks, broken, indeed, yet still of immense size, which, piled one over another to a great height on our left, seemed to have been at a distant period thrown out in a melted state from a volcano, and to be still suffered to remain a monument of some dreadful eruption. Their texture was in parts solid, in other parts porous, their color a brownish black, and throughout speckled with innumerable small white pieces of quartz, which, on a close inspection, had a very pretty appearance. From the dismally barren scene before us, we soon came to a little plain, where the *Bartsia alpina* in full flower made amends for the absence of more abundant and varied vegetation; but hence to the margin of the water was a dreary scene of abrupt precipices, rugged hills, and rocky streamlets. A river, at the head of Hval-fiord, in discharging its waters over the perpendicular face of a rock, formed a fine cascade, just beneath which, and exposed to the full effect of its tremendous roar, we had to ford the stream, after which, for a few miles, we travelled along by the north side of the lake, among heaps of fragments that had fallen from the steep hills, till, about ten o'clock, we had once more the satisfaction of seeing a green spot, which had induced a peasant and his family, after



the manner of the ancient Germans\*, to fix their solitary dwelling. The singular custom which prevails throughout Iceland of giving a name, as of a parish †, to a solitary hut, or at most to the residence of a more wealthy farmer and the cottages of his dependants, will easily account for the crowded names of places which we see in the best maps of the island, and which might lead to a most erroneous idea of its present or former population, unless accompanied by the

\* It is impossible to avoid being struck with the similarity of part of Tacitus' description of the manners of the Germans, to the present rude and simple state of the inhabitants of Iceland, who are compelled from the scantiness of vegetation thus to imitate the people of former days in the distant situation of their dwellings from each other. "Nullas Germanorum populis urbes habitari, satis notum est; ne pati quidem inter se junctas sedes. Colunt discreti ac diversi, ut fons, ut campus, ut nemus placuit. Vicos locant, non in nostrum morem, connexis et coherentibus ædificiis: suam quisque domum spatio circumdat, sive adversus casus ignis remedium, sive inscitia ædificandi."

† The land in Iceland, at least by far the greater part of it, belongs to the King of Denmark, and a native is at liberty to pitch upon any waste that may suit his convenience, and fix his abode there: his farm or habitation he calls by some name, either taken from the peculiarity of situation, from some neighboring mountain or river, or after himself; "Ut hac ratione," as the learned *Arngrim Jonas* observes, "primos incolas επωνυμους ipsa loca vel solis nominibus apud omnem posteritatem loquerentur."

explanation that in the greater number of instances they are to be understood as the appellations of mere farms\*, and never of what in England would be entitled to be called a village. The present place, which, if I recollect well, bears the name of *Farit*, stands in a singular and interesting situation; being near the head of Hval-fiord, so that from it we had a noble and extensive view of this arm of the sea, on which were innumerable quantities of the black divers (*Colymbus Troile*) and many flocks of swans. From the agitated surface of the water the violence of the wind raised great bodies of spray, which were driven, like a dense mist, into a valley that opened to the south. In an opposite direction, and near the extremity of the

\* “Lands are here divided into estates, which are never subdivided, and are held in three different kinds of tenure:

“King’s Land,

“Church Land, and

“Freehold.

“*King’s land* is given by the Landfogued to whomsoever he pleases, and the family who occupy it possess it as long as they have an heir and can pay the rent, which is very small, and a tax of one rix-dollar per annum.

“*Church land* is given away by the Bishop and Amptman, and held in the same manner.

“*Freehold* is as in other countries, each estate paying one rix-dollar per annum to the King, in lieu of land-tax.”  
*Sir Joseph Banks’ MSS. Journal.*

*Fiord*, a mountain of no great elevation afforded us a curious spectacle of another kind; a cloud of snow, which was passing nearly over our heads in an unbroken mass, being impeded in its progress by this hill, whose previously brown and barren sides, for nearly half way down, it a few seconds of time enveloped in a white covering as with a sheet. Our encampment was fortunately provided with sufficient shelter from the storm by a lofty and perpendicular rock, the form of which was so strange, and the whole so broken into recesses and projections, that fancy might here, with more justice than in any thing else I ever saw of the kind, picture to itself a heap of vast and ruined towers, placed upon the summit of a sloping bank, for such appeared the loose fragments which had accumulated below. The wild solitude, and the storms and snow of Farit, did not in the smallest degree prevent the inhabitants from exercising their wonted hospitality. The women here, as at other places, came around us immediately on our arrival, and with a kindness peculiar to the sex inquired into our wants, and offered us all that their circumstances would enable them to afford. As a mark of respect they presented their little children to be kissed, or if, as was too often the case, our more refined notions of cleanliness prevented us from acceding to their

wishes, they begged that we would allow them to kiss our hands, which they did in the most respectful manner, bowing at the same time. Their mothers and the elder girls brought to our tent abundance of cream, skuir, and fuel, and offered it with such evident marks of welcome and so much pleasure in their countenances, that the lines of a favorite poet of the present day might, with the alteration of a single word, be supposed to be spoken by these seemingly happy and contented people, with equal propriety as by the female dwelling among *Lapland* snows :

“ The powers above our *Iceland* bless,  
 “ With good no other people know,  
 “ T'enlarge the joys that we possess,  
 “ By feeling those that we bestow.”

Tuesday,  
 August 1.      The hope of being able to show to my friends in England some sketches of the rocks of Farit kept me on the spot till nine or ten o'clock this morning, and it was nearly one when we arrived at a farm by the shores of Hvalfiord, where a man announced himself as the servant of the Tatsroed, and added the information that he had been sent out the day before to meet us, and to accompany us to Inderholme. Leaving, therefore, my Rcikevig guide with the luggage and other horses, to follow us at leisure, Jacob and myself mounted some steeds sent by

the Tatsroed, and hastened forward, till we came to the foot of *Akra-fiel*, a mountain of some height, which rose at no great distance from the Tatsroed's house, but was separated from it by a morass\* that was not to be crossed without much difficulty. In the worst places, sod and large pieces of rock had been procured from a considerable distance, but, although these prevented the horses from sinking deep in the mire, they by no means rendered the passage firm: yet did this trackless swamp lead to the very best house in the island, the residence of a man, at once a Danish counsellor of state, and the chief justice of Iceland; one, whose talents and acquirements would render him the ornament of any society, but who lived here shut out from all connexion with the literary world. In such of the out-buildings of the Tatsroed's house, as first came in view, was evident a degree of elegance as

\* Let it not be regarded, as a proof of the indolence of the Icelanders, or as setting their characters in an unfavorable light, that these morasses are to be seen, occasionally, in the neighborhood of the best of their houses, and that the roads, not unfrequently, lead over them. All this is, unfortunately, ascribable to the country itself, which is little else than rock and bog; the latter, of so wet and spongy a texture, that no materials, however adapted to the purpose, and no quantity of them, however large, would be sufficient to overcome their stubborn nature, or to make them properly passable.

to form, and of regularity as to design, which I had never before seen in the island, but, on approaching the door of the principal building, it seemed as if I was actually transported to another country. In point of architecture and materials, it was, indeed, built in the true style of an Icelandic dwelling, and totally unlike the Danish ones of Reikevig, but there was, nevertheless, an appearance of refinement even in the turf walls and numerous roofs, the painted doors and the large glass windows, which I little expected to have met with. To comfort and cleanliness in the persons of the natives I had not been much accustomed, and was, therefore, the more glad to find them here: for a hearty welcome I was fully prepared, for I had every where experienced it; but those only who have been long exposed to the accents of a language, with the meaning of which they are wholly unacquainted, can conceive how sweet such a welcome sounds, when given me, as here by the Tatsroed, in my native tongue. We entered by a long passage, with a boarded floor and wainscotted walls, and, after crossing another smaller one, arrived at the study, a room of moderate size, well stored with books; adjoining to which was the parlor, which, if I recollect right, had stuccoed walls, painted of a blue color, and a boarded roof and floor. A Danish sofa and other good furniture much re-

sembled such as we have in England, and some ordinary prints, among which was one of the Emperor of the French and by the side of it another of the Hero of Trafalgar, served to decorate the walls. Shortly after our arrival, rum with white wine and Norway biscuit were handed round, and, as there was but little time before dinner, we amused ourselves in the study, where I was shown several valuable and interesting works, relating to the ancient history of the island, as well in manuscript as in print. There were here, also, many of the Latin and Greek classics, and of the most esteemed authors in the German, French, Swedish, and Danish languages, besides, what gratified me more than any thing else, a considerable number of our best English poets. Here, too, I was shown a translation of *Milton's Paradise Lost* into Icelandic verse, the performance of a priest who had lived in the eastern part of the island, but whose name I cannot now remember. The Tatsroed, who was capable of reading the original, did not express himself at all satisfied with the translation, and I have no doubt of his being a competent judge of the subject, having himself, with much *eclat*, turned into Icelandic poetry *Pope's Essay on Man* and *Universal Prayer*; to the liberal sentiments inculcated in the latter of which he was so much attached, as to have it sometimes sung

in his church. How happy should I have been to have had the opportunity of showing to my countrymen, on my return, the numerous publications, principally historical, for which I was indebted to the liberality of this learned and noble author; but, though unfortunately deprived of this satisfaction, I record, with infinite pleasure, my obligations to him, not only for these, but for various other books which I could not elsewhere have procured. Two of the works that have come from the pen of the Tatsroed deserve particular mention: the titles, indeed, have altogether escaped my memory, but, if I am not mistaken, one of them was written in the Danish, the other in the Icelandic language, and both treated of the most remarkable occurrences that had taken place in the later history of the country, among which it was peculiarly gratifying to an Englishman to see how earnestly and how completely *con amore* the author bears testimony to the noble and generous conduct of Sir Joseph Banks, impressing, in the strongest terms, upon the minds of his countrymen a sense of the obligations they owe to him for the unexampled assistance which he afforded to such Icelanders, as had, in the beginning of the present war, been made prisoners in Danish vessels; striving with the utmost zeal to procure their release, and supplying, with unbounded liberality, their pe-



cuniary wants. I must, however, do the Icelanders the justice to say, that there is no need of the assistance of the press to excite a stronger feeling of gratitude on their part, for the benefits that have been conferred upon them by this exalted character; for the eager enquiries that were in every place made after his welfare, by the aged, who still remember his person, and by the young, who know him from the anecdotes told by their fathers and their grandfathers, were a convincing proof of the esteem and veneration they entertain for him: so that, not unfrequently, while wandering over the wastes of Iceland, my heart has glowed, and I have felt a pride, that I should have been ashamed to dissemble, at being able to call such a man my patron and my friend. A short history of the eseulent *Fuci*, published by the Tatsroed, has already been noticed at page 38 of this journal. Music, also, claimed a considerable share of the attention, not only of himself, but of all the family at Inderholme, and a large Danish organ occupied a portion of one side of the room. On my expressing a wish to hear some Icelandic music, the whole family came into the study, and, with their voices, accompanied his performance of some sacred airs. I was next entertained with some Danish and Icelandic songs, by the Tatsroed's daughter, which she accompanied with tunes upon the *Lang-spel*. This instru-

ment has long been growing into disuse, so that it is now become of extremely rare occurrence, and very few of the natives indeed, excepting the Tatsroed and his family, are capable of performing upon it with any degree of skill. It consists of a narrow deal box, about three feet long,



with a wider semicircular extremity, in which are the sound-holes. Three brass wires, or sometimes five, are extended the whole length of this box, and tightened or slackened by means of small wooden pegs, as in our common violin. It is usually played upon with a bow of horschair, the instrument itself lying in the mean while upon the table, but the Tatsroed's daughter frequently made use only of her fingers, as with a guitar, in doing which she pressed the end of her thumb alone upon the wires, moving it up and down to produce the different modifications of sound. The annexed representation of the Lang-spel, sketched since my return, from memory, will give a tolerable

idea of its form. Von Troil notices another musical instrument, called *Fidla*, which has two strings of horsehair, and is played in a similar manner with a bow. This, I was never fortunate enough to see, nor did I ever meet with the *Symphon* mentioned by the same author, and I have every reason to believe that they no longer exist; the increasing poverty of the country having, probably, been the means of preventing the Icelanders from enjoying the little happiness that they formerly derived from these and various other sources of innocent amusement, which we read of as having been common among them. At about three o'clock we sat down to an excellent dinner of roasted meats, which were eaten with preserved cherries and a mess of the *Rumex Acetosa*, with the addition of waffels, good Norway biscuit, rum, and claret. Even in the Tatsrocd's house the custom of the ladies of the family waiting at table is religiously observed; and, mortifying as it was to me as a stranger, I was compelled, during the time of meals, to accept of the attendance of the lady of the highest rank in the island and her handsome daughter, both of whom performed their part with the greatest good-nature imaginable. It was in vain that I remonstrated against this relic of barbarous times, intreating it might be dispensed with during my stay: such a request could not

be acceded to, for to have done otherwise would have been considered a want of respect on the part of the host to his guest. Truly gratifying was it to observe how much affectionate attention was paid by the younger part of this family to the aged parents of Madame Stephensen, whose father, formerly a sysselman, although eighty years old, still enjoyed the perfect use of his faculties. Extreme age had deprived the mother of sight, but she received from her children every possible mark of kindness that duty or affection could dictate, and they devoted a great portion of their time to bearing her company in her room, and alleviating, by their conversation, her afflictions and infirmities. After dinner I visited the Tatsroed's gardens, which are carefully fenced round by a high turf wall, so as to be, in some measure, protected from the excessive cold of the climate; a precaution that seems to avail but little, for, although in the one adjoining the house, which was laid out in a number of beds, infinite pains had been taken to raise a crop of lettuces, turnips, and potatoes, they all looked in a miserably starved state, and not one came to perfection. Another garden, nearly opposite to the house, was also furnished with vegetables, but did not wear a more promising aspect. The ground immediately in front of the Tatsroed's dwelling, though producing a good herbage, is

broken into numerous little hillocks, intersected with rocky divisions, as is almost every where the case in Iceland with the best pasture land, owing, probably, to the treading of cattle between the pieces of rock, which are but thinly covered with earth. Hence to the sea, and for a long way upon the shore, extended a perfectly level track of country, at one extremity of which, over a little brook, a watermill had been erected, which was worked by a horizontal wheel, and served to grind corn for the family. This, if I mistake not, is the only one in the island. Some drains, cut by the Tatsroed in an adjoining morass, had greatly improved the soil, and furnished a more copious supply of water to the mill. Were like simple means to be employed in other morasses in Iceland, the greater part of which are admirably calculated for draining, the country would be rendered more easily passable, and the increased quantity of fodder, produced in consequence of such an improvement, would be of incalculable benefit to the poor natives. The house of the Tatsroed was but lately erected\*, and, as I have before observed, is one of the best, or,

\* How exactly similar the present mode of building is to that which was in practice upwards of two centuries ago, may be seen by the chapter "De moribus seu communi vivendi ratione," in "*Arngrim Jonæ Islandi Tractatus de Islandicæ gentis primordiis, &c.*" Indeed, in no part of

perhaps, the very best in the island; yet its walls and roofs are composed entirely of turf, though so neatly cut, and so well joined, as to present a perfectly smooth and even surface. The doors are

Europe, I apprehend, have the customs and manners, the language, the dress, and the mode of living, peculiar to a country, been kept so pure, for so great a number of years, as among the Icelanders. “ Ut Taciti tempore, “ (says *Arngrim Jonas*) circa annum Christi 120, nec cæ-  
 “ mentorum nec tegularum apud Germanos usus, (unde  
 “ quivis de orbe magis Aretoo judicium faciat,) ita neque  
 “ postea apud Islandos; sed domus suas ligno et cespite con-  
 “ struebant, opere quidem nec momentaneo, nec in speciem  
 “ deformi; parietes alios solo cespite, alios saxo rudi, cespite  
 “ pro cæmento adhibito, fiebant; quos postea interius, opere  
 “ coassato, ut et contignationem ipsam, convestiebant;  
 “ præcipue in notabilioribus ædificiis. Atque sic tectum  
 “ cum parietibus ante maturum senium, gramine viridi ex-  
 “ terius quotannis enascente, (cespitem namque vivum in  
 “ tecto et parietibus intellige,) conspiciendum erat. In  
 “ tecto fenestræ fiebant, raro in pariete; et tecto quidem  
 “ minus arduo; cujusmodi fuisse fertur apud Orientales  
 “ tectorum constitutio. Ligna incolis suppetebant, ad littus  
 “ maris undarum alluvione ejecta; mirando procurationis  
 “ divinæ testimonio: cum sylvæ domesticæ, Betulæ tantum,  
 “ ut existimo, feraces, vastis ædificiis non sufficerent: quæ  
 “ tamen etiam magno fuere subsidio, cum his quæ incolæ,  
 “ quoties volebant, ex vicina Norvegia, et fortasse etiam  
 “ Grönlandia, petebant: utroque enim navigationes annuas  
 “ longo tempore Islandi habuere. Villarum itaque domus  
 “ in suo fundo quilibet contiguas fere habebat: præter ar-  
 “ mentorum stabula, aliquanto intervallo ac ipsis penatibus  
 “ plerunque sita: item igniaria quædam, non prorsus

ornamented with carved lines, and painted green. The windows, of which there is a double row, are well made, and glazed, and are not in the roof of the building, as in most other Icelandic houses, but in the wall. There are several out-houses for cattle, for provisions, implements of husbandry, drying fish, &c., all which stand apart from the dwelling-house, and are built with equal neatness, and wholly of turf, except the fish-house, which is of wood, formed in such a manner, that a free passage is left to the air at the same time that the inside is protected from the rain. At no great distance, also, stood the church, a small and neat, though ancient, edifice; and not far from this cluster of buildings rose the steep and rocky front of Akra-fiel, forming a singular contrast with the green plain of Inderholme.

Wednesday,  
August 2. Immediately after breakfast the Tatsroed, his son a young man of eighteen years of age, and myself, set off for *Hvamore*, about twenty miles distance, the residence of the Amptman Stephensen, brother to the Tatsroed, and we thence proposed continuing

“contigua, ad ignis periculum vitandum: fortasse etiam  
“penuaria quædam quæ solitaria auram et siccantes  
“ventos melius imbiberent.” *De regno Daniæ et Norvegiæ  
Tractatus*, p. 411—413.

our journey to the hot springs of *Snorralang*, and other remarkable places in the vicinity. This excursion was rendered highly interesting by my having such agreeable companions, and I looked forward with great confidence to deriving from it no small information, as well from the ability of my host to converse with me in English, as from his perfect knowledge of the country, and particularly his intimate acquaintance with its history, in which he is, perhaps, superior to any other person. Our mode of travelling here was new to me, and not a little troublesome. Being about to visit at the houses of persons where the accommodation was good, I had sent Jacob and my guide with the horses and tents back to Reikevig, intending to return thither myself by water; and we all rode the Tatsroed's horses, taking with us a supply of fresh ones to relieve those that carried us the first part of our journey. These, instead of being led, were driven before, without even the precaution of fastening them together; a practice to which some of them that were young and full of spirit did not easily submit; for they frequently strayed away from our intended course, and gave the Tatsroed's son, Mr. Olav Stephensen \*, an infinity

\* In naming his children, the Stiftsamptman, as well as his sons, have abolished the custom, which is otherwise, I believe, very general in Iceland, of calling the child after



of trouble in pursuing them and compelling them to return into our track; in doing which, he displayed a dexterity and fearlessness in riding that really astonished me, galloping in the most furious manner over the loose fragments of rock. To add to his fatigue, it not uncommonly happened that, when he returned to us after having recovered the horses that had gone astray in one direction, he found those which he had left quiet behind already run off in some different course, so that he had a most tiresome journey. The country over which we passed, after winding round the foot of Akra-fiel \* and reaching its opposite side, was altogether flat and marshy,

the christian name of the father, with the addition of *sen* or *son*, to it; thus the son of the Tatsroed, *Magnus Stephensen*, ought, by this rule, to have been *Magnusen*, to which any christian name might be subjoined. If it had been *Olav Magnusen*, his son would bear the name of *Olavsen*, or rather *Olafsen*, as I believe it is generally written.

\* *Akra*, the name of a parish, means *corn field*, as the Tatsroed observed to me; and he considered the application of this word to a place in Borgafiord, as a strong argument in favor of the former cultivation of corn in that quarter of the island. From their vicinity to *Akra*, are also derived the appellation of the mountain *Akra-fiel*, and of the promontory *Akra-ness*, and, indeed, we learn from the *Landnama* and *Eigil-Sogas* that *Skalagrim*, in the beginning of the tenth century, cultivated grain in the southern part of *Myrar*, and in the neighborhood of the river *Hvitaa*. On the subject of

though many lofty mountains were in sight. In such a place vegetation was of course more abundant than among the rocky and hilly tracts, houses also were more frequent than I had elsewhere

the cultivation of corn, it is observed in the *Voyage en Islande*, "La métairie de *Reykholt* est le seul endroit dans l'intérieur du *Breedefjord*, dont l'auteur du *Sturlunga-Saga* (1 B. cap. 13) parle aussi avantageusement, en disant que les semailles réussissaient toujours, et que l'on pouvait en tout temps se procurer des farines fraîches dont les habitants se faisaient un régal. Cet historien ne fixe pas précisément le lieu où se faisaient ces ensemencages, mais il paraît que c'était près de la métairie où le terrain conservait toujours beaucoup de chaleur par rapport aux feux souterrains, puisqu'il existe ici des sources chaudes et des veines d'eau de même nature, dont les vapeurs communiquent en été aux plantes une humidité fertilisante, et les garantissent en hiver du froid." (v. ii. p. 33—34.)—If such were really to be the effect arising from the vicinity of hot springs, either the quantity of corn cultivated must have been very small, or the boiling fountains extremely numerous. But, as the historian has not informed us that this was the reason of the cultivation of corn having been attended with success in his days, it may not unjustly be doubted, whether the circumstance is ascribable to such a cause: for of moisture there certainly seems to be no want in Iceland, and the sudden vicissitudes from heat to cold, which would necessarily arise from a variation in the wind, must, undoubtedly, be prejudicial to plants, which are not capable of bearing the extremes of either. With regard to some of the native vegetables, indeed, a situation like this is not inimical to their existence, but even appears to bring certain species to a greater state of perfection, whilst others are materially injured by it. Of

seen, and the whole district wore an aspect of comfort that seemed to bespeak a greater degree of wealth than is to be met with in any other part of the island. On our left was a bay, or rather arm of the sea, called *Borgar-fiord*, from which the neighboring country takes its name. At *Leera*, we stopped at an excellent house, belonging to a *sysselman*, who had married a sister of the *Tatsroed*, and who would not suffer us to depart without setting before us some coffee, roast mutton, rum, and claret, and forcing us to partake of his hospitality; neither could we prevent him from accompanying us on our way till we had reached a difficult pass upon a mountain, through which he observed that the *Tatsroed*, however well acquainted with the

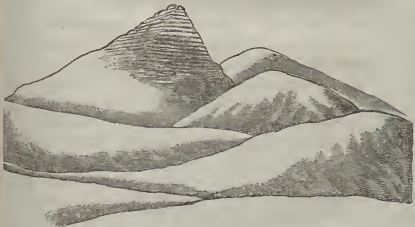
such plants I endeavored to make out a list, but I can, at this time, only call to mind, with any degree of certainty, some of the class *Cryptogamia*, which I was particular in examining on the spot, and which I have already taken notice of in two or three places. It may be observed, that a higher degree of temperature in the air extends but for a few yards at any time, in consequence of the steam, and when this latter ascends perpendicularly, the ground receives none of its influence. But how pernicious must be the effect of a westerly breeze, wafting the heated vapor upon the young and tender plant, when followed, as is often the case, almost immediately, by a wind from the east, that drives the steam in another direction, and chills with frost what had been the day before exposed to so much heat!

country in general, would not prove a sufficient guide. As we went along, we observed not far from the road a small turf-building, which we found on inquiry to be a printing-office, and at this time the only one in the island. Its distance from Reikevig must necessarily be a source of great inconvenience, and cause considerable delay in the issuing of proclamations and other matters relative to government, to which, indeed, may be attributed in some measure the misunderstanding between Count Tramp and Mr. Phelps; the former of whom made this a plea for the not having published earlier the convention that he had entered into with the captain of the Rover sloop of war. For other purposes it may serve well enough, and its vicinity to the Tatsroed, who furnishes it with more employment than any other person, is of considerable advantage, both to himself and the proprietor. We now approached the mountain *Skardsheidi*, which we had to cross in our way to Hvamöre, but we previously touched upon the borders of some brush-wood, which here bears the name of a forest, and is considered the finest in the island. To have entered into the wood would have led us too much out of our intended course, so that I was prevented from judging either of the size of the largest birches, of which it was composed, or of its rank in the scale of Icelandic forests. Of

such trees, "if *trees* they may be called, which *trees* are none," as we passed on the outskirts, the tallest did not exceed three feet or four at the utmost, and would scarcely have received a more important appellation than that of bushes in other countries. The sides of Skardsheidi are in many places extremely steep and barren, and its base, from being every where, except in the gullies, wholly environed by an immense wall formed of loose pieces of rock that have fallen from the cliffs above, is thus rendered no less impassable than the parts which are naturally more perpendicular. We ascended through a hollow in one side of the mountain, where the appearance of vegetation, scanty and miserable as it was, induced us to alight from our horses and give up a little time to botanizing. I do not recollect that any particularly rare plants rewarded our researches in this spot, but I well remember how much I was surprised at the extent of the Tatsroed's botanical acquirements, and especially at the readiness and correctness with which he gave to most of the plants their Linnæan appellations. This astonished me the more as his only aid has been a few books, the principal of which is *Lightfoot's Flora Scotica*, and even these he has been condemned to study by himself; there being no individual attached to similar pursuits in the whole island. He consequently expressed great pleasure at being now

in company with a person who had made botany one of the chief objects of his attention, and he spared no pains in collecting with his own hands and in directing his son to collect such specimens as I most wished to possess. It was not long, however, before we left behind us all traces of vegetation, and climbed the steeper and perfectly barren sides of the mountain, where we observed nothing remarkable, till we came to the difficult passage through which the sysselman had volunteered to conduct us. This was a sort of chasm, where a quantity of loose stones and decomposed rock, that had been washed down by the rains, afforded a rugged pathway overhanging a precipice on our right, so narrow as scarcely to leave room for our horses to set one foot before the other. We crossed it, however, in safety, and took leave of our kind friend, who returned to Lcera. The higher we ascended the more severe was the cold, and a storm of snow, which we had watched for some time above us spending its rage against the upper part of the mountain, now assailed us, and made us feel still more sensibly the difference between the month of August in Iceland and in England. When we had reached the highest summit over which we had to pass, a still loftier one of a most remarkable shape presented itself to our view. Its figure, from the direction in which we saw it, was almost a perfect pyramid, of a most gigantic

size; but what rendered it still more singular was the horizontal stratification, that exactly resembled a flight of steps, each stratum projecting beyond the one above it, and gradually decreasing in width to the pointed extremity. Upon the upper surface of all the lower strata lay a covering of snow, whilst their naked perpendicular sides presented so many black intervening lines: the peak itself was entirely enveloped in snow. So strong an impression has this scene left on my mind, that I venture to lay before my readers the subjoined sketch, made from recollection, trusting it will enable them, better than can be done by a description, to form a correct idea of a place, where the excessive severity of the atmosphere prevented my making a drawing on the spot.



The ground upon which we now rode was so firm and unbroken that, having mounted fresh horses, we galloped for a mile or more on solid rock, till the descent became so steep as to require more caution in our proceedings. On descending somewhat lower, we emerged from the clouds into a clear atmosphere, and had a most extensive prospect of rivers, morasses, mountains, and lofty jökuls; among the latter of which those of *Geitland* made a most conspicuous figure at no great distance from us, shooting their pointed summits, capped with eternal snow, through the thick clouds that partly enveloped their sides. The mountain, also, called *Boula*, from its great height and conical figure, formed a prominent feature in the scene: it is likewise deserving of notice on account of the vulgar idea, that there is on its summit (which, by the bye, has proved inaccessible to all who have attempted to reach it) an entrance to a rich and beautiful country; a country constantly green, and abounding in trees; inhabited by a dwarfish race of men, whose sole employment is the care of their fine flocks of sheep\*. The Tatsroed particularly directed my attention to four rivers

\* I think I heard of one or two other Icelandic mountains, concerning which the natives entertain similar notions; but I was not aware that *Geitland Jökul* was believed to contain such regions of pleasure and happiness, till I observed it re-



flowing through the centre of as many exactly parallel vallies, over the whole of which our superior elevation enabled us to cast a bird's-eye view, though the ridges of mountains that sepa-

marked in the *Voyage en Islande*, where, at page 168 of vol. 1, it is said, "Les Islandais croyent généralement, " d'après d'anciens récits fabuleux, qu'il existe au milieu du " *Geitland* une profonde vallée garnie de superbes prairies, " et habitée par une petite peuplade inconnue. Ces habitans " vivent de leurs troupeaux, et sont, a ce qu'ils disent, " des descendans de brigands et de géans: ils les nomment " *Ikogarmon* dans la *Gamla Saga*, ce qui signifie homme de " bois. Cette fable tire son origine de leur *Grettis Saga* " (*chap.* 50), où il est dit que *Grettis* habitait en hiver ce " vallon. Qu'à cette même époque, c'est-a-dire vers l'an " 1026, il y demeurait un Pâtre nommé *Thorir*, qui avait " deux filles, avec lesquelles *Grettis* fit connaissance. Que " ce vallon est garni de bois et de belles prairies, et qu'il y " avait de superbes moutons, bien nourris et de la grosse " espece." The ideas concerning fairies and giants, as well as the superstitious notions about the monsters of the rivers and lakes and the appearance of evil spirits, are principally confined to the lower class of people, among whom they are very prevalent. On this subject the authors of the above-mentioned work have made some observations, which, though they may swell the note to an inconvenient length, appear to be well worth transcribing. " On pourrait tres-bien at- " tribuer l'idée qu'ils se font de fantômes et d'esprits malins " à la vie triste qu'ils mènent dans ces contrées sombres et " désertes, environnées de rochers, de vallons obscurs et de " cimetières, puisque c'est là que de tous temps on a eu la " folle imagination de croire que les spectres choisissaient " leurs demeures. C'est aussi dans la partie septentrionale

rated them from each other were of considerable height. Their fertility and the abundant supply of salmon \* afforded by the rivers, had been the means of inducing many natives to fix their residence in them: We found the side of the mountain by which we descended more thickly strewed with stones than the summit, and we observed that these stones contained a great quantity of a white or greenish mineral substance, probably quartz, some of which was firmly imbedded in the rock, and some that had fallen from it lay dispersed in many places upon the ground. Of both we gathered many and very fine specimens.

“ de l'isle qu'il en est le plus question, tandis que l'on n'en  
 “ entend presque pas parler vers le sud, où les villages sont  
 “ plus rassemblées, et où il y a toujours des étrangers, outre  
 “ les navigateurs qui y viennent passer l'été pour le com-  
 “ merce. Ce qui ajoute encore à leurs affections mélan-  
 “ coliques, ce sont les hivers qui y sont très-longs, et qui  
 “ les tiennent conséquemment long-temps dans une solitude  
 “ attristante; en second lieu, la peur qu'on leur inspire  
 “ dans le bas âge, et enfin leur état actuel de misère et de  
 “ pauvreté, et leur taciturnité qui n'est éclaircie par aucun  
 “ amusement.”

\* *Grimsa*, which is one of these rivers, is considered as equal to any stream in Iceland for the quantity of salmon it produces. “ En automne, l'endroit de la rivière, qui est fixé  
 “ comme guéable, se trouve quelquefois si plein de saumons,  
 “ que les chevaux ont de la peine à passer, et ne savent où  
 “ poser les pieds.” *Voyage en Islande, vol. i. p. 204.*

On reaching the morass below, we were at no great distance from Hvamöre, the house of the Amptman Stephensen, though, before we could arrive at it, we had to cross several rivers and a very unpleasant country. In our way we passed three or four residences of respectable appearance, which seemed to possess plenty of good cows and sheep. Hvamöre itself was easily distinguishable from the other buildings by its superior size and style of architecture, and still more by the numerous and happy groupe of its inhabitants who came out to welcome us to their home. Beside our host, hostess, and their servants, nine of the handsomest children that I ever saw in the island were present. All these were the Amptman's, and as I happen to have a list of the whole of this family written down in my pocket-book by the Tatsroed, it may be inserted as a specimen of the christian names that are made use of in Iceland :

Stephen Stephensen, Amptman of the Western  
Quarter of the Island.

Gudrun Stephensen, his wife.

Sigrid Stephensen, his daughter.

Olav Stephensen,

Magnus,

Peter,

Johannes,

Stephen,

} Sons.

Helene,	}	Daughters.
Ragncidur,		
Martha,		

The customary Icelandic ceremony of saluting each individual, not even excluding the servants, being at length gone through, we entered the house, and, after a few cups of coffee, soon found ourselves seated before a dinner of roasted meat, sago-jelly, and waffels. The country round Hvamöre, which is flat and swampy, produces but little that is interesting to the botanist. A *Carex*, however, which grows here in the greatest profusion, deserves to be mentioned on account of its utility to the Icelandic farmer. During the course of our ride in the morning, the Tatsroed had pointed out the foliage of the plant in many places, and assured me that it was found the most useful of all the indigenous gramineous tribe; for that the sheep and cows afforded a more abundant supply of milk from being fed in pastures where it was abundant, and it made excellent hay. At Hvamöre, acres of ground were uninterruptedly covered with it, and I was here enabled to collect many specimens in flower, and to satisfy myself that it was a species with which I was unacquainted, though approaching very nearly in habit to *C. stricta*, from which it differs essentially in being much smaller in all its parts, and in having the spikes remarkably

drooping. I had before observed the same plant near Reikevig, and in the neighborhood of Skalholt, but in neither of these places did it flourish so luxuriantly or abound so much as here, where, as just mentioned, the pastures were almost entirely composed of it, and a number of people were now employed in cutting it, and making it into hay. Another meal of roasted meat concluded the feasting of the day: a thing that would scarcely deserve to be noticed, but for the sake of observing that it was the fourth time in the course of the twelve hours that I sat down to a hot roast joint of meat: first, when we breakfasted at Inderholme, then at the sysselman's house at Leera, and now twice at Hvamöre. Each repast, too, was preceded by a glass of rum, and concluded by coffee, chocolate, and often tea.

Thursday,  
August 9. After breakfast, the Amptman and the Tatsroed, with their two sons and myself, set out for Reykholt, taking with us, as on the preceding day, horses to relieve those which we first rode. These animals were even more spirited and more disposed to ramble than those we took from Inderholme, and gave for some time sufficient employment to the young Stephensens; but after we had advanced a few miles they became more tractable, and suffered

us when we reached a firm and level country of barren and broken rock to travel with little interruption at a very quick pace. The first object worthy of notice which we passed was an extensive fresh-water lake, in the centre of which was a small grassy island, where the Tatsroed informed me grew a Scotch fir (*Pinus sylvestris*), diminutive indeed in size, but the only one that was ever seen in Iceland. There was no boat on the water, by means of which I might myself have ascertained this fact, and the distance from the shore was too great for me to be positive how far a little dark spot which I could discern was really the fir in question, or, indeed, a tree of any kind. Some future naturalist may, perhaps, have the opportunity of visiting the little island, and learning the truth of a story, which I believe the Tatsroed only knew from the report of the natives, who are said to have remarked the tree for very many years. Not far from this lake we passed a large heap of stones, much resembling a Scotch cairn, concerning which, Icelandic history is silent, but tradition relates that it covers the remains of some unknown ancient warrior. Our course was nearly north-east, and sometimes close by the banks of the broad river Hvitaa \* which,

\* This must not be confounded with the stream which bears the same name, and runs near the Geysers from the lake Hvitaa-vatn.

taking its rise from *Fiske-vatn*, empties itself into Borgafjord. In our way we called at the house of a peasant, a skilful workman in wood and silver, of whom I wished to procure some snuffboxes made of the tooth of the *Walrus*, called by the Icelanders *Rostungr*, (*Trichecus Rosmarus* Linn.), an animal that is not unfrequently cast on shore in the northern part of the island, where the teeth, (on account of their beauty and whiteness, in which circumstances they are quite equal to the best ivory) are eagerly sought after and collected for the purpose of being converted into snuffboxes. These are



prettily ornamented with silver, variously disposed in filagree work, and are used by people of rank, particularly by the ladies. Of such snuffboxes the contents are inhaled in the same way, as of those noticed in the early part of this journal; but, as their shape is different, and I was so fortunate as to preserve (together with my Icelandic dress) one of them which was given me by the Tatsroed's lady, I have thought it deserving of being figured.

After crossing the four parallel rivers, of which we had so fine a prospect on our descent from Skardsheidi, we entered Reykholt-dalr, or the vale of Reykholt; a name the place well deserves from the number of columns of steam that are to be seen rising on both sides of the Reyki-adals-aa\*. Just at the mouth of this valley we stopped to rest our horses, near a hill from which five or six fountains were gushing forth and forming a number of streamlets that poured down along every side of the eminence. These I had already crossed with the help of a stout pair of shoes, and was standing by one of the apertures, when a little English dog, that had accompanied me on this excursion, at first unconscious of the heat of the water, came running towards me through the scalding fluid. His howling soon made known the pain the poor animal suffered, and so alarmed was he ever after at the sight of water, that it was with the greatest difficulty he could be induced to cross a cold river, nor would he do it till we had gone so far that he was fearful of being lost, so that, for some time subsequent to this accident, we were obliged to carry him over the numerous torrents we had to pass. From these springs, which seem to be what are described in the *Voyage en Islande*, under the

\* The river of the smoking valley.



name of *Tungu-hver*, we passed on to those of *Aahver*, the situation of which is truly remarkable. They rise from a solid rock\*, as far as I can remember, about twenty feet in diameter, standing insulated nearly in the middle of a wide and cold stream, above the level of which it rises to the height of three or four feet. On the summit are two apertures, each of them a foot or a foot and half in width, and from these are almost incessantly spouting little jets of boiling water, which, trickling down on one side of the rock,

\* The authors of the *Voyage en Islande*, seem to consider this rock formed by a deposition from the boiling waters, which, perhaps, may be the case, though the color which, when I saw it, was almost entirely of a reddish brown, does not exactly accord with their description. There were, indeed, some patches of a whitish substance, that appeared to me to originate in a kind of bolus, thrown out by the water. "*Aahver* est la seconde source dont on ait connoissance. Sa position la rend remarquable, et l'on peut dire qu'il n'y a pas sa pareille en Islande, attendu qu'elle coule depuis les Thermes de Tungu, au milieu du *Reikholtssaa*, en prenant vers l'est. La force incrustative de ses eaux a formé peu à peu un rocher qui s'élève à cinq pieds au-dessus de la rivière. Il est d'une telle blancheur, que l'on dirait qu'on l'a enduit de chaux; il est constitué d'une concrétion de thermes, qui a acquis la solidité de la pierre. On remarque dans son intérieur, des petits trous ou, pour mieux dire, des petits conduits courbes d'où jaillissent avec murmure les eaux bouillantes qui partent de son fond. Les bords de ces trous sont colorés en dehors d'un jaune verdâtre, ce qui provient des vapeurs sulfureuses." *t. i. p. 220.*

unite with the cold stream below: there, being carried along by the velocity of the current, they form a line of heated water, the extent of which may readily be distinguished by the little clouds of steam which are continually issuing from it and floating upon its surface. Neglecting other springs of less importance, which, as we journeyed on, were here and there sending up their columns of vapor on each side of us, we hastened forward to the *Snorralang*, Snorro Sturleson's bath at Reykholt. This is one of the most interesting places in the country; not merely on account of its numerous hot springs, and of the superior fertility of its soil over that of most other parts of the island, but also from its having been formerly the residence of the great historian of the North\*, from whom the bath derives its appellation. It was here that, in the early part

\* There is a short account of this celebrated man in Mallet's "*Introduction a l'Histoire de Dannemarck, &c.*," and, perhaps, I cannot do better than extract a portion of what is there said concerning him, in the words of his translator, from the second volume of the *Northern Antiquities*, pages 22 and 23. "The famous *Snorro Sturleson* was born in the year 1179, of one of the most illustrious families in his country, where he twice held the dignity of first magistrate, having been the supreme judge of Iceland in the years 1215 and 1222. He was also employed in many important negociations with the Kings of Norway, who incessantly strove to subdue that island, as being the refuge

of the thirteenth century, he fixed his abode, after retiring from the fatigues of his public duties, and devoted his time to the improvements of his farm and the composition of his numerous works, as well poetical as historical. Here, too, in the turbulency of those barbarous ages, he fell a victim to a midnight assassin, and he now lies buried in some part of the present churchyard, though, as the pastor assured me, the precise spot is not known, nor is there a vestige of any monument to lead to its discovery. The only probable conjecture to be formed is, that he lies in that portion of the ground which is still called *Sturlunga-Reitur*, because, to use the

“ of their malcontent subjects. Snorro, whose genius was  
“ not merely confined to letters, met at last with a very  
“ violent end. He was assassinated in the night that he  
“ entered into his sixty-second year, anno 1241, by a faction  
“ of which he was the avowed enemy. We owe all that is  
“ rational, certain, and connected in the ancient history of  
“ these vast countries, to his writings, and especially to  
“ his ‘*Chronology of the Northern Kings.*’ There runs  
“ through this whole work so much clearness and order,  
“ such a simplicity of style, such an air of truth, and so  
“ much good sense, as ought to rank its author among the  
“ best historians of that age of ignorance and bad taste. He  
“ was also a poet, and his verses were often the entertain-  
“ ment of the courts to which he was sent. It was, doubt-  
“ less, a love for this art which suggested to him the design  
“ of giving a new *Edda*, more useful to the young poets  
“ than that of Sæmund.”

words of Olafsen and Povelsen, "c'est là que  
"sout enterrés les différens membres de cette  
"famille et quelques uns de leurs domestiques."  
The church is of modern date, as is also part of  
the house of the clergyman which adjoins it; but  
some ancient rude carvings of figures in wood,  
which are still very visible upon the latter over  
the entrance of the door, and other appearances  
of antiquity about it, render it probable that a  
portion of the dwelling has actually existed from  
the days of the historian. Very near the parson-  
age is a circular grassy mound of earth, flat on  
the summit, and evidently, to judge from the  
sound caused by stamping with the foot, hollow  
within; but what this formerly was, or to what  
use it could have been applied, is at present  
wholly unknown. It has hitherto been suffered  
to remain entire, from some superstitious notions  
of the natives, who conceive that it was probably  
the spot where Sturleson was murdered, and that  
the disturbing of it would also disturb the manes  
of their learned countryman. It is probable that  
a slight tinge of this superstition affected the  
mind of the late incumbent of the living, who  
had just breathed his last before our arrival,  
since during his life he had constantly resisted  
the entreaties of the Tatsroed to have the mound  
opened, a thing that his less scrupulous successor  
promised should soon be done. At the distance

of a few paces from this mound is the Snorralang, a perfectly circular aperture, about twenty feet in diameter and four or five feet deep, cut in the side of a small hill, and walled round with square pieces of rock, not joined by any cement, but neatly placed together, so as to present a very even surface. The floor is paved with the same materials, and about a foot and half of the lower part of the wall projects into it, so as to form a bench all round, where twenty or thirty persons may, with more convenience than cleanliness, bathe at once. The boiling fountain in the immediate vicinity, called *Skribla*\*, affords at all times an abundant supply of hot water for the bath, into which it is conveyed through long wooden troughs. By means of a transverse board, moving upon a pivot, the water may be directed to the bath, or turned off to another course, after a sufficient quantity has been admitted; and, for the purpose of reducing the temperature of this water to the wishes of the persons about to bathe, a cold stream, from an adjoining spring, is, also, by a similar contrivance, conveyed to the basin, or suffered to flow in its natural bed. By drawing a plug from a small diagonal opening in the bottom of the basin,

\* Near the source of this spring and attached to the inside of the wooden troughs, I met with many specimens of *Anthoceros punctatus*, flourishing in a very great degree of heat.

next the lowest side of the hill, the water after being used, is suffered to run off and the place is again fit for the reception of other bathers. In the time of Snorro Sturleson, no doubt, this bath was frequented by the healthy for the sake of cleanliness and luxury, as well as by the sick, for the cure of various complaints; but now it is scarcely ever used except for the purpose of washing clothes or of bending wood and hoops for casks, and we consequently found it in a most filthy condition. The *Sweatinghouse* \*, as it is called, situated about a mile from this bath,

\* The following mode of heating rooms in use among the Icelanders, as related by Arngrim Jonas, may well be considered as a vapor-bath, and deserves to be noticed here. Speaking of the turf for burning, Arngrim Jonas says, "Quamquam igitur judicavit Plinius miseram gentem, quæ terram suam urerent: nos contra eo nos feliciores ducimus; Deique beneficium hic et alibi agnoscimus, quibus fomes ignarius et cremandi materia non magno constet; qua re ad frigoris intemperiem arcendam, præter alios usus satis notos, incolæ summe indigebant; præsertim hyemalibus temporibus, quibus hypocausta et fornaces in usu, saxo et petris congestæ, per quas flamma facile erumperet; quæ quamprimum ignis vi penitus essent excofactæ, cumque jam defumasset hypocaustum, frigida camini saxi candentibus aspergebatur; quo pacto calor sese per universam domum efficaciter diffundere solet; qui sic etiam pariete et tecto cæspitatio optime conservatur. Memini autem, me balnea publica excofaciendi similem rationem apud extrancos alicubi observare."—A curious account of this manner of bathing may be seen in *Acerbi's*

is another place that was erected in former times for persons afflicted with various diseases, but now serves merely for drying the clothes of a neighboring peasant. It is a small turf building erected over a subterraneous boiling stream, which is covered with so thin a stratum of stone that the dry heat arising from it is very considerable, and soon throws into a most profuse perspiration any person who will be at the trouble of creeping into this confined room, as I did, upon their hands and knees, through a narrow and low passage, about five or six yards long. The closeness of the place, the heat, and the smell of the clothes, soon induced me to retreat, and having now seen what was most worthy of attention in the valley of smoke \*, we turned

*Travels*, where it is said the natives of Finland have small houses built on purpose for the bath, and that they remain in the vapors for half an hour or an hour in the same chamber, heated to the 70th or 75th degree of Celsius.

\* One would suppose that the quantity of steam must be greater than it really is for it to produce an effect which is mentioned in the *Voyage en Islande*. "La fumée et les vapeurs continuelles qui s'élèvent dans l'air, occasionnent beaucoup de pluies dans le pays: il en tombe même fréquemment dans les plus beaux temps de soleil, mais elles ne durent guères, parcequ'elles ne viennent que d'un nuage qui s'est élevé avec précipitation; il se peut néanmoins moins que la chute d'une parcelle vapeur de nuages, ne provienne que de la légèreté de l'air." *Tom. i. p. 237.*

towards Hvamörc, taking, however, a different route from that by which we had come in the morning. In our way, we stopped a few minutes at the house of a priest of the name of Joneson, where I was agreeably surprised at the sight of a jar of water filled with the charming flowers of *Epilobium frigidum* \*, *Fl. Scand.* a beautiful figure of which has been given by Mr. Salisbury in the *Paradisus Londinensis* under the name of *Chamænerium halimifolium*. Our host informed us he had found them on the side of the Hvitaa, and I therefore hastened thither and gathered a number of fine specimens of this splendid plant, the most striking vegetable production of Iceland. I had previously seen it, though in a less forward and luxuriant state. During our stay here, some people who had been requested by the Stiftsamptman to procure me specimens of the minerals of the country, brought me a number of different kinds, among which were several large pieces of *Obsidian* and some fine *Zeolites*. Late in the evening, after a most interesting ride through a comparatively populous and fertile tract of country, we returned to our

\* This plant does not always, as Mr. Salisbury seems to think, grow in maritime situations. The spot where I met with these specimens was at some distance from the sea, and those which I found in the chasin, at the foot of *Skoul-a-fiel* could not be less than ten or twelve miles from the coast.



hospitable abode at Hvamöre, where we rested, and early the following morning bade  
Friday,  
August 4. farewel to the Amptman's family, or rather to a part of it; for he himself and his eldest son had offered to accompany us to Inderholme, and thence to Reikevig. To vary in some measure our ride, and give us an opportunity of seeing more of the forest at the foot of Skardshcidi, we proposed going round the base of the mountain instead of crossing it. In a short time we reached the shore of Borgafjord, and continued upon a black beach of decomposed rock, as fine as sand, but more firm to the horses' feet, till, finding ourselves in a line with the wood, we turned from the water's side, and, without much difficulty, penetrated to the centre of the forest, where grew the loftiest of the trees that it was composed of, some of which were certainly larger than I had expected to have met with. The tallest, or I am much mistaken, were not less than eleven or twelve feet in height, and measured at the base five or six inches in diameter. In remembrance of the spot, I gathered some of the blossoms of the birch, which were now expanded, and diffused around us an agreeable fragrance that I never thought to have enjoyed in Iceland, while under our feet *Festuca vivipara* and other grasses, with *Silene acaulis* and abundance of the elegant *Polypodium dryopteris* formed a rich carpet that

almost made me forget the desert scenery which was on every side of us. That I might be able to say I had eaten my dinner in an Icelandic forest, the Amptman spread a cloth, and produced some rum and provisions that he had brought with him for the purpose, of which we partook, protected by the shade of the birch trees from the rays of the sun, though not from any heat which these rays would have afforded, for the cold was still very severe, and it was but a short time after our sylvan repast, before we had to ride a considerable length of way in the midst of a heavy fall of snow. On coming out from the wood and looking up to a part of Skardsheidi that was below even the height that we had crossed but a few days before, we could clearly discover the currents of water which had run down the almost perpendicular parts of the mountain, to be in a congealed state, and to form so many broad lines of solid ice, the appearance of which, upon the black face of the naked rock, was no less curious than interesting, at such a season of the year. As we approached the shore again, we came among a vast number of huge stones, scattered at various distances about a great plain, so much frequented by eagles, that at one view we remarked no less than five of these birds perched upon the rocks at a small distance from us, and so fearless were they of strangers that I was able to ride within thirty or forty yards of

one pair without their offering to move. The unevenness of the country did not admit of a nearer approach, but it was not possible for me to drive them away, except by urging my dog to go up to them, and him they suffered to come within a distance of scarcely more than twenty yards, before his barking at length compelled them to take flight. Both these birds and the ravens do much mischief to the flocks of sheep, particularly by carrying away the young lambs. We still continued along the shore, and, in our way, rode at the foot of a most romantic cliff, broken into a variety of picturesque forms, and here and there adorned with tufts of birch and various kinds of willows, while the numerous rills of water, which poured down the sides, afforded nourishment to a thick covering of moss, that added a richness to the coloring. On this grew the beautiful *Epilobium angustifolium*, and I also gathered *Ligusticum scoticum*, though with its flowers scarcely expanded. Soon after, among some loose soil by the side of a river, I found the *Papaver nudicaule* in full flower. Early in the afternoon we reached Lecra, where our friend the sysselman, who was in expectation of us, afterwards joined our little party to Reikevig. In the evening, as we approached Inderholme, we saw, at a considerable distance, entering the bay

of Faxafjord, a large three-masted vessel, which the Tatsroed supposed might be an American that was expected to arrive with provisions.

Saturday,  
August 5. My luggage and horses having, as above mentioned, been previously sent to Reikevig by land, the Tatsroed, the Amptman, the sysselman, and myself, accompanied by the eldest sons of the two former, embarked on board a six-oared boat to cross the bay for the same place. In conformity with a custom generally prevalent in Iceland, previously to making an aquatic excursion, all the crew took off their hats and rested a few moments upon their oars, while they offered up a silent ejaculation to heaven for a prosperous voyage. A light breeze, assisted by the oars, soon carried us away from the shore, and we enjoyed, as we passed along, a fine view of the mountains at the head of Hval-fiord, and even a distant glimpse of Geitland-Jökul. At one time, a large shark rose so near the boat as to cause some little alarm, but the Tatsroed, who was at the helm, quickly made signal to the boatmen to pull more briskly, by which means we soon saw the animal astern of our vessel, where he continued some time in sight, alternately plunging and rising to the surface of the water. A pleasant passage of about twenty miles from Inderholme brought us to the

shores of Reikevig, and I here learned that the vessel, which we had observed the evening before entering the Bay, was the Talbot sloop of war, commanded by the Honourable Alexander Jones. She had for some little time been cruising off Iceland, in the course of which she had made a landing on the south coast, and had entered the bay of Havnfiord. From this place the captain had proceeded without loss of time to Reikevig harbor, that he might have an opportunity of ascertaining more correctly the facts connected with a revolution in the government, of which he had heard at the former place, but had received only a short and unsatisfactory account. The consequence of these enquiries was his issuing orders, that the persons, principally concerned in bringing about this change of affairs, should with all possible expedition proceed to England, where a full account of all the transactions was to be laid before the British government. From this time, therefore, my researches to Iceland may be regarded as nearly at an end; and, though various circumstances prevented the sailing of our vessel until the twenty-fifth of August, yet the daily, and sometimes hourly, expectation of being called on board, prevented my making any excursion to a distance from Reikevig. Much of this time was spent in short, but, from the general barrenness of the soil, usually unproductive botanical walks in

the vicinity of Reikevig; and a portion, also, in balls and festivities, as well on board the *Talbot*, as in the town, or in visits to the *Stiftsamtman* at *Vidøe*, and to *Doctor Clog*, the chief physician of the island, who lived at an excellent house at *Noes-gaard*, where we were sure to meet from him and his lady, with a kind and hospitable reception. My memory no farther enables me to continue my journal in any thing like a regular manner, but, even had this been the case, yet still such would be found the uninteresting nature of the events that happened, except, indeed, those political ones that are more fully detailed in the *Appendix A*, that they could afford but little amusement. I therefore have less reason for regret at having lost this part of my notes, and I proceed to a brief recital of such matter as fell under my own personal observation, but has been omitted to be noticed in the course of my journal; conceiving that it may be of service in adding somewhat to our knowledge of the natural history of the island.

My inclination rather than my ability leads me in the first place to offer a few remarks on the botany and zoology of the country. In these two great kingdoms of nature, perhaps it would be difficult to find any spot of land of a similar extent, in an equal degree of latitude, which can lay claim to so small a number of species. The arctic regions

of Norway, Lapland, and the Russian empire, are comparatively rich in these departments; a circumstance most probably to be attributed to their warmer summers, and to the undisturbed state of the soil. In spite of this, however, a botanist, coming from the more temperate climate of Great Britain, will still meet with many vegetable productions that will interest him, such as *Azalea procumbens*, *Cardamine hastulata*, of English botany, *Rubus saxatilis*, *Erigeron alpinum*, *Saxifraga nivalis*, *rivularis*, *cernua*, and *oppositifolia*, *Silene acaulis*, *Veronica alpina*, and *fruticulosa*, with many other species, which he has been accustomed to see only on the summits of his loftiest mountains, but which will here be found growing in the plains and vallies, and near the shores of the sea. *Ranunculus lapponicus*, *glaciulis*, and *hyperboreus*, *Eriophorum capitatum*, *Konigia islandica*, *Gentiana tenella*, *detonsa* (the *ciliata* of Retzius), and *aurea*, *Andromeda hypnoides*, *Chamaenerium halamifolium*, *Angelica Archangelica*, *Lychnis alpina*, *Papaver nudicaule*, *Draba contorta* of Retzius, *Orchis hyperborea*, *Carex Bellardi*, *Salix Lapponum*, and other plants peculiar to high northern latitudes, together with some, as yet undescribed, will likewise offer themselves for his examination, and afford him a pleasure, of which no one, but a naturalist, can form an idea, as well as what is happily termed by

Doctor Smith one of the highest sources of gratification attending upon this and similar pursuits, "the anticipation of the pleasure he may have to bestow on kindred minds with his own, in sharing with them his discoveries and his acquisitions."\* But a richer field is open before him in the class *Cryptogamia*. The *Muscologia* of the country is little known, and I am sure, from what I myself found, that many new and rare species would reward a careful search among this tribe, though, like me, he might seek in vain for the magnificent *Splachna* of the Norwegian and Lapponian Alps, *rubrum* and *luteum*, two plants that I had most earnestly reckoned upon gathering. *Tortula tortuosa*, *Polytrichum sexangulare*, and *hercynicum*, the former always barren, as in Scotland, *Buxbaumia foliosa*, *Dicranum pusillum*, *Hypnum revolvens*, *Silesianum*, and *filamentosum*, *Meesia dealbata*, *Conostomum boreale*, *Splachnum vasculosum*, and *urceolatum*, *Trichostomum ellipticum*, *Fontinalis squamosa*, and *falcata*, both abundantly provided with capsules, and *Encalypta alpina*, as well as many other mosses, which I cannot with any degree of certainty now call to my remembrance, are met with upon the lava, in the morasses, or in the rapid

\* Preface to the *Introduction to Botany*.



torrents. Most of the known alpine species of *Jungermannia* are also natives of Iceland, and some new ones, the loss of which I peculiarly regret. Of *Lichens* there are comparatively but few, as, indeed, may reasonably be expected from the extreme scarcity of trees, to which so many of them are exclusively attached; and even the rocky species are far from abounding; the lava, which covers so great a proportion of the island, being eminently unfavorable to the growth of them. On the primitive mountains I observed the more common crustaceous *Lecideæ* and *Parmeliæ*, with some others unknown to me, which the exceeding severity of the weather prevented my examining carefully in their places of growth, and the exceeding hardness of the stone prevented my getting specimens of. The perennial snow that caps the higher hills, forbids any of them to grow on very high elevations, as in more temperate climates; in the plains *Bæomyces rangiferinus*, so useful in Lapland as the food of the reindeer, is found in the greatest profusion and luxuriance, and the singularly elegant *Cetraria nivalis*, which is almost equally abundant, though always barren, makes amends by its beauty for the absence of a greater variety of species. The shores of the island are too much exposed to the most heavy and tempestuous seas, to suffer the

more delicate species of submersed *Algæ* to attach themselves to the rocks, and the violence of the surf prevents such as come from more sheltered spots from being thrown uninjured upon the beach. *Ulwæ* I saw none, except *U. lactuca* and *umbilicalis*, and among *Fuci*, *F. ramentaceus* was the only one which came under my observation, that has not a place in the British list. With the larger kinds employed in the making of kelp the rocks every where abound, and I should think that the advantages resulting from the manufacture of this article, which is carried on in Scotland to such a great extent, and has proved so enormous a source of wealth to many of the Hebrides, might, also, with the fostering aid of a benevolent and liberal government be extended to the wretched Icelanders, who have so much greater need of it. A plant, which has been found in Lapland, and which Doctor Wahlenberg, in a letter to Mr. Dawson Turner, calls *Rivularia cylindrica* \* of his MSS. is extremely common in the rivers and fresh-water lakes of Iceland, but appears to me to have no nearer an affinity to the genus *Rivularia*, than it has to *Conferva*, to which latter Doctor Roth has lately referred a plant formerly known under the name

\* See page 71.

of *Ulva lubrica*, with which, in its texture and the disposition of its seeds, it appears exactly to coincide. It extends from three inches to as many feet in length, unbranched, and, as its name implies, cylindrical, forming an uniform tube, of a pale green color, and thin delicate semi-gelatinous substance, studded all over with darker green seeds, that are almost universally placed in fours, standing in small squares. As I have been fortunate enough to save specimens of this plant, and a drawing that I made upon the spot, I shall, probably, at some future time, take an opportunity of making a figure, and more full description of it public. The water of the pools, that have been formed in the morasses, by cutting away the turf for fuel, generally abounds with our common species of *Confervæ*, such as *C. nitens* and *bipunctata*; and a few of our marine ones are found in the basins among the rocks, and upon the sea-shores. But other more interesting species are met with on spots of earth and rock that are heated to a great degree, either by the steam of the boiling springs or by the waters themselves: most of these seem to belong to the Vauchcrian Genus, *Oscillatoria*. Of *Fungi*, the island can boast but few, except some *Agarici*, scattered in such small quantities, that they are not used for food, and *Lycoperdon Bovista*, which is found every where.

The entomological productions of Iceland are extremely scanty. A very small collection of insects, indeed, rewarded my researches in this department of natural history, and of these there were none that were in the least remarkable for their beauty. Some of the *Lepidopterous* species were new to me, among which I think I had five or six nondescript *Phalenæ*. No *Papilio* or *Sphinx* has ever been met with in the country. Of *Coleopterous* insects, there is scarcely a greater variety; and I saw only a single *Scarabæus*, and a very few *Curculiones* and *Carabi*, most of which, however, to make me amends, were such as I was unacquainted with. I, by mere accident, have still preserved a specimen of an undescribed species of *Coccinella*, which I found killed by the steam of one of the hot springs at the Geysers; it was the only one of the genus that I saw.

The fish of these coasts scarcely at all fell under my observation, so that I have little more to remark upon this subject, than that thirty-three species are enumerated by Mohr, nearly all of which, I believe, are natives of our own seas; but of these almost the only ones that came to our table, were cod, salmon, and the Thingvallé trout. Herrings I never saw, nor are the natives provided with nets for catching them.

Many species of *Molluscæ* frequent the shores, upon which *Medusa cruciata* is often thrown in great quantity, and of a size far exceeding what I ever met with in Britain, not measuring less than a foot in diameter. Shell-fish are far from abundant in the parts I visited, excepting the *Mytilus modiolus*, which is much eaten. Of the more delicate shells I was enabled to gather a very small number.

The water-birds of Iceland are numerous, most of those which migrate in the winter to our more southern latitudes coming here in the summer to breed, and no doubt many new species may be met with; but other occupations, and the great difficulty of proeuring specimens in this country, did not permit me to bestow upon this department the attention I could have wished. I was fortunate enough to procure one or two apparently new species of *Anas*: and a very small kind of *Phalaropus*, with which I was unacquainted, having a body scarcely larger than a lark, was now and then seen near Reikevig: it was probably the *P. glacialis* of Doctor Latham.

I need not here repeat what has already been said in other parts of my journal respecting the few birds I met with in my excursions, nor the particulars I collected about the Eider-duck, whose

down affords such an important article of commerce; but I have yet mentioned nothing concerning the *Icelandic Falcon*, which of all the hawk tribe is considered of the greatest value in falconry. This noble bird was, by the older ornithologists, classed among the varieties of the Linnæan *Falco Gyrfalco*, but by Gmelin referred to *F. candidus*, in his edition of the *Systema Naturæ*, and has since, by Doctor Latham and succeeding writers, been raised to the rank of a distinct species, under the name of *F. islandicus*. It possesses a plumage that varies in the different periods of its existence still more remarkably than that of other hawks; "and hence," as Doctor Shaw remarks, "seems to have arisen the wonderful discordance in the descriptions of authors, which have at length amounted to so confused an assemblage of contradictory characters as almost to set at defiance all attempts to reconcile them." Of the numerous varieties, the white is the most rare, and the most eagerly sought after by the natives, all that are taken of this color being reserved for the king of Denmark, who has set so high a value upon them, and so little upon the lives of his oppressed subjects, that a law has been enacted, declaring it death to any one who shall destroy one of these birds. In such estimation are they held, that his Danish Majesty has, for many years, considered them

worthy of being sent as presents to the different crowned heads in Europe. The persons engaged in the catching of the Iceland Falcons, take them to Bessestedr, where they are examined by the king's falconer, who is sent, annually, for the purpose of procuring a supply of them, and brings with him in the vessel live eattle, to furnish them with fresh provisions during the passage. If the bird, upon inspection, proves not to be of the proper kind or age, it is immediately killed; but otherwise, there are, according to Horrebow, fifteen rix-dollars given for a White Falcon, and seven for one of the more common varieties. Eagles, as already observed, are abundant in Iceland; and Ravens, the favored bird of Odin\*, not less so; Stormy Petrels, Auks, and Puffins, are likewise plentiful, and the latter might often

\* “ The *Raven* holds the first rank among the land-birds  
 “ in the Scandinavian Mythology. We see the use made of  
 “ them by the chieftain *Floke*. The bards in their songs give  
 “ them the classical attribute of the power of presage. Thus,  
 “ they make *Thromundr* and *Thorbiorn*, before a feudal battle,  
 “ explain the foreboding voice of this bird, and its interest in  
 “ the field of battle.

## THR.

“ Hark! the *Raven's* croak I hear,  
 “ Lo! the bird of fate is near.  
 “ In the dawn with dusky wings  
 “ Hoarse the song of death she sings.

afford the natives a salutary and welcome meal, but that, being destitute of fire-arms, they have no means of killing them. Poultry of all kind is quite unknown to the Icelanders, except that a

“ Thus in days of yore she sang,  
 “ When the din of battle rang ;  
 “ When the hour of death drew nigh,  
 “ And mighty chiefs were doom'd to die.

THOR.

“ The *Raven* croaks ; the warriors slain  
 “ With blood her dusky wings distain ;  
 “ Tir'd, her morning prey she seeks,  
 “ And with blood and carnage reeks.

“ Thus, perch'd upon an aged oak,  
 “ The boding bird was heard to croak ;  
 “ When all the plain with blood was spread,  
 “ Thirsting for the mighty dead.

“ The *Raven* was also sacred to *Odin*, the Hero and God of the North. On the sacred flag of the Danes was embroidered this bird. *Odin* was said always to have been attended with two, who sate on his shoulders, whence he was called the *God of Ravens* : one was styled *Huginn* or *Thought* ; the other *Muninn* or *Memory*. They whispered in his ear all they saw or heard. In the earliest dawn he sent them to fly round the world, and they returned before dinner, fraught with intelligence. *Odin* thus sang their importance :

“ *Huginn* and *Muninn*, my delight !  
 “ Speed through the world their daily flight :



few are now and then conveyed to the country by the Danes, who are obliged at the same time to bring with them a sufficient supply of necessary food for their support, of which the island furnishes none.

Indigenous quadrupeds, likewise, as has already been remarked in a previous part of my journal, are wholly wanting.

Among the domestic animals in the island, the dog must not be passed by in silence, as being of the greatest importance to the natives, in collecting the sheep scattered over the mountains, and driving them to the milking places. The *Fiaarhuundar* of the Icelanders (*Canis islandicus* of some authors), if it has not sufficient characters to rank it as a species, is at least a very strongly marked variety; differing in many points from any of the dogs I have elsewhere seen, but most nearly approaching the figures and descriptions that are given us of the Greenland dog. It is rather below the middle size, well proportioned

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“ From their fond lord they both are flown,

“ Perhaps eternally are gone.

“ Though *Huginn's* loss I should deplore,

“ Yet *Muninn's* would afflict me more.”

*Pennant's Arctic Zoology, Introduction, p. 72.*

in its parts, having a short and a sharp nose much resembling that of a fox, and small erect ears, of which the tips only, especially in the young animal, hang down: the hair is coarse, straight, and thick, very variable in color, but most frequently of a greyish brown; the tail long and bushy, and always carried curled over the back. Had I been the only person to witness the following circumstance concerning the dogs in Iceland, I should scarcely have ventured to relate the anecdote; but my scruples are removed, as, so far from this having been the case, I was not even the first who saw it; for Mr. Browning, an officer of the *Talbot*, whose ill health confined him to a room on shore, called my attention to it, by more than once remarking to me that he had, from his window, in the morning of several successive days, observed at a certain hour a number of dogs assemble near his house, as if by a previously concerted arrangement, and, after performing a sort of sham fight for some time, disperse and return to their homes. A desire to be an eye-witness of so singular a fact, led me to go to this gentleman's room one morning, just as these animals were about to collect. The spot they frequented was across the river, which there are but two ways of passing from the town without swimming; the one a bridge, the other some stepping stones, each situated at a small distance

from the other. By both these approaches to the field, the dogs belonging to Reikevig were running with the greatest speed, while their companions of the neighboring country were hastening to the place of rendezvous from other quarters. We counted twenty-five of them, not all of the true leelandic stoek (the *Fiaar-huundar*), but some of different kinds, which had probably been brought to the country by the Danes; and I presume it was one of these, much larger and stronger than the rest, who placed himself upon an eminence in the centre of the crowd. In a few seconds, three or four of them left the main body, and ran to the distance of thirty or forty yards, where they skirmished in a sort of sham battle; after which, one or two of these returned, and one, two, or three others immediately took their places: party succeeding party, till most, if not all, had had their share in the sport. The captain remained stationary. The engagement was in this manner kept up by different detachments, the dogs continuing their amusement in perfect playfulness and good humor, though not without much barking and noise, for about a quarter of an hour, when the whole of them dispersed, and took the way to their respective homes in a less hasty manner than they had arrived.

Four species of *Phoca* are noticed by Mohr, in

his *Natural History of Iceland*, as being found upon the shores of that island. The common seal, *Phoca vitulina*, is extremely abundant, and is killed by the natives for the sake both of the skin and the oil: of the former they make their shoes, as well as bags for various purposes, and an excellent kind of portmanteau, which is composed of nearly the whole hide, with very little alteration, except the cutting away of the head and legs; each extremity being closed by a flat and circular piece of wood, while the opening made for the purpose of skinning the animal is left for the admission of different articles that may be wanted during a journey. It is then fastened behind the saddle upon the horse, as a cloak-bag.

The horses of the Icelanders are small, but strong, and though, for want of a proper supply of food, generally in a miserable condition during the winters, when they for the most part are kept among the mountains to procure their subsistence as they can; yet, in the summer, when grass is plentiful, they are well furnished with flesh, and, if not worked too hard, will even grow fat. Every Icelanders keeps his riding horse, and many of the peasants have, also, from fifty to sixty, or even a hundred, others for burthen. These of course are useless in the winter, but, as soon as

the fisheries commence, or the season for trade summons their masters to Reikevig and other ports, they are all called into employ, and, if the journey be long, the natives with their tents and families lead, like the Nomades of old, a truly wandering life for nearly the whole summer, subject to no restraint, but taking up their abode where-soever a pleasing spot or a supply of grass for their cattle invites them, and neither shortening nor protracting their periods of rest, by any other consideration, but their own inclinations: truly happy, if the happiness of man consist in his will being his law! No wheel carriages of any kind can be made use of in the island: every thing is therefore transported upon horses, which renders a number of these animals of the greatest importance to those Icelanders who live at a distance from the coast. It is stated by Povelsen and Olafsen that the price of a horse in their time (about 1750 or 1760), varied according to its goodness from six to eight rix-dollars, and that it was rarely known that one sold for so much as ten or twelve. Now, however, they are so considerably enhanced in price, that I could not buy a good riding horse for less than thirty rix-dollars, and I have even known persons refuse one hundred for a very handsome one.

The cows are likewise small, and are seen both

with and without horns. Almost every peasant has five or six of them, though he can seldom preserve the whole through the winter, on account of the miserably scanty supply of hay, which it is alone in their power to collect from their pastures, to maintain their stock during the long continuance of the season when the ground is covered with snow. In years of extreme scarcity the poor beasts are fed with dried fish cut small; and the authors of the *Voyage en Islande* state it as a fact, that the inhabitants of the islands of *Breydefjord* have even been reduced to the necessity of nourishing them with dry turf. A cow sells, according to the quantity of milk she gives, at from ten to twenty, and thirty rix-dollars.

I have already made mention in one or two places of the Icelandic sheep, and have particularly noticed the smallness of their size, and the general coarseness of their wool. This latter is never shorn, but is either plucked by hand, or suffered to fall off in the early part of the summer. The first wool is extremely fine and short, but, as the winter approaches, a longer and coarser kind is mixed with it, which is said, by writers on Iceland, to be employed in making buttons and garters at Copenhagen, and to be sold for a manufactory of camel's hair. The

finest of the Icelandic wool is selected by the merchants at Copenhagen, and considered far superior to the best that Zealand produces. In the neighborhood of Reikevig, sheep sell at from three to four dollars a head, but in the interior of the country they may be bought at very much less. I have paid one dollar for a good sheep, and the peasant has been more than satisfied. For a lamb of a moderate size, two marks (1*s.* 4*d.*) is a fair price. These animals seem to be fond of various species of sea-weed, which they eagerly devour at the ebb tide upon the shores; but it is only when they are greatly distressed for other food, that the natives give them the refuse of the stoek and wolf-fish. They are also said at those times to feed them with small narrow pieces cut from the belly of the shark.

Goats are but seldom seen, and I believe only a few are kept in the northern and eastern parts of the island. To judge from the skins that I procured of two of these animals, they arrive at a large size, and, from their extreme hardness, I should have supposed they would have answered well to an Icelandic farmer. Reindeer I have already noticed as having greatly increased in the mountainous and less frequented districts; and there is reason to hope that at some future period they may be of real importance to the Icelanders.

Hogs are, unfortunately, not to be met with, the country furnishing no food for their support.

The dark nights which immediately preceded our departure from Iceland gave me an opportunity of seeing the *Aurora Borealis* in a degree of perfection unknown to the inhabitants of milder climates, though, according to the report of the natives, it was even then very much inferior to what it appears in the still darker and longer evenings of winter. I do not at all recollect observing the light occupying any of the northern hemisphere, but various parts of the east, west, and south were frequently illuminated. Its color was of a paler yellow than what I had been accustomed to see either in England or the north of Scotland, and its figure most variable; sometimes extending in one narrow line apparently half-way across the heavens; then rapidly expanding in width and contracting in length, altering in form and brilliancy every moment. Sometimes, too, these meteors are confined to one single spot, while at other times they are seen in many different parts at once, but shifting their situations every instant. Upon this subject, Povelsen and Olafsen, whose opportunities of making remarks were so greatly superior to mine, at the same time that they confirm my observation, how extremely variable the *Aurora Borealis* is in Iceland, in its form and



situation, add that it is not less so in the periods of its appearing. They say it is rare to see it illuminating the horizon without at the same time being sensible of an evident unsteadiness in it; and that it often exhibits the various hues of red, yellow, green, and purple, now flickering with an undulatory motion, and now shooting out into lengthened straight lines. (en forme de fusées.)

I forbear to speak of the mineralogy\* of the island, because my ignorance of that important branch of natural history would prevent my being able to offer any remarks farther than I could

\* I am happy in having it in my power to say, that upon this subject we may expect much valuable information from the pen of Sir George Mackenzie, who has, during the summer of the present year, 1810, with the assistance of two gentlemen from Edinburgh, explored more of the island than any preceding traveller, and made a most extensive collection in this branch of natural history. To the success of their undertaking a variety of fortunate circumstances has contributed, and none, perhaps, more so, than an almost uninterrupted season of fine weather. These gentlemen, however, have by no means confined their pursuits to natural history; the manners and customs of the inhabitants, as well as the religion, the laws, and the history of the country no less engaged their attention; all which, together with a detail of the various incidents that occurred during their interesting tour, will shortly be laid before the public in a work which is already preparing for the press.

collect from other authors. Few countries, perhaps, present so interesting a field for the geologist.

While waiting for the sailing of the ship, one of my little excursions in the neighborhood of Reikevig led me to Bessestedr, about eight or nine miles distant, a place that was for a long time the residence of the governors of the country, but is now only remarkable for having one of the neatest churches I any where saw, and a Latin school, the only one in the island. On this account, I may be the more readily allowed, in addition to what I have to offer from my own observation, to enlarge upon its history, with which I am furnished by Mr. Jorgensen \*, who accompanied me in this expedition. The building itself is of stone, and tolerably good,

\* Among the improvements, which it was Mr. Jorgensen's intention to have made in the island, had he been permitted to have retained his office as governor, that of bettering the miserable condition of the scholars at Bessestedr was not the least meritorious or of the least importance. He had appointed Bishop Videlinus, Provst Magnussen, Assessor Einesen, and himself, directors of the school, and ordered that one or other should attend for a few hours every day. A thousand dollars were immediately advanced for the purchase of more wholesome provisions than the boys had been accustomed to, and the house was directed to be thoroughly cleaned and white-washed: during the time required for

having of late undergone considerable reparations, but the filth within can scarcely be exceeded by the worst of the poor-houses in our country. A staircase, encrusted with a thick coat of dirt, led us into a bed-room, which was even in a still worse state of nastiness. The bedsteads were merely elevated frames, or rather boxes, of wood, filled with heaps of the sea-grasswrack, *Zostera marina*, gathered from the neighboring shores, which, with the exception of two extremely coarse woollen rugs, constituted the sole furniture of the beds. In each of these, three boys slept, so that there were only eight beds for twenty-four scholars. The excessive closeness of this place, and the horribly offensive smell which was scarcely bearable, urged us to hasten forward to the library, a small and dirty room, in which

which, the scholars were all sent home to their parents, who were allowed sufficient money for their daily maintenance. A quantity of linen, cloth, and other necessaries were purchased to provide the boys with clothes, shirts, &c., and proper bed places were ordered to be made, so that only one lad should sleep in each. Bed-clothes and sheeting were prepared, and every thing done that could tend to the health, the comfort, the happiness, or the cleanliness of the boys: additional salaries, also, were given to the lecturers and teachers. Whether or not these alterations were continued after Mr. Jorgensen left the island, I cannot pretend to say, but, in all probability, the school at Bessestedr, like other things, went on in its old course.

a number of books, principally in Latin and Greek, many of them on theological subjects, were lying in great confusion. The college, nevertheless, possesses able teachers in the two Jonesons. There were, originally, two schools of this description in Iceland, the one at Holum, the other at Skalholt; in the former of which sixteen scholars, and in the latter twenty-four, were educated, and provided with board, lodging, clothes, and every necessary, and the expences were defrayed out of the revenues of the estates belonging to the two episcopal sees. In the year 1785, the king ordered the estate belonging to Skalholt to be sold by auction, and the money to be deposited in a chest, called *Jordebog's Casse*, from which the bishop and teachers were thenceforth to receive their annual salaries. The school was then removed to Bessestedr, and each of the scholars allowed a yearly stipend of twenty-five rix-dollars, in lieu of clothes, food, washing, &c. In 1801, in a similar manner, the estate belonging to Holum was sold, the money paid into the same funds, and the two schools incorporated into one, at which, however, even in the first instance, no more than thirty boys were educated; and that number was soon after reduced to twenty-four, as it now remains. This reduction was, in all probability, caused by the increasing prices of provisions, which rendered it necessary that an

additional stipend should be paid for each boy; and the allowance was accordingly raised to forty, and afterwards to sixty, rix-dollars; but even this is far from being found sufficient. The food is almost as ordinary as that of the poorer peasantry, consisting principally of dried fish, sour butter, and now and then mutton. We are not, however, to judge of the state of literature and learning in the island, from the small number of boys who receive a classical education at the school of Bessestedr. Many obtain a very considerable share of knowledge in the Latin and Greek languages, and become good scholars who have never entered its walls. An attachment to reading and study, if not a necessary consequence of the long winters, which for many months immure the natives almost entirely in their houses, is certainly materially increased by that circumstance; it being impossible to find the comforts of society in so scanty a population, and the enjoyment derived from literary pursuits being the only resource left them against the tediousness of such a confinement. The *Sagas*, or traditional histories of the country, are well known to the lower ranks of people, and the comparatively few who are not able to read, commit them to memory; the delight of a winter's evening in Iceland being for the old to repeat them to their infant posterity, by which means

they are continually handed down from generation to generation, as the Poems of Ossian among the natives of the Hebrides. That learning in Iceland has been in a state of decline for some centuries past is allowed even by the present inhabitants; but there are still many able scholars and great theologians who would do honor to any age or country. Poetry is to this day much cultivated, and there is a custom, when strangers of rank visit their island and confer upon it, or upon its inhabitants, any signal benefit, to celebrate their actions in poems written upon the occasion. I am, through the often mentioned liberality of Sir Joseph Banks, enabled to offer to my readers\* some of their Latin versions of poems of this description, together with one or two specimens of their epistolary composition. How little this poetical talent has suffered by a lapse of nearly forty years, since the period of Sir Joseph Banks' visit, will be seen by the last article of the same Appendix, where Captain Jones has kindly permitted me to insert the ode written and presented to him, by an eminent scholar of the present day, Magnus Finnusen, which has been already noticed at pages 33 and 34 of this journal.

\* See Appendix D.

Previously to our departure from Iceland, another change in the government took place, which will be more fully detailed in the Appendix A., before alluded to; yet, nevertheless, as I have, in the early part of my narrative, noticed the seizure and deposition of Count Tramp, and the elevation of Mr. Jorgensen to the dignity of Stiftsamptman, it may not be improper here to add, that an agreement was now entered into between Captain Jones, Mr. Phelps, and the principal Icelanders, by which it was settled that the former government should be restored, and that it should be held responsible for the persons and property of all British subjects. It was still further stipulated, that the island should not be suffered to be put into a state of defence, that the convention with Captain Nott should be in full force throughout the country; and that, till definitive orders were received from the British government, the chief command should be vested in the hands of the two persons who were next in authority to Count Tramp, the Tatsroed Stephensen, and his brother, the Amptman of the western quarter of Iceland. These affairs having been brought to a conclusion by Friday the twenty-fifth of August, the Margaret and Anne and the Orion were finally ordered to pre-  
 Friday,       pare to weigh anchor in the afternoon of  
 August 25.   the same day. In the former we had,

in addition to the party we brought out with us, Count Tramp, who was to go to England as a prisoner of war, his secretary, and Lieutenant Stewart of the Talbot, charged with dispatches from Captain Jones to the Admiralty. The Danish prisoners belonging to our prize were divided in the two vessels, and Mr. Jorgensen, together with a few English, sufficient to protect the ship, embarked on board the Orion. At about four o'clock in the afternoon we were both under sail, but with so little wind that it was evening before we were quite clear of the small islands of Akaroe and Ingle, and the same weather continued till noon of the next day, Saturday, August 26. when a breeze springing up we soon bade farewell to the Orion, which we now left far behind, observing to each other as she faded from our sight that we should never see her again; and, finding we were not near enough to the land to go through the most usual and the safest, as well as the shortest, passage between Cape Rikanes and the first of the rocks called the Fugle Skiers, we made our course between the second and third of them. I believe not one of our little party left Iceland with feelings of regret; the weather, which had at the best been unfavorable, was now daily growing worse, and not only rendered our longer abode in the island disagreeable, but threatened us with a dangerous passage home-



ward: the nights were rapidly lengthening, and time hung heavily upon our hands: it was impossible to forbear contrasting the wretchedness and poverty of every thing about us with the comfort of our happy homes; and, in addition to these and similar considerations, our stay at Reiknevig had been in many instances rendered unpleasant by political squabbles, by commercial misfortunes, and, above all, by the ill conduct of some of the persons employed by Mr. Phelps in an inferior capacity. A delightful wind now added to our happiness, and we congratulated each other on the prospect of a short and prosperous voyage to our native shores; but Sunday, August 27. the next morning what different ideas crowded upon our minds, when about six or seven o'clock we were awakened by a smoke and a strong smell of burning, that issued from the different hatchways, especially from that in the fore part of the ship, and left us no room to doubt but that the vessel was on fire, and that the flames would soon burst out! No one who has not been in a similar situation can have an idea what we felt. We were then twenty leagues distant from the nearest shore, a barren and inhospitable coast, and the wind was blowing from that quarter, so that to gain even this was impossible. We were also unprovided with boats sufficient to have con-

tained one half of our crew, nor could any boats have assisted us in such a tempestuous ocean; so that our joy was inconceivable and our astonishment scarcely less so, when, but a few minutes after the discovery of our misfortune, a distant sail was detected, which, improbable as it seemed to us, we knew could be no other than the Orion. It proved that, contrary to the orders expressly given for her to follow our track till we had cleared the rocks, Mr. Jorgensen had insisted upon the master's taking that short course which we had considered too perilous, and steering between the Cape and the first of the Fugle Skiers, such being the only chance of his not being compelled entirely to quit our company. This he had effected in safety by his courage and superiority in seamanship, and having by this manœuvre gained a sufficient length of way to compensate for the inferiority of his sailing, he was enabled to save the lives of the whole ship's crew, who must otherwise inevitably have perished. After having put about our vessel, and come sufficiently near, we hoisted signals of distress, upon which the Orion crowded all her sail, and in about two or three hours Mr. Jorgensen himself came on board. The fire had by this time so much increased, that it was found necessary to have all the boats in readiness to convey the people to the Orion. Every precau-

tion was in the mean while used to suffocate the flame with wet swabs, sail-cloths, &c., and thus at least to retard the disaster; but all to no purpose. We so plainly saw our situation, that it was but a little time before the whole of us had left the Margaret and Anne, except a few who remained to cut open the decks and make a last effort by throwing down water to extinguish the flames: such, however, was the ascendancy they already had gained, and such the volumes of smoke and fire which instantaneously burst forth, that delay only endangered the lives of the men, and it was found necessary almost immediately to abandon the attempt and give up the vessel to her fate. By twelve or one o'clock every living thing, not even excepting the sheep cats and dogs, was secured, but of our property it was impossible to save any thing, excepting only a very few articles that were with us in the cabin; for the fire, at the time of its first discovery, had taken hold of the place in which every thing most valuable was kept. We were but too happy to escape with our lives, and with the clothes upon our backs, and even for this we are in no small degree indebted to the extraordinary exertions of Mr. Jorgensen, at a time when nearly the whole of the ship's crew seemed paralysed with fear. He, too, as would be expected by all

who know his character, was the last to quit the vessel. Just at this time the wind, which had blown fresh, suddenly fell, and we were compelled by the succeeding calm to be the near and melancholy spectators of the destruction of a ship of five hundred tons burthen, with all her sails set, and a cargo principally consisting of oil and tallow, the whole worth not less than £25,000. The flames first seized the sails and rigging of the foremast, which being soon destroyed, they communicated to those of the main and mizen masts, enveloping the whole in one general conflagration. Shortly afterwards they subsided, leaving the naked masts here and there on fire; but when the tallow and oil boiled over and ran in wide cataracts of fire down the sides of the vessel, blazing over every part of the hull, the scene was awful beyond description. The clouds of smoke, greater by far than those of steam from the largest eruption of the Geyser, rose to an almost inconceivable height in one steady column, which was only at intervals disturbed by the discharge of one or other of the guns, or by the falling of the masts. It was not long before the timbers of the vessel were destroyed, but the copper bottom continued floating about, like a great cauldron filled with every thing that was combustible in a liquid and blazing state, till

the sad spectacle was concealed from our view by a dense fog at four or five o'clock in the afternoon, when with a fairer breeze we steered back for Reikevig, the Orion not affording accommodation for so many people as were now on board, nor being furnished with provisions enough for a voyage to England. It had been whispered among our crew previously to their leaving the Margaret and Anne, that some of the Danes had probably set fire to the vessel, and this suspicion was now confirmed even by their own confessions. Two of them, therefore, who were most strongly suspected, were put in irons, and the beds, &c., of those belonging to the Orion searched for any combustible matter by which a similar act of villainy might here be committed. The result of this search was, that a large piece of touch-wood was found concealed under one of their hammocks, and it was ascertained that it was with some of the same substance that one or two of the Danes in the Margaret and Anne, went down the fore-hatchway at about ten o'clock on the Saturday night, and set fire to the wool, which, owing to its slow mode of burning, was not discovered till the following morning. In the Orion, which was now on many accounts so uncomfortable, we passed but two nights; for, on the Tuesday morning we came to anchor in Reikevig Bay, where we landed

Tuesday,  
August 29.

the whole of our prisoners, except the two in irons, who were received into the Talbot, and in two or three days the Orion again set sail for England with Mr. Phelps and Mr. Jorgensen. Count Tramp and myself were left behind: the former at his own request was received on board the Talbot, and I was likewise invited in the most handsome manner by Captain Jones to take my passage to England in the same vessel, he knowing the poor accommodations that the Orion afforded, and justly supposing that I should be more comfortable with him. I gladly avail myself of this opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude the many marks of attention, and the uniform kindness which I received, both from him and the whole of his officers, not only during the voyage, but also previous to our final departure, which was delayed for a week after our return. They were unceasing in their endeavors to afford me every accommodation and assistance in their power, of which I stood greatly in need, and to make me forget what I had suffered: nor must I pass in silence the kindness of the principal Icelanders, who pressed upon me with congratulations for my safety; especially the Tatsroed and the Bishop, both of whom offered to do whatever they were able, to repair the losses I had sustained, and have since given unquestionable marks of the sincerity of their offers, by

having recently sent me collections of plants\* and minerals. The Bishop, in a letter now before me, says, "Cum gravissimo sanè dolore calamitatem vestram accepi! Paulsonius noster tibi plantas quas orientalis insulæ plaga hoc tempore producit exhibebit. Si quid in meâ potestate crit, quæ amisisti aliquo modo restituere, fac jube, hoc grato fungar officio." I did not, however, then avail myself of his civility, but spent nearly the whole of my time on board, for there was, indeed, little that could afford me amusement on shore; as it was too late in the season to replace my lost collection of the vegetable productions of the island, neither had I materials to enable me to preserve any subjects of natural history: books, too, were not to be procured without much time and trouble; drawings required still more; and my inclination, it may be well imagined, was not favorable to any of these attempts.

On the 4th of September we once more left these unfortunate shores. It was the captain's

\* This collection contained one or two plants not before known as natives of Iceland, which I have therefore inserted in the list of the vegetable productions of the island contained in the Appendix E.

intention to have entered a port on the eastern coast of Iceland; but, after beating about for several days within sight of the snow-mountains near the south coast, making at the same time but little progress, we directed our course straight for England, proposing in our way to touch at the Ferroe islands. With an excellent breeze and fine weather we entered the cluster, but had barely time sufficiently to admire the immensely steep rocky precipices, and strange shapes of the great and little Diamond and others of these singular islands, before the clouds rolled down their black sides, and in a very short space of time enveloped us in so thick a fog, that it was considered imprudent to endeavor to attempt to enter the port of Thoreshavn. We accordingly made all sail to clear the islands, which was not fully accomplished when we had the misfortune to lose our foremast, and in consequence of this loss to pass a night of painful anxiety in a severe storm, our vessel almost unmanageable and in continual danger of striking upon some of the neighboring rocks. The excessive darkness of the night, the dreadful heaviness of the sea, and the pelting of the rain, added to the unpleasantness of our situation; and this was still farther increased by the necessity we were under of cutting away our first juremast, which was in fact no

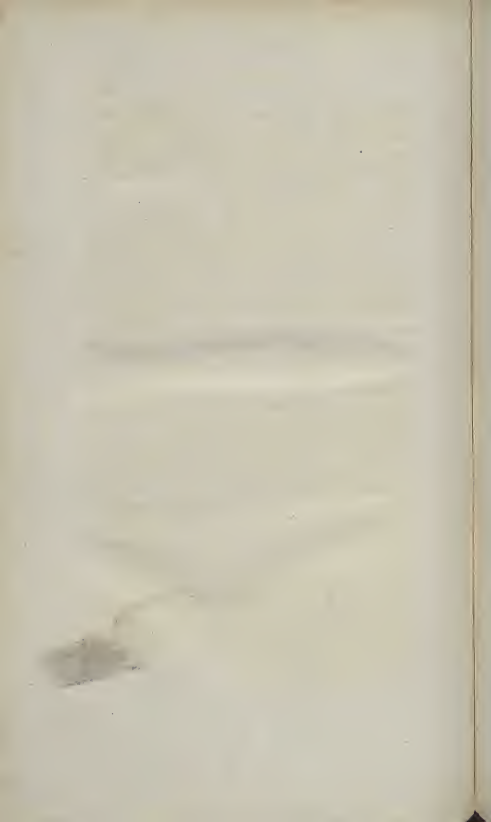


more than the stump of the old one newly rigged, and proved to be unsound. Another was with difficulty set up, and by dawn the next morning we happily found ourselves clear of the islands. The storm, however, continued with almost unabated violence for two nights, in one of which our jolly-boat was washed away from her lashings, and broken in halves by the violence of the sea. On the 20th of the same month we thanked God on finding ourselves safe at anchor in Leith Roads.

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END OF THE JOURNAL.

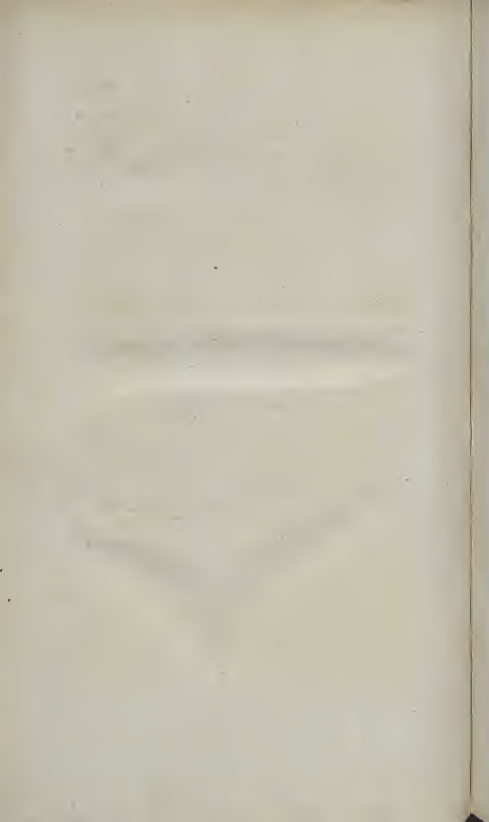
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APPENDIX A.

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## APPENDIX. A.

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### DETAIL

OF THE

### ICELANDIC REVOLUTION

IN 1809.

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TRIFLING and insignificant as every thing connected with the politics of so small and so miserable a country as Iceland must necessarily appear, when contrasted with the events that are agitating the great powers of Europe, nevertheless, as the government of this island underwent a total change during the short time of my residence in it, I feel, not only that my journal would be incomplete were I to pass over such things in silence, but also that it may reasonably be required of me to give an account of transactions, which fell under my own observation, and of which, as a mere by-stander, I may be expected to speak with more impartiality than those who

were actively engaged in them. I shall therefore endeavor to do it as plainly and succinctly as possible, trusting that, unimportant as are the events to be detailed in my narrative, they may not on that account be wholly devoid of interest, but may find some shelter under the old adage, that "inest sua gratia parvis." From one error at least, that is but too common to writers of all descriptions, whatever be their subject, I flatter myself I shall be allowed to have steered clear, that of magnifying occurrences, so as to exemplify the fable of the mountain in labor; for the very reverse is my case, and I ought, perhaps, rather to dread the having fallen into the opposite extreme; as my inclinations, as well as my feelings, would have led me to have confined myself principally to the leading objects of my voyage, the natural history of the island and the manners and customs of the inhabitants, could I but have persuaded myself that I could have done so with propriety. Having, as just observed, taken no part whatever in politics, and having frequently been engaged in excursions at a distance from Reikevig, I am of course ignorant of much that passed there, and it must be remembered that the portion of my narrative that rests upon my own authority is far from great; but the remainder I have been enabled to fill up in a manner at least equally authentic, having been furnished with

various documents through the kindness of Captain Jones, as well as with a complete statement\* of the whole by Count Tramp drawn up with the view of being laid before the British government, and with a similar, but more extended, statement by Mr. Jorgensen†, detailing at full length, not only the things that occurred, but

\* This statement was originally accompanied by a considerable number of letters, protests, &c. to which it refers in almost every page, but which I have never seen, and I may, probably, from this cause, have been led to do less justice to the count than would have been the case had I had an opportunity of consulting them. It is necessary at the same time to remark, that, of the events which took place after the imprisonment of the count, he only speaks from these documents, or from information which he received verbally from the inhabitants of Rcikevig a few days previous to his leaving Iceland, and this may account for some passages which appear to me to be exaggerated, and which, had the circumstances been related from the count's own knowledge, would not have crept into his narrative.

† This gentleman I have already had occasion to mention more than once in my journal; but, as he has, in what follows, to appear as the principal actor, it is right to give some farther account of him; that the transaction may be shown in its proper light, and that it may not be thought that Mr. Phelps, a subject of Great Britain, has, by taking a part in a matter unauthorised by his country, transgressed her laws.—Mr. Jorgensen, though born of respectable parents at Copenhagen, at an early age entered into the British service as an apprentice on board a collier; after which, he employed himself in such other vessels of various descriptions

the causes that preceded and gave birth to them. Thus, then, provided, I proceed without farther preface to the sketch of a revolution, which so far differs from all others of our times, that, in

as he thought most likely to promote the object he had in view, that of attaining the highest perfection in seamanship. He then entered our navy, in which, after much hard service and many long and difficult voyages, he made himself complete master of navigation, as well as of the naval laws of Great Britain; and imbibed, according to his own words, together with his knowledge of nautical affairs, the maxims, the principles, and the prejudices of Englishmen. At the age of twenty-five, having been absent from his native country ten or twelve years, the whole of which he had spent in the British service, he returned to Copenhagen in the year 1806. In that city he was at so little pains to conceal his political sentiments respecting England, that he created himself a number of enemies by declaring his partiality towards a country, under whose flag he had so lately and so long served, and by reprobating in the most open manner the tyranny and usurpation of the French; a nation, whose opinions and principles he found were approved of by the greater part of his countrymen. Shortly after the late expedition, sent by Great Britain against Copenhagen, the Crown Prince entered into an alliance, offensive and defensive, with France; which was followed by a decree, calling upon persons of all ranks and descriptions, from the age of eighteen to fifty, to serve, in some capacity or other, in support of their country; in consequence of which, Mr. Jorgensen took the command of the Admiral Juul, a privateer of twenty-eight guns, in which, proceeding towards Flamborough Head, he fell in with two British ships of war, the *Sappho* and the *Clio*. The former he immediately en-



accomplishing it, only twelve men were employed, not a life was lost, not a drop of blood was shed, not a gun fired, nor a sabre unsheathed.

The island of Iceland, from its climate and situation, and from the exceeding barrenness of its soil, is necessarily compelled at all times to depend for a considerable part of its supplies of provisions upon foreign countries ; so that, even in those seasons which may be accounted the most favorable, it does not produce sufficient for the maintenance of its scanty population ; and, as often as an unusually severe winter proves destructive to the cattle of its inhabitants, or an unproductive fishery prevents them from laying up their winter stores of dried cod and salmon, nothing but the most abundant imports can avert an actual famine. Such imports in time of peace the parent state of Denmark has found no dif-

gaged ; but, after an action of forty-one minutes, was obliged to strike his colors, and was landed as a prisoner at Yarmouth ; whence he was taken to London, where he signed his parole, and remained, till the circumstances, of which the following narrative is intended to convey an account, induced him twice to leave the kingdom, without permission from the British government, and consequently to break his parole ; though he did so, not only without any intention of serving against Great Britain, but, as was showed by the event in the first instance, and in the second by the proclamation issued in Iceland, with the full determination of returning to England.

ficulty in furnishing from her numerous ports in Norway, as well as from Copenhagen, but since the breaking out of the present unfortunate war between this country and Great Britain, the naval superiority of the latter has rendered all communication between the former and her colonies most precarious, and the wretched Icelanders have experienced the greatest difficulty in procuring even the poor supplies necessary for their bare subsistence. Sensible of the miserable and defenceless state of this island, it has therefore been the generous wish of the British government that it should be suffered to remain in a state of virtual neutrality, and they have of late gone much farther, and even granted licenses to protect vessels belonging to the Danes employed in the conveyance of provisions and other articles of necessity, and to permit English ships to carry similar cargoes thither. "An humane interest," to use the words of Count Tramp, "has been shown by the English in the fate of the inhabitants, for which they will ever with gratitude remember the exalted philanthropist, Sir Joseph Banks, who on this occasion undertook to advocate their cause."

As yet, however, no commercial communication had taken place between the English and Icelanders, and it unfortunately happened that the first visit they were destined to receive from our

countrymen was of a nature but ill calculated to impress them with favorable sentiments towards us; for, benevolent as were the intentions of our government, no public notification had been made of them, and they were consequently of no avail in preventing the depredations of our privateers; one of which, in 1808, under the command of Captain Gilpin, came to the island, and landed an armed force, which took away from the public chest upwards of thirty thousand rix-dollars that were appropriated to the maintenance of the schools and the poor.

Far different from this was the object of Mr. Phelps, an eminent and honorable merchant in London, who, having accidentally learned from Mr. Jorgensen that a large quantity of Icelandic produce, and particularly of tallow, was lying ready for exportation in the ports of that island, conceived the project of opening a direct communication, likely to prove equally beneficial to both parties; and, without delay, freighted a vessel called the *Clarence*, at Liverpool, for the purpose, in doing which, to avoid all possible cause for umbrage, he, according to Mr. Jorgensen, applied to government for permission to export no other articles but such as were absolutely necessary for the subsistence of the inhabitants, as barley-meal, potatoes, and salt, with a very

small proportion of rum, tobacco, sugar, and coffee, not exceeding ten tons; taking especial care not to send out any British manufactured goods, and thereby give room for a charge that he merely wished to make the island a depository for prohibited articles, which might thence be afterwards smuggled into the continent. This ship was furnished with a letter of marque, but still, in order to prove the honorable intentions of the merchant, it was expressly stipulated with the owner, that the captain, Mr. Jackson, should not seize or capture any vessel, either in the ports of Iceland or in sight of its coasts; and in case that he should in any way violate the agreement, the owner should be liable to the forfeiture of £8,000. In this ship Mr. Jorgensen himself, whose knowledge of the Danish language and general acquaintance with affairs of this nature made him eminently serviceable, embarked, together with Mr. Savigniac, an Englishman employed as supercargo; and, setting out in the latter end of December, they arrived at Iceland in the beginning of the following month, January, 1809; having performed the voyage at a time of the year considered so dangerous for such an attempt, that Mr. Phelps was unable to find any underwriters that would consent to insure the whole of the cargo. The idea having occurred to them that the government of the island would find less dif-

faculty in permitting a free and open trade to be established between the inhabitants and the supercargo, could an appearance be made of the property belonging to neutrals, it was judged expedient to hoist American colors, and to exhibit a set of papers of the same nation; but such an attempt availed nothing, for permission was still peremptorily refused for any part of the cargo to be landed, although it was acknowledged that the country was in extreme want of various articles that were on board. Such being the case, the British colors were displayed, and the license produced, but to no purpose \*; and Mr. Savigniac, unwilling to proceed to extremities, was upon the point of returning to England, when the natives expressed so strongly their anxiety for the landing of the goods, that, in order to bring the government to a sense of its duty and interest, he thought proper to release Captain Jackson from

\* Upon the subject of permitting a commercial intercourse, Count Tramp remarks, that, "the existing laws of the country strongly prohibiting all trade with foreign nations, it was the duty of the officers in whose hands he had, at that time, during his absence to Copenhagen, left the management of public affairs, to refuse this application."—It may be so; but, surely, a nation which had conducted itself with so much lenity and forbearance as ours had done towards this island, might have expected to have received a better return for its kind offices.

the clause in the charter-party which prevented him from making prizes in Iceland, and to commence hostilities, by taking possession of a Danish brig, which had just arrived from Norway with provisions. The officers of the government now seeing their real situation, and fearing lest farther acts of a similar nature should be committed, found themselves under the necessity of concluding a convention, permitting a mercantile connection to be opened between the inhabitants of Reikevig and Mr. Savigniac, a measure that in reality was but of little importance, as the natives were still intimidated by the threats of those in power, and dared not purchase of the English; so that every thing went on, as before, through the hands of the Danish factors, who bought only just enough for their own immediate use. How hard this was, will immediately be seen, when it is known that of all the various articles on board the *Clarence* two only were on any terms to be procured in Iceland, salt and grain; the latter of which was entirely monopolised by government, and not to be purchased at a lower rate than twenty-two dollars per barrel, a price that virtually amounted to a prohibition, as it rendered it quite out of the reach of many even of the higher classes of the inhabitants. Mr. Savigniac, on the contrary, offered his at considerably less than half this price, but still no

purchasers \* were to be found, nor could he procure even tallow or any other kind of Icelandic produce in exchange for it; so, entirely foiled in his expectations, he was under the necessity of determining to remain himself in the country, and take care of his valuable charge, hoping for more favorable times, while Mr. Jorgensen returned to England with the *Clarence* in ballast, having previously restored the Danish brig to her owners.

\* It is but fair to remark, that the time of year, in some measure, prevented so ready a sale of the cargo as Mr. Savigniac seems to have expected, though Count Tramp attributes the failure to a different cause, and asserts that the ship was loaded with luxuries instead of necessaries.—To use his words, “ this little town (Reikevig) was now overstocked  
 “ with luxuries of all descriptions, that could not but find a  
 “ slow and tardy sale, at a season of the year when the  
 “ commerce could only be carried on with the inhabitants of  
 “ the town, and its immediate vicinity; for it is only in the  
 “ month of June that a degree of communication intercourse  
 “ and barter between the more distant towns and parts of  
 “ the country begins to take place in Iceland. Of real  
 “ necessaries, on the contrary, such as the country wanted,  
 “ and for which there was at that time in particular a de-  
 “ mand, only a very inconsiderable quantity was imported, so  
 “ that, partly owing to these causes, and partly to extravagant  
 “ sacrifices and expences and to rash and imprudent specu-  
 “ lations and general mismanagements, it was not long  
 “ before it was reported that this new establishment turned  
 “ out a losing concern.”—*Count Tramp's Narrative.*

The governor, Count Tramp, who had been absent at Copenhagen during these transactions, was apprised of them on his return to Iceland on the 6th of June, 1809, and he observes, upon the subject in his statement, that “mortified as he  
“felt at a convention of this kind, concluded with  
“an armament unauthorised to enforce it; yet,  
“nevertheless, acknowledging the sacredness of  
“contracts, he had no idea of curtailing in any  
“respect the rights thereby granted to British sub-  
“jects, though Mr. Savigniac himself, by acting  
“contrary to the convention, had long since given  
“him sufficient cause to have dissolved it.”—In the early part of the same month, Captain Nott, of his majesty’s sloop of war the Rover, arrived in the country, and an opportunity was thus offered to Count Tramp, as well to prove the sincerity of his intentions, as to render the most essential service possible to Iceland, by fixing all matters in dispute upon a permanent basis with an officer whom he looked upon as no less qualified to enter into an agreement than able to enforce the observance of it\*.

\* The feelings of the governor I cannot express better than in his own words, “I must beg leave to remark that, from  
“the existing warlike relations, I did not view with in-  
“difference the arrival of an armed force belonging to his  
“British Majesty, with the objects of which in these parts I  
“was unacquainted, and the peaceable proceedings of which



On the 16th of June a convention was accordingly concluded between Captain Nott and Count Tramp, by which it was stipulated that British subjects should have a free trade on the island during the war, but that they should be subject at the same time to Danish laws. The governor proceeds in his narrative to assure us, that he immediately gave orders that a number of copies of this convention should be printed, and circulated throughout all parts of the island, and moreover that, as this was an operation that required some time, the country affording but one press which was situated many miles distant from Reikevig, he, still farther to assist its publicity, and to cause it to be known in the vicinity of the residences of the following officers, issued a notification to both the Amptmen in the country, Mr. Thoransen and Mr. Stephensen \*, and also gave orders to

“ no convention secured. My duty, therefore, imposed upon  
“ me to take every possible means of precaution ; but, having  
“ been assured that Captain Nott was far from intending any  
“ hostility against the country, I could not but wish, under  
“ the existing circumstances, that a compact entered into  
“ with a man acting under public authority should establish  
“ a firm and understood relation between the inhabitants of  
“ Iceland and those British subjects who were settled there  
“ already, or who might come hereafter for the purposes of  
“ trade.”

\* I should fear that the tardiness of these officers in executing the count's orders must be accounted one of the

the Landfogued, Mr. Frydensberg, and to Mr. Koefoed, a Sysselman, to make the contents public in their neighborhood. The convention was likewise shown to Mr. Savigniac for his perusal.

I must here beg leave to observe that, though I would be far from questioning the good inten-

principal causes of the events he afterwards complained of; for, among other papers with which I have been furnished by Captain Jones, is one containing a narrative of the revolution, by the Tatsroed Stephensen, in his own hand writing, in which, after mentioning the circumstance of the imprisonment of the count, he speaks of the convention with Captain Nott. From this, it does not appear, although he acknowledges the receipt of the copies of the convention, both by him and his brother, that they took any pains to make the contents known in their neighborhood. His words are, "on the same day (Sunday, the 24th of June) the said convention with Captain Nott left the press, to which Count Tramp, about six days ago, delivered it, for the purpose of having it printed; and at the same time communicated a copy of the convention to myself and the bailiff Stephen Stephensen, but the count was already confined, before a printed copy could be received by him." It will be remembered, that the convention was concluded on the 16th. The press is indeed a long day's journey distant from Reikevig by land, but it is possible to go by water to within a few miles of the spot, and half a day is sufficient time for the voyage.—Perhaps the disposition of the Tatsroed towards the English cannot be better explained than by giving the following translation of an extract from that gentleman's pamphlet, containing a history of the *Sol* of the Icelanders (*Fucus palmatus*), printed at Copenhagen, 1808. I have noticed the

tions and the sincerity of the count, or the correctness of his statements, still, admitting them to be strictly true, some strange neglect had certainly taken place; for the convention had not been printed at the period of our arrival, though five days had elapsed from its signature, the half of which would have been sufficient for the purpose, even supposing it to have been sent by land; and, what is of most consequence, but is omitted in his narrative, a proclamation had

work in one or two places in my journal, without any reference to the political matters with which it is interspersed.

“ TO THE GOOD INHABITANTS OF ICELAND.”

“ DEAR COUNTRYMEN!

“ Odin's Goddesses, Bellonæ, afflict our northern countries. They have at last shot their murderous and fiery  
 “ arrows into our king's residence, in a manner equally  
 “ treacherous and shameful. They have, under the mask  
 “ of hypocrisy, stolen into his country, to rob him of his  
 “ fleet, and to plunder his kingdom, which was of all in  
 “ Europe the most happy, owing to nearly an hundred years'  
 “ peace. They have captured a number of Danish, Norwegian, and Icelandic merchant-ships. With violence and  
 “ treachery have they provoked the well-merited hatred of  
 “ our nation, and roused us to arms, in defence of our king,  
 “ our country, and our liberty. They have surrounded our  
 “ coasts with ships of war, to destroy our commerce, and  
 “ to prevent all importation of the most common necessaries  
 “ into our countries, thereby to the utmost of their power  
 “ causing misery and the loss of lives.”

been dispersed over the country, and was found by us still posted up in the town, forbidding any native to trade with the English, under pain of death. This proclamation had been printed during the absence of the count, but kept in a chest till his arrival, and was certainly issued by his special direction.

While things were in this state in Iceland, Mr. Phelps had been planning a second expedition, prepared with more care than the former, and upon a more extensive scale, with the hope of accomplishing his favorite project, and of repairing the losses he had sustained. He therefore, early in the summer, got ready in London the *Margaret and Anne*, a fine ship carrying ten guns, provided with a letter of marque, and loaded with a cargo of such articles as had been pointed out by Mr. Savigniac as most likely to be saleable, and he, at the same time, dispatched the *Flora*, a brig, with grain for the use of the island. So much had he this object at heart, that he determined himself to sail in the former of these vessels, to avoid all mistakes, and see that nothing might interrupt the harmony he hoped to find established; and he took with him Mr. Jorgensen, whose acquaintance with the transactions that had taken place during the winter, added to his knowledge of the Icelandic merchants and of

the Danish language, with which they are all acquainted, rendered him of the highest importance to the success of the undertaking.

On the 21st of June, only two or three days after the departure of the Rover, the Margaret and Anne came to an anchor in Reikevig harbor, and Mr. Savigniac immediately proceeded on board, where he informed Mr. Phelps of the obstructions \* to the trading with the British, of the arrival of Count Tramp, and of the convention between Captain Nott and the latter.

Mr. Phelps, on hearing that such a convention had been entered into, remained several days without landing any part of his cargo, in the expectation that it would be delivered to him in an official manner, or would, at least, be posted

\* I feel myself bound to mention that Count Tramp, in his narrative, expressly denies any obstructions of this nature, referring to a document, which I have never seen, signed by five of the established merchants of Reikevig, dated the 1st of September, 1809, "by which," he says, "it is evidently proved that the accusations against the civil officers and citizens of the country are unfounded, and that they were invented and set afloat by the managers of the concern, only with a view of providing a cloak for themselves in the account they were going to render to their principals for the losses occasioned by their own misconduct."

up in different parts of Reikevig. No such thing however, happened, but, on the contrary, the proclamation before alluded to was still regarded as continuing in force, nor was it ever, at any subsequent time, publicly repealed; so that in the month of June, a season of the year when by far the greater number of the natives make a journey to Reikevig for the sake of barter, scarcely an individual of this description was seen; all naturally dreading to expose themselves to the severe punishment threatened by such a proclamation, and knowing that, except from the English, nothing of what they wanted was to be procured.

Such then being the situation of Mr. Phelps' affairs, and the convention remaining unpublished as late as the 25th of the month, this gentleman felt that longer delay would be materially prejudicial to his interests, and that he must consequently be under the necessity of having recourse to measures, no more consonant to his inclination than to his feelings. He therefore gave orders to Captain Liston, the master of the *Margaret and Anne*, by virtue of the power granted him by his letter of marque, to seize the person of the governor, and detain him as his prisoner; directing him also, immediately before he took such a step, to make a prize of

the *Orion*, a brig belonging to Count Tramp, provided with a licence from the British government, which she had, according to Mr. Jorgensen, forfeited, by first carrying her cargo to Norway, and there disposing of it, and taking in another \* for Iceland. Mr. Liston, in pursuance of these directions, landed twelve of his crew with arms, and, stationing them at the door of the governor's house, entered, together with Mr. Phelps, the room in which he was sitting with Mr. Koefoed, and made him his prisoner, without any resistance on his part: then locking the door of his office, to which he allowed the count to affix his own seal †, he conducted him under an armed escort on board the *Margaret and Anne*. The whole of this was done without any attempt at concealment in the most public time of the most public day of the week, a Sunday afternoon, after divine

\* A part of this cargo, according to Count Tramp, consisting of goods to the value of six thousand rix-dollars of Danish currency, was intended to have been distributed gratis among the distressed Icelanders, a circumstance of which I am persuaded Mr. Phelps and Mr. Jorgensen were ignorant, or they would not have allowed so benevolent a design to have been frustrated.

† This was shortly afterwards broken open, and all the papers subjected to examination.

service, so that it affords the strongest evidence in favor of Mr. Jorgensen's assertion, that the transaction itself could not be displeasing to the natives, many of whom were loitering about the plain before the house, with their long poles in their hands spiked with iron, which they use for walking upon the snow, and which they might have now employed as offensive weapons; instead of which they looked on with the most perfect indifference, though they were in such numbers that one half of them could with ease have overpowered the invalids who were stationed to guard the door; for it is sufficiently known, that in time of war the crews of merchantships consist of such men only as are unfit for the service of his Majesty. Mr. Phelps, having taken this step, was aware that, as a British subject, he had it not in his power to establish or even to maintain in the island any form of government without the consent of his own; but he was at the same time fully sensible of the necessity of some regular authority being constituted, till more decisive measures could be taken for the welfare of the country; and it was therefore determined that Mr. Jorgensen, not being a subject to the crown of Great Britain, or responsible to it for his actions, should assume for the present the chief command. Conformably to such a determination, this gentleman immediately



commenced the exercise of his power by issuing a proclamation \*, which in the first article declares, that all Danish authority is dissolved in Iceland: in the fourth that arms and ammunition of all kinds are to be given up; in the sixth that the keys of private warehouses and shops, money, accounts and papers, belonging to, or concerning, the interests of the king of Denmark or Danish merchants, shall, likewise, be delivered †; in the second third and fifth articles, it orders

\* The extracts from this as well as the two following proclamations published by Mr. Jorgensen I have thought it best to insert almost verbatim from Count Tramp's statement of them, with many of his comments, that I might be the less liable to be accused of partiality; but I have printed literal translations of the originals in the Appendix B. (see Nos. 1, 2, and 5). Nos. 3 and 4 are copies of other proclamations of less importance, and not noticed by Count Tramp.

† This was preparatory to the confiscation of all Danish property in the island; upon which subject I must beg leave to make use of Mr. Jorgensen's own words. "This," he observes, "was absolutely necessary, for, if such property had been permitted to have been taken away, the country would have been extremely impoverished, since all goods, property, and merchandise on the island belonged to the Danes, as well all that lay in the storehouses, as even what the poor peasant had in the field; for the lower classes were generally deeply in debt to the Danish factors. It was likewise just and proper to detain all such property, whether public or private; for Iceland had certain funds in Copenhagen, for which it might be considered a sort

all Danes to remain within their own houses, and prohibits every one from holding communication with them: the ninth article threatens those who act contrary to this decree with being brought before a military court and shot within two hours; while by the eighth tenth and eleventh articles, are promised to all native Icelanders undisturbed tranquillity and a felicity hitherto unknown\*.

“ of equivalent. Some years ago, a great eruption took place  
 “ from Mount Hecla, which destroyed a number of people  
 “ and ruined many. In Denmark and other countries a  
 “ large sum of money was collected by subscription for the  
 “ relief of the suffering inhabitants on the island, and de-  
 “ posited in Copenhagen. The sums procured in such a  
 “ manner have positively never been paid to the Icelanders,  
 “ but detained by the Danish government. Also, to in-  
 “ demnify Danish merchants for their losses by property  
 “ confiscated, the court at Copenhagen has nothing to do,  
 “ but to order them to be paid from the Icelandic funds;  
 “ and so could the merchants not be sufferers, and there  
 “ would still remain a surplus, which would more than in-  
 “ demnify government for what public property was seized.”

\* Perhaps with a view of obtaining his share in the general felicity held forth by this proclamation, a poor peasant presented a brief to his Excellency, Governor Jorgensen, who favored me with the following translation:

“ A PETITION FROM BIARNE THORLEVSEN,

“ SHEWETH,

“ That in the year 1805 my wife Thorunn Gunnlaugdatter  
 “ was sentenced to two years labor in the Icelandic work-

On the evening of the same day, appeared also a second proclamation, proceeding much farther than the other, and decreeing in its first article, that Iceland should be independent of

“ house, only for the simple thing of stealing a sheep, which  
 “ besides was nothing at all to me. The separation which  
 “ took place accordingly, occasioned that I was compelled to  
 “ take a young girl as my housekeeper, who otherwise much  
 “ recommended herself by her ability and fidelity. The con-  
 “ sequence of these circumstances was that the girl produced  
 “ two little girls, after each other, whose father I am. We  
 “ were then separated by order of the magistrates, and in this  
 “ manner must the education of two innocent, but at the  
 “ same time right handsome little girls, remain neglected,  
 “ unless she as mother, in conjunction with me as father, is  
 “ not hindered from following the irresistible dictates of na-  
 “ ture in the care and education of the children. But this  
 “ cannot be done if we are not allowed to marry, and I  
 “ humbly beg Mr. Bishop Videlin's declaration; so much  
 “ the more so, as I am convinced of the justice of my cause.

“ I also commit my life and wordly happiness to your Ex-  
 “ cellency's gracious consideration.

“ With the confidence and attachment of a subject,

“ BIARNE THORLEVSEN.”

*Skridnafell within Barderstrand Syssel,*

*1st August, 1809*

To his Excellency, Mr. Jorgen Jorgensen, Protector of the  
 whole Island of Iceland, and Chief Commander by  
 Sea and Land.

As my readers may wish to learn the fate of Mr. Bjarne  
 Thorlevsen and his faithful girl, I will add that upon

Denmark; and in the fifth, that a republican constitution should be introduced, similar to that which existed before the country was united to Norway in the thirteenth century, but, till this could be settled by the representatives of the people, allowing by the sixth article, to the existing authorities the option of remaining in their respective situations. In the tenth article it is declared that the country shall be put in a state of defence: the twelfth annuls all debts due to Danish merchants in the country or abroad, and prohibits clandestine payment of them, under pain of the individual being compelled again to pay the same amount to the new governor: the thirteenth provides against the prices of provisions being exorbitant: the fourteenth takes off the half of all taxes to be levied upon the inhabitants till the 1st of July, 1810: by the eighteenth, all communication with Danish ships is forbidden: the second third and fourth guarantee personal safety and property, and payments of pensions, &c.; while the nineteenth extends the same protection to Danes who do not intermeddle in the political affairs of the island.

farther inquiry on the part of the bishop into the affair, he found that the wife was anxious for a separation from her husband, when there remained no obstacle to his wishes of entering a second time into the marriage state.

It may be observed, that the number of representatives that were to have been sent were three from the southern amt, one from the eastern amt, two from the northern, and two from the western amt.

The government house was from this time occupied by Mr. Jorgensen, and all public business was as usual transacted in the office belonging to it. The salaries of the various officers under government were also paid; and they so far appeared satisfied \* with the present arrangements that none of the principal ones resigned their situations,

\* This satisfaction, to judge from the remarks of Count Tramp and the Tatsroed, existed only in appearance, since the former says, " Thus, a new order of things, presenting to  
 " view all the miseries that can spring from boundless de-  
 " spotism, was forced upon an innocent people loyal and  
 " faithful to their king. The Danes that had been in public  
 " employments, who were now deprived of their places, and  
 " laboring under a suspicion otherwise honorable to them-  
 " selves, of detesting the introduced changes, and meditating  
 " schemes for the fall of the usurper, and who were on that  
 " account exposed to the same persecutions and ill treat-  
 " ment of which so many instances had been seen, resolved  
 " to depart from a country where, with their best wishes, for  
 " want of means and assistance they found no possibility of  
 " being useful. Many natives in public functions followed  
 " their example in resigning, whose offices were filled with  
 " the most unqualified persons, by notorious drunkards and  
 " flatterers, who were indebted only to their officiousness as

though some few \* in private expressed their dissatisfaction at the republican form of government about to be established; it seeming to them absurd that an island, to which nature had denied all internal resources, should be proclaimed in a state of independence which it necessarily wanted the means of supporting. The bishop, however, and many of the clergy, at a yearly meeting † of the

“spies and calumniators for the favor and protection of the new ruler.”—The latter, after mentioning some of the most severe articles in the proclamation, proceeds to affirm that “they did expand a general horror all over the country; and that only the rascallity of a few people did approve them, for the gain of money and for the sake of getting some share in the disturbed government or rather in the high anarchy here. Very indebted officers, being misled by fair promises of more salaries, did submit or approve the altered form, to their lasting shame for having dispensed with that homage and duty they owed to their native soil. Many good officers resigned their situations, the most did not give in the least declaration. We (*Magnus and Stephen Stephensen*), the *Tatsroed* and *Amptman* of the western part of the island, declared our wish to administer our offices only for the present year and according to the laws of our country.”

\* These persons, however, it must be confessed, were equally averse to their former government.

† Count Tramp asserts that this meeting was attended only by a few of the clergymen of the neighborhood, “who were surprised into a declaration in favor of Jorgensen,

synod, signed a document, in which they expressed their satisfaction at the present situation of affairs, and declared their willingness to support it, exhorting all classes of people to do the same.

Many, likewise, of the natives, came forward, conformably to the tenth article of the last proclamation, with an offer of their services, for the purpose of forming a body of soldiers; but, for want of a sufficient supply of arms, as, though a search had been made in the houses at Reikevig

“ while all the rest in the island remained unshaken in their  
 “ allegiance;” and he adds in other parts of his narrative that, “ though the proclamation of the 26th of June had  
 “ struck a dread into the minds of people that could not  
 “ easily be removed, and though means were taken to keep it  
 “ up, partly by daily scenes of violence and partly by an  
 “ armed force from the crew of the Margaret and Anne per-  
 “ petually patrolling the streets, still the new state was by  
 “ most people considered a bubble, and the public officers in  
 “ particular, who ought to have been the first to have paid  
 “ their homage, did not do it, but some laid down their offices,  
 “ and others declared they would only hold them for the good  
 “ of the country by virtue of the same authority under which  
 “ they had hitherto acted!”—He likewise stigmatizes the mo-  
 tives as well as the conduct of those who attached themselves  
 to Mr. Jørgensen, calling them “ a contemptible band of idle  
 “ persons and men of ruined fortunes, attracted by his being  
 “ beyond measure lavish of the sums of money amassed by  
 “ his plunder, and by the pompous promises that he daily  
 “ retailed on paper or held forth in his harangues.”

the day after Count Tramp's deposition, only twenty or thirty old fowling pieces, most of them useless, and a few swords and pistols had been found, the number of those engaged was necessarily restricted to eight men, who, dressed in green uniforms, armed with swords and pistols, and mounted on good ponies, scoured the country in various directions, intimidating the Danes, and making themselves highly useful to the new governor in securing the goods and property that were to be confiscated. As a farther act of authority, and to show the clemency intended to be pursued, four prisoners confined in the *Tught-huus*, or house of correction, one of the most considerable buildings belonging to the town, were released, and the place itself converted into barracks for the soldiers. Some of the troop were soon employed in seizing the persons of two of the civil officers, the Landfogued, Mr. Frydensberg, and Assessor Einersen\*, who were kept in confinement, the former for one night, the latter for eight or ten days, both upon a charge of being at the head of a conspiracy to raise a number of men, who were, after securing the English in the town, to have attacked the Margaret and Anne and made prisoners of her crew. The shops and warehouses in Reikevig belonging to Danes not resident in Iceland were

\* See journal, page 72, for a farther account of this transaction.



from the first day put under guard, and the goods confiscated, and persons were sent to the distant towns to execute the same errand.

Mr. Jorgensen, having now fixed himself in the possession of supreme power, with the title of His Excellency, the Protector of Iceland, Commander in Chief by Sea and Land, posted up, on the 11th of July, another proclamation \*, in which it was declared in the first article, " We " Jorgen Jorgensen have taken upon ourselves " the government of the country until a regular " constitution can be established, with power to " make war and conclude peace with foreign po- " tentates ;" in the second it is stated that the soldiery (consisting as just mentioned of eight natives) had chosen him to be their leader, and to conduct the whole military department: by the third article a new flag is appointed for Iceland, the honor of which Mr. Jorgensen promises to defend with his life and blood: the fourth abolishes the ancient seal of the country and determines that his own private one is to be used until the representatives of the people shall have fixed upon a new one: in the fifth the time granted to the civil officers for declaring their

\* See Appendix B., No. 5.

obedience or resignation is prolonged to ten days for the nearest, and four weeks for the most distant parts of the country, after the expiration of which period all who have not given in their declarations are to be suspended from their employments: the sixth article announces that all officers who shall resign are to repair to Westmannoe (Westman's Isles), until an opportunity is found to convey them to Copenhagen: the seventh promises to that part of the clergy who are willing to declare themselves in his favor, that their circumstances shall be bettered: the eighth repeats the intention of placing the island in a state of defence: the ninth announces the design of sending an ambassador to his British Majesty to conclude peace: the tenth contains something relative to the duties and rights of British subjects living in Iceland: the eleventh states that none but Icelanders are qualified to fill public employments: the twelfth shows that Mr. Jorgensen intends continuing in his office until a regular constitution is established: the thirteenth again declares the confiscation of Danish property, which, by the fourteenth, the Amptmend are enjoined to execute: by the fifteenth we learn that some civil officers, in order to secure themselves against the displeasure of the king, their master, had expressed a wish that

they might be *compelled* to exercise their public functions: the sixteenth article has for its object the upholding of the new governor by forbidding all irreverence towards his person: in the seventeenth and last it is observed that laws and regulations shall remain as before until the new constitution is established, except \* that it is permitted for every Icelander to proceed from place to place, and to trade wherever and in whatever manner he pleases, without having passports from Amptnend or other authorities; and it is decreed that all sentences and acts of condemnation must be signed by Mr. Jorgensen, before they can be put in execution.

\* This exception does not at all meet the approbation of Count Tramp, who observes, "that it is very favorable for malefactors and suspicious persons." But the Tatsroed goes farther, and says that, "the permission granted to ramble without a passport along the country is a circumstance unheard of in other places, and affords very good opportunity to robbers, murderers, troops of thieves, and criminals of all sorts to commit mischiefs and crimes unpunished!" Mr. Jorgensen, however, considers it a just and necessary clause, for, according to the old laws, no person could remove from one district to another without a written permission from an officer; in consequence of which it frequently happened, that this officer would not grant a passport, without the peasant promised to buy the necessary supplies for his family from some particular factor, by which he perhaps might be compelled to pay double what would be asked by others.

The Icelandic colors\* ordained by this proclamation, containing the representation of three split stockfish upon a dark blue ground, were shortly afterwards for the first time displayed upon the top of one of the warehouses of the town, under a salute of eleven guns from the Margaret and Anne, and were afterwards hoisted upon Sundays, and occasionally on other days. Mr. Jorgensen now, as much perhaps for the sake of finding what merchandise could be procured, as for the purpose of seeing that his various proclamations were respected, accompanied by five of his soldiers, made a journey across the country to its most northern parts, in the course of which he was every where received with the kindest welcome, as well whilst his guard was with him, as on his return when only escorted by a single Icelander. In all places that he visited, the natives crowded about him to relate the impositions they were subjected to by the Danes, and to assure him of their satisfaction in the prospect of being freed from their tyranny.

During the time that he was occupied in this expedition, Mr. Phelps was employed in executing a part of his Excellency's orders, by putting

\* The true and old ensign of Iceland is a slit rod or stockfish, environed by an oval garland.

the town and harbor of Reikevig in a state of defence, an office he readily undertook for the security of the very considerable property he now had there, as well as of that which he still expected from England. For this purpose a battery, denominated Fort Phelps, was formed near the town, at which the natives, in great numbers, and the crew of the Margaret and Anne worked with so much alacrity that it was in a short time completed, and mounted with six guns, that had been dug up from the sand on the shore, where they had long been lying; having been sent over from Denmark one hundred and forty years ago.

The order for the confiscation of all Danish property in the island, which was begun to be put in execution immediately after the publication of the second proclamation, was still more vigorously prosecuted on Mr. Jorgensen's return from the north. The property contained in the shops and warehouses in Reikevig, which had from the first day been secured by a guard, was now put under sequestration, and persons were sent for the more effectually enforcing of the decree to the distant factories, such as Havnford and Köblevig. Among other things, possession was taken of two thousand

six hundred rix-dollars \*, belonging to the public chest, under the care of Mr. Adzer Knudsen, and a seizure was made from a Mr. Strube, of a stock of tallow train-oil fish and woollen goods, belonging to a trading company at Flensburg, and another of a considerable quantity of goods from a mercantile concern established in Nordburg. I have already mentioned the circumstance of the ship Orion † being made a

\* Count Tramp observes that, according to a specification drawn up by Mr. Phelps, the public money forcibly seized in Iceland by Mr. Jorgensen amounted in the whole to nineteen thousand two hundred and twenty rix-dollars, eighty-six skillings, Danish currency. Mr. Jorgensen, however, who appears to have kept an extremely accurate account of money received either by confiscation or from the public officers, as well as of sums issued in the payment of salaries and for other public purposes, states the former at sixteen thousand nine hundred and fifty-five rix-dollars, two marks, and eight skillings; and the latter at sixteen thousand nine hundred and sixty-one dollars, five marks, and four skillings. Other sums were advanced by Mr. Phelps to meet the demands of various persons, but these did not come under the head of public expences. It is to be remarked, that Mr. Sysselman Koefoed had collected king's taxes to the amount of twelve hundred and ninety-five dollars, which were consequently considered as property to be confiscated; but, as this gentleman had laid out the money in the purchase of land, Mr. Jorgensen did not claim any of it.

† This was the only vessel that was seized.

prize: possession was now likewise taken of the cargo that remained still on board, and the part of it that had been unshipped was also confiscated. It happened shortly after that another Danish vessel, commanded by Captain Holme, which is said by Count Tramp to have had a license\* from Great Britain, arrived in Iceland with a supply of necessary articles for the country,

\* As a difficulty may be supposed to exist upon the question of licenses, and it may be considered by many of my readers that the taking violent possession of a ship furnished with one, must in every case be an act of piracy, I beg leave to subjoin an explanation on this head, with which I have been very lately favored by Mr. Jorgensen. When the British government grants a license, it is expressly stipulated that the ship shall proceed directly from such a port to such a port, specifying their names. But should it happen, which is very frequently the case with vessels trading to Iceland, that, after having procured a license, in going from an English port they observe the sea clear and free from cruizers, they will run into Norway, sell their cargo there and go back to Copenhagen for another; but if they then, on their way to Iceland, meet an English ship of war, they will produce their license, though in reality it is no security for that cargo. But should it happen that the people on board the man of war observe such a licensed ship, with a favorable wind, to be steering a course different from her direct one, and thereby deviating from the route pointed out in the license, that vessel is a lawful prize. At other times, indeed, licenses are only granted for a certain limited time, and, if exhibited after the expiration of the period expressed in the license, such a vessel is also a good prize. One or other was the case with

the whole of which, together with ten thousand rix-dollars for the payment of the salaries of the public officers, &c., was considered lawful plunder, and the Landfogued, Mr. Frydensberg, was compelled to deliver up the public money chest of the country, containing two thousand seven hundred rix-dollars.

In addition to the above, the four following circumstances are stated, as the most aggravating acts of violence and oppression that took place, by Count Tramp, who professes to regard the whole as a regular system of plunder, and considers this as the leading object in every thing that was done by Mr. Phelps or Mr. Jorgensen :—first, that Mr. Savigniac proceeded armed to a settlement at

all the vessels in the Iceland ports in the summer of 1809, but none of them would have been condemned in England if they had been seized by the letter of marque, because they were then lying at a port to which their licenses permitted them to proceed. That they had forfeited the protection granted them by their license could not be proved by the ships' papers, though it could from letters to different people on the island: these, however, are not admitted in a court of admiralty. The case of the *Orion* differs from the former ones, in as much as the person to whom the license was granted (Adzer Knutzen) was not with the vessel; but since the papers, which proved the forfeiture of the license, were not on board the vessel at the time of her seizure, she was not considered a legal prize, and was restored to the owner.



Oreback, belonging to a merchant of the name of Lambertsen\*, taking with him a number of horses loaded with goods, consisting chiefly of tobacco and coffee with other articles of luxury,

\* Of this affair, which is by Count Tramp regarded as a case of peculiar hardship, I have just received from Mr. Jorgensen the following explanation: Mr. Lambertsen is owner of a vessel accustomed to trade between Iceland and Norway, for which purpose, early in the year 1808, he procured from the British government a license, empowering him to convey to Iceland a cargo of provisions. Of this circumstance he had apprised his factor Sivertsen, who, after waiting till August, 1809, in expectation of the arrival of his principal, concluded that he must either be lost, or that he had taken advantage of his license to carry on an illicit trade, as is often done between the different parts of Denmark, and that he would at all events not appear till the following year. The inhabitants of Oreback being therefore greatly distressed, as two years had now elapsed since any ship had come to them with provisions, and Mr. Lambertsen's own stock of goods, which had been lying all that time in his storehouses, beginning to be injured by keeping, Mr. Sivertsen wrote to Mr. Jorgensen different petitions, begging him to use his interest with Mr. Phelps to supply Oreback over land with things of absolute necessity; to which, after some delay, that gentleman assented, and an agreement was drawn up and signed by both parties, stipulating that a return should be made for goods so sent from Mr. Lambertsen's storehouses. Mr. Sivertsen, in consequence of this, gave an order to Mr. Petreus, Mr. Phelps' agent, for different articles, such as tobacco, coffee, sugar, cloth, &c.; the whole of which was accordingly sent on thirty-five horses, which returned laden with Icelandic produce; the expence of conveyance both

which Mr. Lambertsen's factor was forced to receive, though, far from having ordered any thing of the kind, he had applied to Mr. Jorgensen to be excused from taking them in; and that, in exchange for these, Mr. Savigniac compelled him to give up a quantity of merchandize, of which a return had previously been made to government:—secondly, that an accusation of oppression and extortion having been made against Mr. Poulsen, a factor belonging to Mr. Petreus' establishment at Westmannoe, he was, without any inquiry into the grounds of the accusation, or without being allowed to speak in his own defence, summoned to appear at Reikevig, where he was detained for several days, and all the goods upon the island whether belonging to the factory or to any other person were confiscated:—thirdly, a vessel belonging to Mr. Clausen, which had a British license,

to and from Oreback being defrayed by Mr. Phelps. Mr. Lambertsen at this time unexpectedly arrived, and was naturally hurt, as well at finding that the goods with which he had calculated on loading his own ship were in the possession of Mr. Phelps, as that his warehouses were filled with the property of the latter, which would obstruct the sale of what he had himself imported. He therefore refused to ratify the agreement, and complained to Captain Jones of what he called the forcible taking away of his goods, requiring to be paid for them, though it was sufficiently notorious that he had already been over paid, in as much as coffee, &c., are more than equivalent to the same weight of Icelandic produce.

was seized and had her cargo confiscated; it was, however, afterwards restored:—fourthly, Mr. Lambertsen, the merchant of Oreback just mentioned, on his return to Iceland from Denmark, confident in the security afforded him by his British Majesty's license, was in like manner ordered to appear at Reikevig, where he was for some time detained, and the cargo he had brought to the country was confiscated\*.

\* The second and third of these charges are of so notorious a kind, that little as I interested myself in political affairs in the island, it struck me while perusing them, that such facts could not well have transpired without their coming under my knowledge; but as I could not call to mind any such circumstances I thought it best to inquire of Mr. Jorgensen how far they were correct. From his answer, which confirms my own ideas, I have a further proof of the inaccuracy of the information which Count Tramp obtained from the Danes and other interested persons in the island, who in these instances have plainly imposed upon him, "and who," to use Mr. Jorgensen's words, "very probably square their accounts "at his expence."—The situation of Westmannoe is such, that it never would have answered the purpose to have confiscated property there; besides which the goods belonged to Mr. Petreus, who had none of his property touched either there or at Reikevig. Mr. Lambertsen's cargo was exempt from confiscation; or, had it not been so, there would not have been time to have seized it, since it came to the island but just before Captain Jones' arrival, after whose interference nothing was confiscated. It is true, Mr. Lambertsen had an order to deliver ten thousand dollars public money, brought in his ship, but it was never done.

An event as unforeseen as it was unfavorable to the present state of political and commercial affairs happened in the arrival at Havnfiord of the Talbot sloop of war, commanded by the Honorable Alexander Jones, to whom the factors of the Danish merchants resident in that place lost no time in submitting such a partial and exaggerated statement of all that had taken place, as might be expected from men whose passions and whose interests were so materially involved. Captain Jones, therefore, for the purpose of becoming better informed upon this subject, sailed round without delay to Reikevig bay, where, among the first objects he saw, was the dark blue flag, with three white stockfish on the upper quarter, waving upon one of the warehouses in the town. Immediately upon his arrival, Count Tramp, a prisoner\* in the Margaret and Anne, in which he had been confined ever since his capture, solicited an interview with him, when he stated

\* There appears to me to be no just reason for the severe treatment which Count Tramp states that he received during his imprisonment in the Margaret and Anne. A love of truth and a desire to make the present narrative an impartial one, urges me to the insertion of the Count's own relation of these circumstances. Perhaps an apology for indignities offered at the period of the seizure of his person may be found in the hurried manner in which it was done, and the inflamed state of the minds of the persons concerned in it, in consequence of the suspected ill conduct of the governor; but no such ex-

how ill he had been himself personally used, and how contrary to all the laws of nations; adding, that Mr. Jorgensen was not only a traitor to his own country (Denmark), but equally so to Great

cuse can be made in the more tranquil time of the imprisonment, for a filthy cabin and an uninterrupted confinement of nine weeks. With regard to the count's general fare, I always thought that he was allowed a supply of every necessary from the Landfogued, Mr. Frydensberg, or from his factor, Mr. Simmonsen; and, indeed, I feel almost confident of it.—Yet he says, “ Bent down under the weight of so much  
 “ grief and affliction united, it now became my lot to be  
 “ kept confined in a narrow and dirty cabin, and sometimes,  
 “ when Captain Liston took it into his head, even shut up  
 “ in a small room, or rather closet \*, where I was deprived  
 “ of the light of the day. Constantly I was obliged to put  
 “ up with the society of drunken and noisy mates, and, with  
 “ them for my companions, I was reduced to subsist on fare  
 “ which even the men complained of as being more than  
 “ commonly indifferent; in short, I was deprived for the  
 “ space of nine weeks of every convenience and comfort of  
 “ life to which I had been used, and subjected to all the  
 “ sufferings which the oppressor had it in his power to in-  
 “ flict. His contempt of decorum and humanity even went  
 “ so far as to refuse a request that was made on my behalf  
 “ by one of my friends, Bishop Videlin, that I might be al-  
 “ lowed to take exercise on a small uninhabited island near

\* This circumstance happened only once or twice, when the great number of Danes, and the refractory conduct of some of them, called for the assistance of many of the crew from the Margaret and Anne: at such times it was thought the appearance of the Count upon deck might encourage the insurrection.

Britain, which he had first served and then fought against; and was now acting in rebellion to both, by hoisting the above-mentioned flag and by declaring the island free neutral and independent, and at peace with all nations. Captain Jones, in consequence of this information, felt it incumbent upon him to require from Mr. Phelps an explanation of his conduct, and received in answer a brief account of the various transactions which had taken place since his landing in the island, with the motives which had urged him to the measures he had adopted\*. Having thus far obtained from all parties the most correct in-

“ which the ship was lying: I would even have submitted to be under an armed escort of the ship's crew, if it had been thought necessary, whom I offered to pay for the trouble; yet this request Mr. Phelps refused through Jorgensen, of whose letter to that purpose I have the honor to add a translation. It is remarkable in particular for the assurance it contains that Mr. Phelps could not justify his conduct to his own government, were he to adopt any other measures than those which had been taken.”—Even supposing it to be true, as here stated by the count, that he was reduced to live upon the fare of the common sailors, I will not deny that it might appear hard to him who was used to a different mode of living, but I am fully persuaded that such was far from being the case with the sailors, who never had any cause for complaint, nor expressed any.

\* A copy of Captain Jones' letter to Mr. Phelps, and the reply of the latter, which contain a more detailed account

formation upon the affairs of the island, and having understood from Mr. Jorgensen himself how he was situated with regard to England, Captain Jones considered himself called upon by his official situation to interfere in a business in which the honor of his country appeared to him to be implicated, and he accordingly issued orders that the new Icelandic flag should be taken down; that Mr. Phelps should no longer leave the command of the island in the hands of Mr. Jorgensen, but should, till the will of the British government could be known, either restore the former authorities, or commit the supreme command to some of the most respectable among the inhabitants; that the battery should be destroyed, and the guns taken off the island; that the natives should be no longer trained to the use of arms; that an account of the proceedings should be prepared and dispatched to the British government; and that Mr. Jorgensen and Count Tramp should be forthwith sent to England.

of what transpired at this time than I have thought necessary to insert in the narrative, will be found in the Appendix B., Nos. 6 and 7. No. 8 of the same Appendix is the copy of a letter from Captain Jones to Admiral Sir Edmund Neagle, explaining in few words his motives for having interfered in the manner he did.

These conditions were accordingly complied with, and an agreement \* concluded between Captain Jones and Mr. Phelps on one part, and the Tatsrod Stephensen and the Amptman his brother on the other, in which it was stipulated, that the latter gentlemen, being the next in rank to Count Tramp, should take upon them the government of the island, and be responsible for the persons and property of British subjects. Mr. Phelps, therefore, together with Count Tramp and Lieutenant Stewart of the Talbot (the latter charged with dispatches from Captain Jones) embarked in the Margaret and Anne, and Mr. Jorgensen in the Orion for England. On the third day of the voyage, however, the Danish prisoners, as is detailed in the journal, set fire to the Margaret and Anne; in consequence of which she was entirely consumed; but the passengers and crew, having been providentially saved by the Orion, returned on the 29th of August to Reikevig, where no other alteration in affairs took place, except that Mr. Phelps and Mr. Jorgensen † with Lieutenant Stewart embarked in the Orion

\* See Appendix B., No. 9.

† Having thus brought to a conclusion that part of the narrative in which Mr. Jorgensen has been concerned, it may be interesting to some of my readers to know what has since



for England, and Count Tramp with his Secretary, and a Dane, a Sysseman of Iceland (who was considered a necessary witness to the count) were accommodated by Captain Jones in the Talbot.

happened to him, and what punishment he has suffered for having unguardedly broken his parole. On arriving in town he took up his abode in his accustomed lodgings at the Spread-Eagle Inn, Gracechurch-street, where, so far from wishing to remain in concealment, he received letters addressed to him without disguise, and even wrote to the Admiralty, and presented himself before the lords commissioners of that court. No notice, however, was taken of what he had done by any of the public offices, until, from private resentment, information was given to the Transport Board that he had broken his parole, and it was farther, though falsely, added, that he had also secreted himself. He was consequently arrested, and confined in Tothill-fields Bridewell, whence he was removed to the usual depôt of prisoners under a similar predicament, Chatham hulks. On board the Bahama, with frequently five and even seven hundred prisoners of the worst description in the same vessel, he was kept in close custody for a twelvemonth. During this interval his bitterest enemies, the Danes, had frequent opportunities of bringing forward charges against him, to which he had no opportunity of replying, but which tended materially to injure him.—He is now, however, released from that rigorous confinement, and placed in a comparative state of liberty, upon his parole at Reading; and here I will beg leave to close my short account of the transactions of this man, by a passage extracted from his MS. narrative of the revolution of Iceland, which he employed himself in writing during the severity of his confinement.—“If there  
“are any charges against me, let those people making

On arriving in London, Count Tramp gladly embraced the opportunity which presented itself of submitting to the under-secretary of state a full detail of all the events that had taken place in Iceland connected with the late revolution, and a petition for the redress of such injuries as were therein stated to have been received by Danish merchants or by the Danish government; for it must be remembered that not a single Icelander was injured either in person or property.

What reception these representations met with from our government I have never been able to

“ them come forward in an open fair and candid manner.—Let me see my accusers face to face, and how easily shall I confront them!—but this they dread, for truth must prevail. Where, in the name of God, is there any man in Iceland who can make a just complaint? Is any man injured in property or liberty? Is there any innocent blood crying vengeance against me? If I have shed that of a fellow creature either in a just or unjust manner, let my head pay for it! If I have gained only one shilling at the public expence, let my right hand suffer for it! If I have enriched myself to the detriment of any one individual, let my left hand be cut off! If I have caused any one single person or more to be confined for being opposite in principles to me, let me feel the horrors of perpetual imprisonment myself! But if I have done none of these, let me enjoy that liberty which I look upon as the only true good on earth. The British government has a power to crush; it has also a power to be merciful.”

learn. Certainly no public notice was ever taken of them. To prevent, however, future attacks upon the island from the owners of letters of marque who may be actuated by less honorable motives than those which urged Mr. Phelps to send his vessels thither, Sir Joseph Banks again stepped forward in behalf of his favorite Icelanders, and through his kind and benevolent exertions an order in council was issued, strictly forbidding all acts of hostilities against the poor and defenceless colonics of the Danish dominions, and permitting them to trade with the parent country unmolested by British cruisers. Such conduct on our part could not but give ample satisfaction to Count Tramp, whose own words upon this subject are, "the peculiar favor which  
"Iceland and its concerns have met with here,  
"and the manner in which His British Majesty's ministers have interested themselves  
"in its welfare, and above all the security obtained for the future, has entirely obliterated  
"all bitterness from my heart." In another letter to me he says, when speaking of the proclamation declaring the island to be neutral and the inhabitants placed upon a footing with other friendly strangers, "I apprehend that the people  
"of Iceland with the greatest anxiousness expect  
"the news from England, which, being now so  
"consoling and in every respect so comforting,

“ I should feel myself wanting in duty if I did  
 “ not forward it as speedily as possible.” It may  
 not be improper to insert in this place a copy of  
 the above-mentioned proclamation :

AT THE

*Court at the Queen's Palace, February 7, 1810,*

PRESENT,

THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY  
 IN COUNCIL.

“ Whereas it has been humbly represented to  
 “ His Majesty, that the islands of Ferroë and  
 “ Iceland, and also certain settlements on the  
 “ coast of Greenland, parts of the dominions of  
 “ Denmark, have, since the commencement of  
 “ the war between Great Britain and Denmark,  
 “ been deprived of all intercourse with Den-  
 “ mark, and that the inhabitants of those islands  
 “ and settlements are, in consequence of the want  
 “ of their accustomed supplies, reduced to ex-  
 “ treme misery, being without many of the ne-  
 “ cessaries and of most of the conveniences of  
 “ life,

“ His Majesty, being moved by compassion  
 “ for the sufferings of these defenceless people,  
 “ has, by and with the advice of his privy coun-  
 “ cil, thought fit to declare his royal will and  
 “ pleasure, and it is hereby declared and ordered,

“ that the said islands of Ferroe and Iceland and  
 “ the settlements on the coast of Greenland, and  
 “ the inhabitants thereof, and the property therein,  
 “ shall be exempted from the attack and hostility  
 “ of His Majesty’s forces and subjects, and that  
 “ the ships belonging to inhabitants of such is-  
 “ lands and settlements, and all goods being of  
 “ the growth produce or manufacture of the said  
 “ islands or settlements, on board the ships be-  
 “ longing to such inhabitants, engaged in a direct  
 “ trade between such islands and settlements re-  
 “ spectively and the ports of London or Leith,  
 “ shall not be liable to seizure and confiscation  
 “ as prize.

“ His Majesty is further pleased to order, with  
 “ the advice aforesaid, that the people of all the  
 “ said islands and settlements be considered,  
 “ when resident in His Majesty’s dominions, as  
 “ stranger friends, under the safeguard of His  
 “ Majesty’s royal peace, and entitled to the pro-  
 “ tection of the laws of the realm, and in no  
 “ case treated as alien enemies.

“ His Majesty is further pleased to order, with  
 “ the advice aforesaid, that the ships of the  
 “ united kingdom, navigated according to law,  
 “ be permitted to repair to the said islands and  
 “ settlements, and to trade with the inhabitants  
 “ thereof.

“ And His Majesty is further pleased to order,  
“ with the advice aforesaid, that all His Majesty’s  
“ cruisers and all other his subjects be inhibited  
“ from committing any acts of depredation or  
“ violence against the persons, ships, and goods  
“ of any of the inhabitants of the said islands  
“ and settlements, and against any property in  
“ the said islands and settlements respectively.

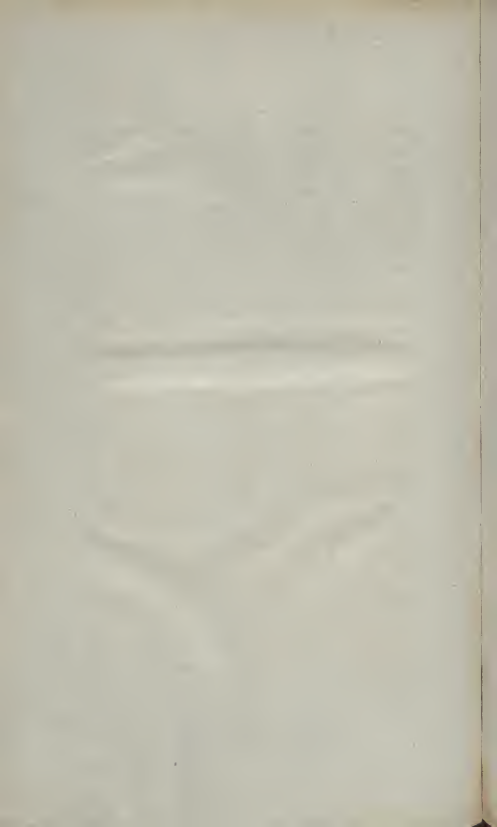
“ And the right honorable the lords commis-  
“ sioners of His Majesty’s treasury, His Majesty’s  
“ principal secretaries of state, the lords commis-  
“ sioners of the admiralty, and the judge of the  
“ high court of admiralty, and the judges of the  
“ courts of vice-admiralty, are to take the ne-  
“ cessary measures herein, as to them shall  
“ respectively appertain.”

(Signed)

“ W. FAWKENER.”

Hence then it appears that a mercantile speculation the most unfortunate, and a revolution the most singular in its nature, have been the means of placing the island in a greater state of security than formerly; and a way has thus been opened for bettering the condition of its inhabitants, provided the Danish government has compassion enough upon the most injured of its subjects to permit the humane intentions of his British Majesty’s ministers to be carried into effect. Should

this not be the case (and such seems more than probable, from the late decrees of that country, strictly prohibiting, on pain of death, all intercourse with the British), then will the state of the natives be more wretched than ever; unless, which I sincerely flatter myself will be the case, England should no longer hesitate about the adoption of a step to which every native Icelander looks forward as the greatest blessing that can befall his country, and which to England herself would, I am persuaded, be productive of various signal advantages, the taking possession of Iceland and holding it among her dependencies. Iceland, thus freed from the yoke of an inefficient but presumptuous tyrant, might then, guarded by the protection of our fleets and fostered by the liberal policy of our commercial laws, look forward to a security that Denmark could never afford, and to a prosperity that the selfishness of the Danes has always prevented; while England would find herself repaid for her generous conduct by the extension of her fisheries, the surest source of her prosperity, and by the safety which the numerous harbors of the island afford for her merchantmen against the storms and perils of the arctic ocean.





APPENDIX. B.

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PROCLAMATIONS, LETTERS,

AND

*OTHER DOCUMENTS,*

RELATIVE TO THE

ICELANDIC REVOLUTION.



## APPENDIX. B.

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### PROCLAMATIONS,

*&c. &c.*

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N<sup>o</sup> 1.

#### PROCLAMATION.

*Reikevig, June 26, 1809.*

1. ALL Danish authority ceases in Iceland.

2. All Danes, or factors connected with Danish mercantile houses, shall remain within doors, and are not to be seen in the streets, nor to converse with each other, nor to send written or verbal messages from one to the other, without having permission so to do.

3. All officers under Danish government shall

not leave their respective houses, and are under the same restrictions as those mentioned in the foregoing paragraph.

4. All sorts of arms, without exception, such as muskets, pistols, cutlasses, daggers, or ammunition, shall instantly be delivered up.

5. In case any of the inhabitants, either women or children, shall bring messages to or from a Dane without permission, they shall be punished as enemies to the state. Nevertheless, should the child be ignorant of its crime, the person sending it shall be punished instead of the child.

6. All keys to public and private storehouses shall be delivered up. All money or bank notes, belonging to the king or factors connected with Danish commercial houses, shall be laid under lock and key. All books of accounts or papers belonging to the king or factors shall be surrendered.

7. Two hours and a half are allowed in Reikveig, and twelve hours in Havnfiord to execute these orders. Respecting other places, proper arrangements will take place hereafter.

8. All natives, women or children of whatever description, all Icelanders in office have nothing to fear; for they will be treated in the best manner, provided they do not violate the articles contained in the proclamation.

9. Should these orders be speedily executed, it will save a great deal of unnecessary trouble and the effusion of blood. But, on the contrary, should any person act in opposition to what is here directed, he shall immediately be arrested, brought before a military tribunal, and shot within two hours after the offence is committed.

10. Whenever the above articles are known to be carried into effect, a proclamation will be issued, by which the Icelanders will find that nothing but the true welfare of their country is in view, and that our proceedings are solely calculated to insure a peace and happiness little known to the inhabitants in later years.

11. This proclamation shall immediately be translated into Icelandic, and posted up in the most public places, so that the natives may be convinced that nothing will be done prejudicial to their liberty, nor to their disadvantage in any shape whatever.

In case it can be proved that any person shall have acted against the tenor of this proclamation, the person or persons proving the same shall receive a reward of fifty rix-dollars.

(Signed)

JORGEN JORGENSEN.



N<sup>o</sup> 2.

PROCLAMATION.

*Reikevig, June 26, 1909.*

1. Iceland is free and independent of Denmark.
2. All public officers, who are natives of Iceland, who remain faithful to their own country, and who will make oath to execute their functions, shall receive their full salaries.
3. All public officers, who are natives of Iceland and who remain pacific, shall be respected.
4. All pensions to widows, infants, or officers retired from office, shall be paid.
5. The officers in different ampts or districts shall take care that an honest and sensible person

is chosen, who is well acquainted with the situation of his country, and who is to represent his own district. All laws and acts are to come from such representatives. They are to be maintained at the expence of the state, and to be established on the same footing as those were before the island became dependent on the Kings of Norway.

6. Every officer under government, who wishes to remain in his situation, shall notify the same in a letter to me. A fortnight is allowed in the nearest places and seven weeks in the most distant for the purpose, unless bad roads or other insurmountable obstacles should make it impracticable to furnish an answer so soon; but in such case the reasons for the delay must be communicated at the bottom of the letter. Officers, not remaining in office, cannot expect any assistance from the present government, and other officers will be appointed in their places.

7. None but natives can be members of the legislative body, or represent the people in their respective districts.

8. Iceland has its own flag.

9. Iceland shall be at peace with all nations,

and peace is to be established with Great Britain, which will protect it.

10. Iceland shall be set in a state of defence.

11. All hospitals and schools shall be established on a better footing than what they have been hitherto.

12. All debts due to the former Danish government, or the factors connected with Danish mercantile houses, shall not be paid; nor any money which there is a possibility of remitting to Denmark. Every person so indebted is exempt from paying the sums due. But should any such debtor attempt to pay any part thereof, at any time, he shall be compelled to pay the whole amount to the present government.

13. All kinds of grain shall by no means be sold at exorbitant prices.

14. All Icelanders are exempted from one half of their taxes till the 1st of July, 1810.

15. The inhabitants can proceed uninterruptedly from place to place and trade wherever and with whomsoever they please, except Danish merchants not resident in Iceland.



16. Till such time as the natives shall send in their representatives, all public officers, and persons who have money due from government, may address me for the same, and they shall be paid.

17. No man shall be judged or punished, after the representatives are assembled, without being found deserving of punishment by twelve of his fellow-citizens.

18. Every public officer, of whatever denomination, shall endeavor to prevent all communication with Danish ships. A specification shall be given in of what grain is necessary for each district, so that it may be transported thither before the setting in of the winter; and care shall be taken that hercafter the island shall be supplied with corn for one year to come.

19. No Icelanders must, on account of the late liberty being granted, presume to offend or assault a person for being a Dane, nor for having held a situation under the King, nor for having been in the employment of, or connected with, a Danish mercantile house, provided they do not interfere with the political affairs of the island.

\* \* \* The number of representatives to be sent

are three from the southern ampt, one from the eastern ampt, two from the northern, and two from the western ampt.

(Signed)

JORGEN JORGENSEN.



N<sup>o</sup> 3.

PROCLAMATION.

*Reikevig, June 29, 1809.*

We are informed that certain evil-minded people have propagated false reports in the country; and have represented to the inhabitants that it is dangerous to travel from place to place, and that much blood has been spilled in the streets of Reikevig by the English. The inhabitants need not be under any apprehensions, but may rest assured that no violence will be committed against them, and that they are at full liberty to follow their lawful occupations without molestation; and it is hereby declared that all such rumors are entirely without foundation.—All persons that do or shall hereafter spread such false reports, shall be deemed enemies to the state, and it will be necessary to treat all such people, who do not

demean themselves as peaceable citizens, with the utmost severity.

(Signed)

JORGEN JORGENSEN.



N<sup>o</sup> 4.

PROCLAMATION.

*Reikevig, July 1, 1809.*

We are informed that some discontent exists on account of the natives interpreting an article in the proclamation of the 26th of June, to a total exemption from all debts whatever.—It is hereby declared, that only such debt is remitted which is due to the King, or to such Danish mercantile houses, whose principals are not residents of Iceland. It is further declared, that all such Danish merchants, whose wives and children are at present in Iceland, and who themselves wish to remain in the island, shall receive all debts due to them, and, in case of refusal, the persons concerned will communicate the same to me who engage to see justice done. On the other hand, all such natives as have money due from Danish merchants' mercantile houses on the island, shall have the same paid to them, if such debt can be proved by their books.

(Signed)

JORGEN JORGENSEN.

## N° 5.

## PROCLAMATION.

*Reikevig, July 11, 1809.*

In our proclamation, dated the 26th of June, 1809, it was requested that the nearest districts should, within a fortnight, and the more distant, within a certain limited time, send in representatives, to consult what was best to be done in the present exigency. We find, however, that the public officers have far from facilitated such a meeting; and we are therefore under the necessity of no longer resisting the wish of the people, who have earnestly solicited us to manage the administration of public affairs, and who have in hundreds offered to serve in the defence of their country.—It is therefore declared,

1. That We, Jorgen Jorgensen, have undertaken the management of public affairs, under the name of PROTECTOR, until a settled constitution can be fixed on, with full power to make war or conclude peace with foreign powers.

2. That the military have nominated us their commander by land and sea, and to regulate the whole military department in the country.

3. That the Icelandic flag shall be blue, with three white stockfish thereon, and the honor of it

we promise to defend at the risk of our life and blood.

4. That the great seal of the island shall no longer be respected; but that all public documents of consequence shall be signed by my own hand, and my seal (J. J.) fixed thereunto, until such time as the representatives shall assemble and provide a proper seal.

5. That all public officers, who have, from motives of patriotism, already given in declarations that they were willing to serve their country in its late difficult and dangerous situation, shall receive their salaries.—On the contrary, those that have been situated near Reikevig and not yet declared themselves, are totally suspended from office, pay, and power, unless they within the 20th of this month give proper reasons for not having sent in either their resignations or their wish of continuing in office. After that date a list shall be made out and publicly distributed, of the names of all those officers who shall either resign or continue in their employments. Any person from the date thereof, who shall obey any order from such persons as have not declared themselves shall be deemed a traitor and treated accordingly. Nevertheless a month is granted to persons residing in places more remote from

Reikevig, that they may have sufficient time to send in their declarations.

6. That all officers who wish to resign shall be sent to Copenhagen free of expence, when an opportunity is found so to do. In the mean time we command that all such officers shall hold themselves in readiness to be removed to Westman's Isles, so that they may not by their intriguing disturb the public peace and tranquillity, unless they can give security for their future good behavior.

7. That we have seen with the greatest satisfaction that the Icelandic clergy, as good christians, have promoted tranquillity and good order at this dangerous period; therefore we promise to pay all their salaries and pensions to clergymens' widows, and also to improve their present situation as much as possible.

8. That the country shall be set in a proper state of defence, without additional taxes on the nation.

9. That a person shall be invested with full power to conclude a peace with his Majesty, the King of Great Britain.

10. That all British subjects shall have full permission to trade and reside in this country, in case they do not offend against its laws; and all who shall unprovokedly assault a British subject, shall be punished.

11. That none but natives can hold either civil or clerical offices.

12. That we declare and promise to lay down our offices the moment that the representatives shall be assembled. The time appointed for the convocation of the assembly is the 1st of July, 1810; and we will then resign when a proper and suitable constitution shall be fixed on; and it is declared that the poor and the common people shall have an equal share in the government with the rich and powerful.

13. That all Danish property on the island shall be confiscated for public use; and if any one shall conceal money, or other Danish goods or merchandize, he shall be punished.

14. That the Amptmend, whether they remain in office or not, shall see these our orders duly executed, and shut up and put seals on all Danish storhouses in their ampts, and receive all confiscated monies.

15. That several officers, from fear of the Danish government, wish to be forced to retain their offices, though they fully approve of our late proceedings, and therefore do we declare, as we have nothing in view but the real good of the country, that all such people, as are not animated by sufficient patriotism to serve their own country, are permitted to leave the island and go to Copenhagen.

16. The situation we now are in requires that we should not suffer the least disrespect to our person, neither that any one should transgress the least article of this our proclamation, which has solely in view the welfare of the inhabitants of this island. We therefore solemnly declare, that the first who shall attempt to disturb the prosperity or common tranquillity of the country shall instantly suffer death without benefit of the civil law.

17. In all other respects the ancient laws and regulations shall remain in full force till such time as the constitution is settled, with the exception that every Icelander is permitted to proceed uninterruptedly from place to place, and to trade wherever and in whatever manner he pleases, without having passports from Amptmend or other authorities; yet all sentences and acts of



condemnation must be signed by us before they can be executed.

(Signed)

JORGEN JORGENSEN.

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Mr. Jorgensen's seal (J. J.) is affixed to the original of all these five proclamations.

Mr. Jorgensen, in his own narrative, remarks as follows :

“ Many have found fault with different articles in my pro-  
 “ clamations, and alledge, that they were written with a  
 “ great deal too much severity: but this proceeded from a  
 “ perfect knowledge of the people I had to deal with. Even  
 “ if there had been some inconsistency in them, such could  
 “ not be wondered at, for we are not to look for the same  
 “ regularity, during the period of a revolution, as when a  
 “ country is perfectly tranquil. But expressions of severity  
 “ were absolutely necessary on my part, thereby to keep the  
 “ unruly in check; for I knew my own temper so well, that,  
 “ had the success of my undertaking depended upon the  
 “ shedding the blood of one single of my fellow creatures, I  
 “ should have been obliged to desist entirely; so that, by  
 “ appearing what I really was not, I managed the whole  
 “ island with ease. Although it was said in the proclama-  
 “ tions, that all officers who did not remain in their situations  
 “ should be transported to Westman's Isles, such a thing  
 “ was never attempted to be put in force, neither was a single  
 “ individual who resigned, driven out of his habitation,  
 “ which might have been done in those houses belonging to  
 “ government; but, on the contrary, I ordered that such  
 “ persons and their families should be supplied gratis with

" every necessary from the public stores; till an opportunity  
 " offered for them to be sent to Denmark. Moreover, though  
 " it was publicly proclaimed, that any one, who should dis-  
 " turb the public tranquillity and not deliver up their arms,  
 " should be severely punished, the people so offending were  
 " only slightly reprimanded. John Bergman, with a drawn  
 " cutlass, ran about Reikevig, threatening destruction to us  
 " all, for which he was only confined for two hours. Mr.  
 " Finbøge, who had concealed two thousand six hundred six-  
 " dollars, belonging to Adzer Knutzen, received no manner  
 " of chastisement. Sigurd Thorgrimsen suffered no punish-  
 " ment for propagating reports about the country that the  
 " streets of Reikevig were stained with the blood of Danes  
 " and Icelanders. Assessor Einersen was arrested and con-  
 " fined for a few days, upon the information of the Tatsroed  
 " Stephensen, that he was at the head of a conspiracy raised  
 " to attack the English.—So much for my cruelty and  
 " severity."

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N<sup>o</sup> 6.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM CAPTAIN JONES  
TO MR. PHELPS.

*His Majesty's Sloop Talbot, Reikevig Bay,  
August 19th, 1809.*

SIR,

The conversation I had with you respecting your transactions on this island was not with any intention of interfering, or depriving you of any power granted by government: but, in

consequence of hearing reports respecting your conduct, I deemed it my duty to ascertain the nature of your situation, your business here, by what authority you acted, and how far these reports were correct, in order to give you every protection and assistance as a British subject. You having, however, declined in the first instance (deeming it unnecessary) to give me such information, and then sending me a statement of your conduct, which appeared to me in several respects not sanctioned by your having a letter of marque only, I acquaint you, not only that such a communication was a respect due; but that it is a duty incumbent on all British subjects to give every information, both relating to themselves and others, to the captains of any of his Majesty's ships; and your being apprised by letters from the lords commissioners of the admiralty of my being sent here to protect your trade and that of this island, ought to have convinced you of its necessity. I therefore sent a message, appointing an hour for you to wait on me, in order to gain such information as would direct me how to act; or, if necessary, to reply in writing to your statement; which circumstances, together with your refusal to comply with my request and a copy of this my answer, I shall transmit by the first opportunity to the right honorable the lords commissioners of the ad-

miralty. I also conceive it my duty to acquaint you, that from your not having any other authority, that I am aware of, besides being owner of a letter of marque, you appear to me to have far exceeded that authority by taking on you the government of an island not actually considered hostile to Great Britain; the wretched state of whose inhabitants his Majesty has been graciously pleased so far to relieve in winter, as to grant licenses to you and even to the enemies of Great Britain to support them; and you have, in my opinion, not only transgressed the laws of Great Britain, but of all nations, by assuming an authority which no subject of any realm whatever can have a right to; namely, that of declaring the island free, neutral, independent, and at peace with all nations, and of appointing a governor, who is not a British subject, but a Dane; who has been an apprentice on board an English collier; served his time as a midshipman in his Majesty's navy; afterwards fought against Great Britain; and was made a prisoner by an English ship of war. I understand he has issued, with your sanction, proclamations (declaring the island no longer under the government or control of Denmark) signed in a regal manner (We, Jorgen Jorgensen); besides which, he has, in sight of his Majesty's ship under my command, hoisted a flag as yet unknown; and is employed at this

time in erecting a battery within musket shot, without my permission, and even without having consulted me on the subject; which is not only taking up arms against his own country (Denmark), but a disrespect to my pendant. I feel myself called upon, therefore, to notice his conduct, which no attachment or zeal that gentleman may have for Great Britain can countenance; neither would it, I am sure, meet the approbation of government. I now most earnestly recommend, either that you do not leave the whole power in the island in the hands of that gentleman alone, until his Majesty's pleasure is known (however qualified or respectable his character may be), or, that you immediately restore the former mode of government, giving the supreme command to some of the most respectable of the inhabitants of the island. It was indispensably necessary, and was your duty, long since to have sent an account of your proceedings to government, which I now recommend you not to delay. I also recommend your destroying the battery now erecting, taking the guns off the island, and desisting from training the inhabitants to arms, which can only tend at present to their disadvantage, they being still the subjects of our enemies, therefore not liable to be attacked by those, and may hereafter enable them to turn against Great Britain. Nor can I conceive from the statement you have made of their attachment to you, that such measures are

at all necessary, either for the safety of your person or property.—Having thus, according to my duty, acquainted you with my sentiments, and pointed out the line of conduct that I conceive you, as a British subject, ought to adopt, I shall not interfere farther than by requesting to be acquainted with your future intentions, for the information of the right honorable the lords commissioners of the admiralty. You are wrong in supposing that I wish to cast any stain upon your character, either as an Englishman or a man of honor, nor can I believe you would intentionally commit an act which could reflect disgrace upon the British government. I am also far from doubting the word of Mr. Jorgensen, or from throwing any reflections either on his former situation, his character, or conduct; but his not possessing any written document to certify that he has permission from government to be on this island, and his having appeared in Havnfiord bay, on board his Majesty's ship under my command, in the undress uniform of a post-captain, oblige me to insist on his immediate return to Great Britain, unless you can satisfy me you have permission to bring him here.

I am, SIR,

Your most obedient and humble Servant,

ALEXANDER JONES,

*Captain of His Majesty's Sloop, Talbot.*

To Samuel Phelps, Esq., English Merchant,  
Reikevig, Iceland.

N<sup>o</sup> 7.COPY OF A LETTER FROM MR. PHELPS  
TO CAPTAIN JONES.*Reikevig, August 23, 1809.*

SIR,

The convention or agreement, which we entered into yesterday with the chief justice and the bailiff of this island, will, perhaps, preclude the necessity of my giving you a circumstantial account of every particular and minute transaction which has taken place here since my arrival, of which I have kept a regular journal, for the purpose of laying the same before his Majesty's ministers, together with original documents. The accounts and papers are voluminous, and it would take a considerable time to copy them: it was, moreover, impossible to do it in the time required by your letter of the 20th instant. The journal papers and documents I hold are necessary for my justification, and it may be of considerable utility to me to retain them; but, as I am totally unacquainted with the laws and articles of war (farther than what I learn from having read the Margaret and Anne's letters of marque), I will readily deliver up all these papers and journal to you, if you will give me an order so to do, and a receipt for the same; as will also Captain Liston his journal and papers.—I must, however, beg

leave to correct some errors or mistakes, which appear to exist, according to your letter of the 19th instant.—As to my having declined giving you a statement of my transactions here, this I certainly did not intend; but, as the charges made against me from common report only, as stated in the first conversation I had the honor to hold with you, were of a serious nature, and such as I knew to be unjust and untrue, I wished the whole transactions and complaints to be stated in writing, to prevent misinterpretation. Perhaps this request of mine was not correct or consistent with the respect due to a British officer; if so, I can assure you no such disrespect was intended.—I took the liberty of writing you a letter (in haste) dated the 16th, and another the 17th instant. Of the first I had not time to take an exact copy; but it appears by your letter of the 19th instant, that some words in one particular passage were left out, which were intended by me to have been added. I refer you to the public proclamations, to prove to you that the error in my letter proceeded from the hurry of writing: therefore I must beg leave to correct it.—You state in your letter of the 19th instant, that I have not only in your opinion transgressed the laws of Great Britain, but of all nations, by assuming an authority which no one has a right to assume, namely, that of declaring the island “ free, neutral, and



“ independent:” here should have been added, “ of Denmark;” for so the proclamation is translated to me.—The only hostility I have committed is against the Danes.—You will find, Sir, by every true information you can obtain on shore, that I have never in any respect interfered in the government or change of government here, farther than by giving my advice and consent to Mr. Jorgensen in matters in which my trade was concerned, or in measures that I was bound to pursue, according to the instructions in the letters of marque, or to instruct Captain Liston so to do; namely, not to compromise in any manner with our enemies. As far as I have gone, I shall not have the business to retract, whatever may be the consequence to me, and sure am I no one proof or document can appear to show that I have in any way interfered in the government; but I beg leave briefly to state to you how far I have been concerned, and to add at the same time that, not understanding the Danish language, it is possible that I may in some instances have been deceived.—In January last, myself and my partners sent a cargo of provisions and other necessaries under a British license, to relieve the inhabitants of Iceland. The cargo was landed, but, through the artifice and intrigue of the Danes, instead of returning a cargo of Iceland

produce, as the license specified, the vessel was returned in ballast with stones which our agent was obliged to pay for, although the then constituted Danish authorities had granted us a free trade, and the warehouses were full of Iceland goods. Severe proclamations were also afterwards published to obstruct our trade, all of which I shall take home.—On finding that the same conduct prevailed on my arrival here with another cargo on the 21st of June last, and that I must again return in ballast, unless I pursued strong measures, I ventured to make Count Tramp prisoner, partly on this account, and partly on hearing that he had come here under a fictitious name and character. Being requested by many of the native inhabitants to issue some proclamations, to satisfy the minds of the people, and being also requested and entreated by them to remove the Danes from the island, who had reduced them to the greatest state of misery, I declined interfering, or taking any part in the government, and refused to hoist the English flag, not knowing that I should be correct in so doing, until the will of his Majesty's ministers could be known.—Upon farther applications being sent to me, which expressed the wishes of the people that Mr. Jorgensen would stand forward to protect the island and the natives against the Danes, I certainly

acquiesced, and gave him my concurrence and advice to act as the natives thought best, unless some of them would take the management of the island (*ad interim*) till the will of the British government could be known; and I agreed that the island should be declared free and independent of Denmark, but only in suspension, until his Majesty's pleasure could be known. I have in no other respect interfered in the government here, farther than in protecting our property and persons. It has also been impossible for me to transmit an account of these transactions before to England, as there have been no vessels fit for the navigation of these seas; of which you can easily assure yourself. You will find, Sir, that there are two parties in this island; the Danish party and the Icelandic, or English, party. I hope I have listened to and favored that party which will be most approved of by his Majesty's ministers; but, if it should not prove to be so, I have erred unintentionally.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient and humble Servant,

SAMUEL PHELPS.

To the Honorable Alexander Jones,  
 Captain of His Majesty's Ship  
 Talbot, Reikevig Harbor.

## N° 8.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM THE HONORABLE CAPTAIN JONES TO REAR-ADMIRAL SIR EDWARD NEAGLE, COMMANDER IN CHIEF, &c., &c., &c.

*His Majesty's Sloop, Talbot, Reikevig Bay, Iceland, August 23, 1809.*

SIR,

I have to acquaint you that, owing to extremely bad weather, I had no communication with this island until the 5th of August, when I anchored for a few hours in Oreback bay. I was there informed that there were three English vessels at this place, and that an English merchant had become governor of the island. On the 8th I anchored in Havnfiord bay to water, when I learned that Mr. Phelps, an English merchant, and the owner of the Margaret and Anne letter of marque, had made Count Tramp, the Danish governor of the island, prisoner, and that Mr. Jorgensen (a Danish gentleman brought from England by Mr. Phelps) had taken upon him the government of the island; but that it was not satisfactory to the inhabitants, in consequence of his former situations in life. I came here on the 14th from Havnfiord, for the purpose of being better informed upon this subject, as well as for the sake of repairing my rigging. On entering the harbor I found at anchor the Margaret and Anne privateer with two or three other vessels, and saw

a blue flag, with three white fish in the upper quarter, flying over the town: this I was told was the new Iceland colors. Count Tramp, who was a prisoner on board the privateer, requested to have an interview with me, during which he stated that he had been extremely ill used, and in a manner that was contrary to the laws of nations; that Mr. Jorgensen was a traitor to his own country (Denmark); that he had first served Great Britain; then fought against it; and was now, by hoisting the above-mentioned flag, and by declaring the island free, neutral, and independent, and at peace with all nations, acting in rebellion to both. I therefore thought it necessary to inquire of Mr. Phelps by what authority he acted. That gentleman having first declined to give any explanation to me, and afterwards sent me the enclosed written statement of his transactions, together with my being informed by Mr. Jorgensen himself that he had been an apprentice on board an English collier, served as a midshipman in the English navy, then commanded the Admiral Juul Danish privateer, which was captured by his Majesty's sloop Sappho, that he was not exchanged, neither had he signed any parole of honor as a prisoner of war, but was set at liberty in London without any written documents: all these circumstances considered, I deemed it my duty to prevent his being left alone

on the island at the head of a government of his own formation, and have consequently taken those steps to obviate it, which to the best of my opinion and that of my officers would be right and most approved of by government. Enclosed I send copies of my answer and order to Mr. Phelps, in consequence of the before-mentioned statement, also every other document in my power to obtain, hoping they will give every information and explanation necessary on the subject. Not considering myself authorised to interfere with the imprisonment of Count Tramp, nor thinking it would be proper under the present circumstances to hoist the British colors on the island without first informing you; at the request of Mr. Phelps, I have restored the former government to the two men next in rank on the island to Count Tramp. In order to secure the quick and safe delivery of this intelligence, I have sent in the Margaret and Anne Lieutenant Stewart of his Majesty's ship under my command, who is acquainted with all the circumstances, and charged with the delivery of the new Icelandic flag to you.

I have the honor to be,

SIR, &c.,

ALEXANDER JONES.

Rear-Admiral Sir Edward Neagle,  
Commander in Chief, &c., &c., &c.,  
Leith.

N<sup>o</sup> 9.

## COPY OF AN AGREEMENT

*Between His Royal Danish Majesty's Counsellor of State and Chief Justice of Iceland, and His Danish Majesty's Bailiff in the Western County of the said Island on the one part, and the Honorable Alexander Jones, Captain of His British Majesty's Sloop of War, Talbot, and Samuel Phelps of the City of London, Esq., on the other part.*

## ARTICLES.

1. All proclamations, laws, appointments, &c., made by Mr. Jorgen Jorgensen, since his arrival in this country, are to be abolished and totally null and void, from the moment this agreement is signed.

2. The former government is to be perfectly restored, and the chief command to devolve upon the said chief justice of Iceland, and the said bailiff of the western county of Iceland, native Icelanders, they being the next in power in the island to Count Tramp.

3. All officers under the Danish government are at liberty to return to their offices.

4. The government shall be responsible for the protection of all British subjects and the property that now is and may be on the island, and all transgressions, thefts, and personal assaults, committed against British subjects or their property, shall be punished with the same rigor, and according to the same laws, as if the property belonged to the natives.

5. No battery is to be erected; and the one now at Reikevig is to be destroyed. No militia is to be raised in the island, nor the country in any way to be fortified or armed.

6. All officers or other persons either armed or unarmed, who, during the late events, have taken part with Mr. Jorgen Jorgensen, shall no longer be in employment, but their persons and property in every respect (whosoever or of whatever nation they may be) shall be respected and protected the same as other persons and natives.—The convention between Count Tramp and Captain Nott, of the 16th of June last, shall be in full force, and be published throughout this country without delay, together with this agreement.

7. All merchants' houses which are shut up in this country shall immediately be opened, and the



merchants of the said island be permitted to continue or carry on their trade as formerly.

8. All Danish property and public money is to be restored.

Witness our hands and seals this twenty-second day of August, one thousand eight hundred and nine.

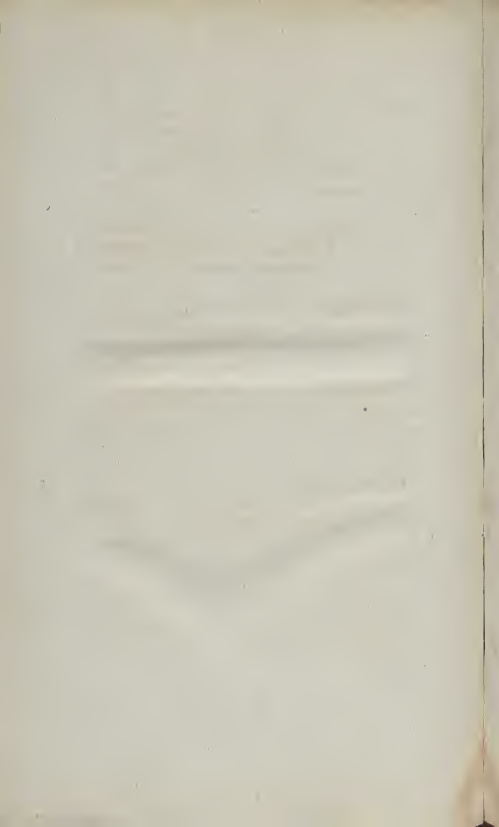
(Signed)

ALEXANDER JONES.  
SAMUEL PHELPS.  
MAGNUS STEPHENSEN.  
STEPHEN STEPHENSEN.

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END OF APPENDIX. B.

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APPENDIX. C.

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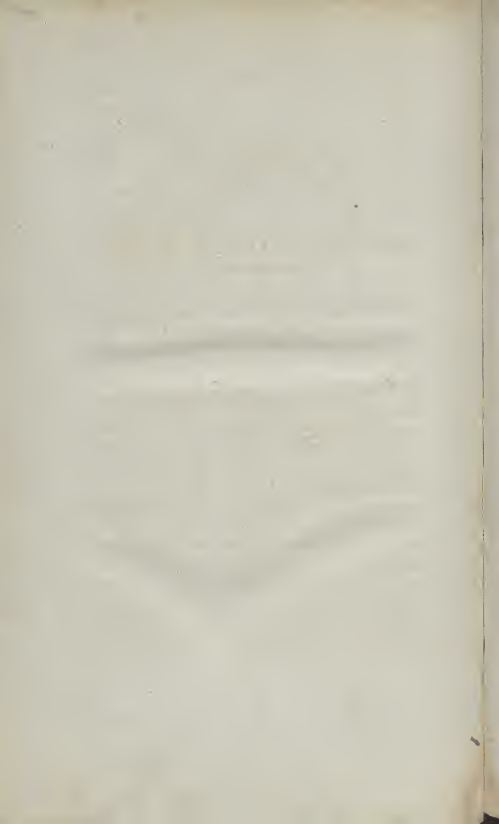
ACCOUNT OF HECLA;

WITH

SOME PARTICULARS OF OTHER REMARKABLE

*VOLCANIC MOUNTAINS*

IN ICELAND.



## APPENDIX. C.

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### ACCOUNT OF HECLA,

*&c. &c.*

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THERE is scarcely a part of this great island but bears the most striking marks of the effects of subterraneous fires, though the more dreadful eruptions of later years have been confined to its southern and eastern quarters. Not only in the loftiest mountains, but even in the plains and vallies, the remains of extinguished craters arrest the attention of the traveller, and the tracts of lava which he frequently meets with are so extensive, that it not uncommonly happens that an Icelandic summer's day, however considerable its length, does not allow sufficient time to traverse one of them in its greatest extent. Among the numerous volcanoes, Hecla, from the

frequency of its fires, from its vicinity to the most populous part of the island, and from its situation that renders it visible to ships sailing to Greenland and North America, has been by far the most celebrated among foreign countries; nor does it seem to have been considered of less importance at home, having attracted to such a degree the notice of the native historians, that its several eruptions, subsequently to the colonisation of the island (for it is supposed that many had taken place previously), have been inserted in the chronicles of the country. Upon this subject, however, the different annalists are far from being agreed, some, according to Povelsen and Olafsen, who speak only of the principal ones, mentioning no more than eleven, and others only sixteen; while these authors say that, after the most attentive researches, they can speak with confidence to twenty-two, without reckoning several, which, though enumerated by other writers, they regard as uncertain, thinking that the same eruption may have been counted more than once, from its having lasted above a year, or its having begun in winter and ceased the following spring; and also without including the less important discharges, that have not issued from the volcano itself, but from some of the hillocks or beds of lava about it; though these in reality have a right

to be included, as having originated from Hecla, whose fire passing through subterraneous channels has found vent in different places. Leaving this question undecided, I confine myself to Arngrim Jonas, who, in his *Brevis Commentarius de Islandia* \*, relates the first to have taken place A. D. 1104; and to have been succeeded by others in the years 1137, 1222, 1300, 1341, 1362, and 1389, after which the mountain is said to have remained quiet till 1538, and then again for the space of eighty-one years, when, in 1619, fresh matter was vomited forth; and also in 1636, 1693, and 1766; the latter eruption lasting,

\* This account does not exactly agree with that given by Von Troil, who mentions eruptions of Hecla, in 1374, 1390, and 1436.—The dates of the eruptions of Etna and Vesuvius have also been recorded, and, in the uncertainty of their periods, resemble what I find respecting Hecla.—They are as follows :

*Mount Etna*—before the christian æra, four ;—in the years 3325, 3538, 3554, 3843.—After Christ twenty-seven—1175, 1285, 1321, 1323, 1329, 1408, 1530, 1536, 1537, 1540, 1545, 1545, 1554, 1556, 1566, 1579, 1614, 1634, 1636, 1643, 1669, 1682, 1689, 1692, 1747, 1755, 1766.

*Mount Vesuvius* ;—after Christ—79, 203, 472, 512, 685, 993, 1036, 1043, 1048, 1136, 1506, 1538 (the eruption at Puzzole), 1631, 1660, 1682, 1694, 1701, 1704, 1712, 1717, 1730, 1737, 1751, 1754, 1760, 1766, 1767, 1770, 1771.—*Sir W. Hamilton's Campi Phlegræi*, p. 51.

without intermission, from the 15th of April till the 7th of September. Flames, but unattended with lava, appeared in 1771 and 1772, since which period to the latter end of the present year, 1810, neither fire nor smoke has been perceived.

Having already, in my journal (page 159), stated the circumstances which prevented me from reaching Hecla, it is necessarily out of my power to give an account of the state of the mountain from my own actual observation; but, if I may be allowed to judge from the information I received in the neighborhood, I had less reason than might be imagined to regret my disappointment; the covering of snow, that in many seasons entirely envelops the summit, having lain particularly thick during the summer of 1809, and so completely concealed every thing that might be looked upon as remarkable, that the prosecution of my journey would but have added to my fatigue without a chance of the success I wished for. Sir Joseph Banks, however, and his party, were more fortunate, and an account of their expedition has been published by Von Troil, whose remarks on Hecla are so familiar to the English reader, that the mountain may be considered as well known. At the same time, as it is one of those



things that are reckoned most wonderful in Iceland, I am unwilling to pass it in silence, but shall endeavor, by means of extracts from the less generally known publication of Povelsen and Olafsen, aided by some notes made from Sir Joseph Banks' MSS., to compensate for what I have not in my power to relate in my own journal.

Our Icelandic travellers, on their excursion to Hecla, stopped at the village of Selsund situated in the vicinity of the mountain, where the proprietor of the farm urged them to accept him for their guide, he being acquainted with the country all around the volcano, though he had never actually reached even its foot. The whole of the inhabitants who reside in the neighborhood consider it as the height of temerity for any one to endeavor to climb the mountain: in order, therefore, to deter these gentlemen from being rash enough to make the attempt, they represented a variety of supernatural obstacles, which having, from time immemorial, been handed down from father to son, were perhaps as devoutly believed as they were seriously related, telling, among other things that were also urged to me, how Hecla is guarded by a number of strange black birds resembling crows, but armed with beaks of iron, with which they would receive in a very ungracious manner any

man that might presume to infringe upon their territory. The country for two leagues around Hecla they found wholly destitute of vegetation, the soil consisting of scoria, pumice, and red and black cinders, which, by the breaking out of the subterraneous fires, were here and there raised into numerous little hills and eminences, increasing in size the nearer they approached the mountain. The principal one, which is called *Raud-oldur*\*, is of an oblong form, with an opening in its summit of an hundred and forty-four feet in depth, and eight hundred and forty feet in circumference: it consists entirely of small red shining stones, that have evidently been in a state of liquefaction. On reaching Hecla, the difficulty of proceeding was increased, especially when it became necessary to travel over the heaps of lava that have flowed from the volcano, and formed round the

\* “ We arrived (September 24, 1772) at a green spot under *Graufel-hraun*, where we pitched our tents and proceeded to a crater which has an opening of half a mile in circumference, but its western side is destroyed by the eruption. The *hraun* lies as if it came from this crater, and the tufa and ashes which formerly made a part of its western side are still seen among it. The lower part and remaining walls are composed of nothing but ashes, cinders, and pieces of lava in various states. Its name is *Röd-Oldur*.—The scene of desolation all around is almost inconceivable.”—*Sir Joseph Banks' MS. Journal.*

base of the mountain a sort of rampart from forty to seventy feet in height, consisting of masses of melted stone. In this spot, which appears to be the place alluded to by Von Troil, where he speaks of the hill as being surrounded with lofty glazed walls, and filled with high glazed cliffs not to be compared to any thing he ever saw before, our travellers found it necessary to leave their horses; and their guide, under the pretence that he was suddenly attacked with a head-ache, excused himself from attending them farther on their journey. The ridge of lava was climbed with extreme difficulty, for the stones of which it was composed lay detached, and there were so many deep holes between them, that it was necessary to use the greatest caution in walking to prevent accidents. The ground shortly after becoming more solid, their road was consequently materially improved, and they began their ascent on the western side, where the continual cracking of the rock under their feet at first caused them some uneasiness, till, upon more attentive observation, they found that the whole mountain itself was reduced to a mere pumice stone, lying in horizontal strata of moderate thickness, every where full of fissures; and hence, they observe, may be formed some idea of the intensity of the fire, whereby an immense mountain has been so far consumed

that all the rocks which compose it will crumble into ashes, if the volcano that has produced such an effect should again for a while resume its operations. Contrary to their expectations, they continued to ascend without meeting with any obstacle, passing over a continued series of sloping terraces, of which they reckoned seven before they reached the summit. The sides of the hill they found from top to bottom deeply scarred with ravines formed originally by the torrents of lava, but now serving as beds for the winter cataracts. Among other curious minerals that they met with on their way, they gathered some that they considered as decisive of the fact of Hecla having occasionally thrown out water \* as well as fire; and they are from this led to notice an extra-

\* The discharge of water from volcanoes, as well as fire, is by no means unusual: Sir William Hamilton, who most ingeniously endeavors to account for some of the most striking appearances of the globe from this circumstance, considers the water as merely rain that has been deposited in the caverns, contrary, as he says, to the generally received opinion that it arises from a connection between the mountains and the sea. He mentions (*Campi Phlegræi*, p. 27) on this subject, that "it is well attested, that in the great eruption of Vesuvius, A.D. 1631, several towns, among which were Portici and Torre del Greco, were destroyed by a torrent of boiling water having burst out of the mountain with the lava, by which thousands of lives were lost."

ordinary matter, of which they do not appear themselves to have seen any symptoms, that so great a quantity of salt \* has been found after its

\* This, as they say, (tom. iii. p. 35.) “ ne contribue pas peu  
 “ à confirmer l’opinion de la connexion probable entre la mer  
 “ et les volcans, tant de ceux qui vomissent des matières em-  
 “ brasées, que de ceux qui vomissent de l’eau alternativement.  
 “ On peut raisonnablement présumer ces communications  
 “ entre la mer, les volcans, et les glaciers de la partie orien-  
 “ tale, en raison de leur proximité de la mer et la profondeur  
 “ de leurs racines; ces montagnes vomissent en effet une bien  
 “ plus grande quantité d’eau que la fonte des glaces ne pour-  
 “ rait produire, et on a même remarqué un goût salin à leurs  
 “ eaux. On objectera peut-être, à l’égard du mont Hecla,  
 “ qu’il peut se trouver dans ses entrailles quantité de sel  
 “ de roche; mais ses entrailles vont jusqu’au niveau de  
 “ la mer; d’ailleurs indépendamment de l’opinion géné-  
 “ ralement accréditée de tant de savans de tous les pays,  
 “ de la connexion secrète qu’il y a entre l’Etna en Sicile  
 “ et l’Hecla, puisque ces deux volcans ont si souvent  
 “ brûlés en même temps, on verra nombre d’exemples curieux  
 “ qui prouvent la sympathie qu’il y a entre l’Hecla, lors de  
 “ ses éruptions, et les autres volcans de l’Islande plus éloignés  
 “ de lui qu’il ne l’est de la mer, et même les plus éloignés.”—  
 What might be considered as still farther proving the con-  
 nection between volcanoes and the ocean is, that Etna is  
 related by Seneca in his second book *Naturalium Quæstionum*  
 to have thrown out a quantity of burning sand; so that  
 “ involutus est dies pulvere, populosque subita nox terruit;”  
 but probably that philosopher meant nothing more by sand  
 than minute particles of pulverized matter, a quantity of

eruptions, as has been sufficient to load a number of horses. On the night of the 19th of June, they at length approached the summit, and found themselves on the edge of the crater, in a place covered with ice and snow; yet not of such a nature as that of the glaciers, since it generally melts away in the summer months, excepting only what lies in the hollows and clefts; for Hecla is to be classed among the Icelandic mountains of inferior height, rising to no greater elevation than five thousand feet above the level of the sea. What rendered their walk more uncomfortable was that a flight of snow had recently fallen, the depth of which was not less than a foot and half. Through this they had a long and toilsome passage, before they at last found themselves arrived at the object of their journey, the summit

which, resembling gunpowder, was lately shown me by the Countess of Gosford, picked up during the last eruption of the same mountain (March, 1809), in the very streets of Messina, fifty miles distant in a straight line, where it fell in such quantities that several cart-loads might have been collected.—The most extraordinary proof of the connection between volcanoes and subterraneous waters seems to be afforded by Humboldt, who, in the zoological part of his travels, speaks of the volcanoes of Quito casting out innumerable quantities of a species of fish that is found in the streams that run into the sides of the mountains.

of Mount Hecla\*, where the most dreary solitude and silence the most profound reigned all around them, and they could discover no traces either of fissures in the rock or falls of water, and

\* Sir Joseph Banks thus describes his ascent of the same hill: “ we ascended Mount Hecla with the wind blowing  
“ against us so violently that we could with difficulty proceed.  
“ The frost too was lying upon the ground, and the cold extremely severe. We ourselves were covered with ice in  
“ such a manner that our clothes resembled buckram. On  
“ reaching the summit of the first peak, we here and there  
“ remarked places where the snow had been melted, and a  
“ little heat was arising from them, and it was by one of  
“ these that we rested to observe the barometer, which was  
“ 24. 839. Th. 27. The water we had with us was all  
“ frozen. Doctor Lind filled his wind-machine with warm  
“ water: it rose to 1.6 and then froze into spiculæ, so  
“ that we could not make observations any longer. We  
“ thought we had arrived at the highest peak, but soon saw  
“ one above us, towards which we hastened. Doctor Sö-  
“ lander remained with an Icelander in the intermediate  
“ valley; the rest of us continued our route to the summit  
“ of the peak, which we found intensely cold; but on the  
“ highest point was a spot of three yards in breadth, whence  
“ there proceeded so much heat and steam that we could  
“ not bear to sit down upon it.—H. 9. 25. Bar. 24,722.  
“ Th. 38. The last eruption of 1766 broke out on a sudden  
“ attended by an earthquake. A south wind carried a quantity of ashes to Holum, a distance of an hundred and  
“ eighty miles! Horses were so alarmed as to run about till  
“ they dropped down through fatigue, and the people who

still less of hot springs or smoke or fire. Though now midnight, it was as bright as day, so that they enjoyed an immensely extensive prospect; looking over all the glaciers to the east, beyond which in the distance towered, like a great castle, the ancient volcano of Hoerdabreid; while to the north they had a view of all the lofty hills of that quarter, and of a number of lakes of which they could not learn the names. Finding nothing on the top of Hecla to induce them to prolong their stay, they descended on the west side by a deep ravine, which, commencing at the summit of the mountain and continuing to its very base, appears evidently to have been the bed of a current of lava, and was most probably formed at the time of the eruption of 1300; since the annals of the country relate that at that period Hecla was rent from the top to the bottom. This cavity has now only the appearance of a deep valley, but it is nevertheless certain, they say, that it was originally open to the very centre of the volcano, but was choked up by the falling in

“lived near the mountain lost their cattle, which were either  
“choked with ashes or starved before they could be removed  
“to grass. Some lingered for a year, and, on being opened,  
“their stomachs were found to be full of ashes.”—*Sir Joseph Banks' MS. Journal.*



of stones and rocks, which forced their way downwards on the cessation of the eruption, when the subterraneous fires ceased to lend the earth unnatural strength. Many large masses of rock thrown from the volcano still hang upon the edges of the ravine, where they were cast by the eruption; but far greater heaps of melted and burnt substances are met with at the bottom of this singular and immense chasm.—Thus much for the general and exterior conformation of Hecla. The effects of its subterraneous fires, mischievous as they have been, are small compared to those of other mountains; for which reason I shall proceed to a short description of two or three that have been the most remarkable in this respect.

*Krabla*, in the north-eastern part of the island, vomited forth great rivers of burning and melted matter between the years 1724 and 1730, one of which was four miles and a half in width and nine in length; it flowed into the adjoining lake, Myvatn, where it continued to burn like oil for many days, filling the lake, drying up its waters, and destroying the whole of the fish. Another torrent overflowed the presbytery of Reykelid, which it so completely buried as not to have left a vestige of the place. These floods

of fire are called by the natives *Stenaa* (stone-flood), and afforded, during the day, a blue flame, resembling that of sulphur; but the smoke which arose from all parts in a great measure hindered it from being seen. During the night the whole extent of the horizon was illuminated, and the higher regions of the atmosphere became red. Balls of fire were hurled from the *stenaa* as well as from the burning mountain, and were the means, together with the surrounding redness of the atmosphere, of announcing to the inhabitants at a considerable distance the dreadful disaster.

*Katlegiaa* in the southern part of the island ejected a great torrent of water on the 17th of October, 1755, which inundated an extent of country fifteen miles long and twelve wide, sweeping away in its impetuous course numerous masses of ice, to which were attached pieces of rock of great size. Whilst the minds of the natives were occupied in the reflection of the dreadful consequences that were likely to ensue from this extraordinary phenomenon, as well as from the accompanying earthquake, a noise was heard like that of thunder, when immediately a rapid discharge of fire and water took place alternately from the mountain, attended by most frightful and horrible roarings, which continued, with but slight intermission,

during the whole of the first day; at night the neighboring districts were illuminated by flames, and balls of fire were cast to a great height in the air, so that heaven and earth seemed to be equally in a state of conflagration. On the 19th the column of smoke appeared black in the day, but filled with balls and sparks of fire, which in the night cast a strong light over the whole of Myrdalssysel, whilst the country situated to the eastward of that district was in darkness both day and night. All the syssels in that direction were covered with black sand and cinders, and loud subterraneous noises were heard even as far as Guldbringue and Kiosar syssels (eighty or ninety miles distant) and ashes fell like rain in the Ferroe Islands, a distance of three hundred miles!

But the most dreadful volcanic eruption, which the annals of Iceland have yet recorded, took place so late as the year 1783. Magnus Stephensen (the present Tatsroed of Iceland) was, as he informed me, at the time of its commencement at Copenhagen; when, upon the intelligence being received, he was ordered by the King of Denmark to return to Iceland with all possible dispatch, and prepare an account of this calamitous event. The result of his expedition was soon after published in a small Danish pamphlet,

which is accompanied by two curious and interesting charts of the country surrounding the volcano, the one representing the face of it previously, and the other subsequently, to the eruption. Farther information by the same author was given in one of the two works mentioned at page 228 of this journal; but of the circumstances there related I can now only recollect with certainty that the number of inhabitants, who perished in consequence of the eruption, amounted to nine thousand, not all by the fire or fall of ashes, &c., but the greater part absolutely by starvation; all vegetation, the support of their cattle, being destroyed, and, to add to their state of wretchedness, the fish driven from the coasts. I shall avail myself of a translation of the above-mentioned Danish pamphlet, which is inserted in the *Introduction to Pennant's Arctic Zoology*, (page cccxxi.)

“ Upon the 1st of June, 1783, there was observed a trembling or shaking of the earth, in the western part of the province of *Shaptarfiall*, which increased more and more until the 11th. It was so great that the inhabitants were under the necessity of quitting their houses, and lying at night in tents upon the open ground. All this time there was observed a continual smoke

“ or steam arising out of the earth, in the north-  
“ ern and uninhabited parts of the country.  
“ Three fire-spouts broke out, of which that in  
“ the north-west was the greatest; one of these  
“ spouts broke out in Ulfarsdal, a little to the  
“ east of the river Skapta; the other two were a  
“ little west of the river Hwerfisfiôt. These  
“ three fire-spouts, after they had risen to a con-  
“ siderable height in the air, were collected into  
“ one stream, which rose so high as to be seen at  
“ the distance of thirty-four miles \*, and upwards.  
“ The whole country, for double that distance all  
“ around, was continually covered with a thick  
“ smoke and steam not to be described.

“ The 8th of June gave sufficient notice of the  
“ above-mentioned fire-spouts breaking out, for  
“ upon that day the fire became visible. It was  
“ mixed with prodigious quantities of brimstone,  
“ sand, pumice stones, and ashes, which, being  
“ thrown up with great force, noise, and shaking  
“ of the earth, were scattered in the neighbor-  
“ hood of the spouts; and a part of them, being  
“ blown about by the wind (which at that time  
“ was very high) all over the country, fell in the

\* The reader will observe, that the distances mentioned here are in the measure of Danish miles, twelve of which make one degree; so that each Danish mile is nearly five and three-quarters of our statute miles.—*Pennant*.

“ fields, villages, and towns, at a considerable  
“ distance. The whole atmosphere was filled  
“ with sand, dust, and brimstone, so thick as to  
“ occasion a continual darkness. The pumice  
“ which fell in the villages, being red hot, did  
“ considerable damage. Along with the pumice  
“ stones, there fell a great quantity of a dirty  
“ substance like pitch, rolled up sometimes in  
“ the form of small balls, and sometimes like  
“ rings or garlands. The falling of these hot  
“ substances was attended with great mischief, as  
“ they totally destroyed all manner of vegetation  
“ that they came near.

“ Upon the third day of this dreadful shower,  
“ the fire became very visible, and came out  
“ sometimes in a continued stream, and some-  
“ times in flashes or flames, which were seen at  
“ the distance of thirty or forty miles, accom-  
“ panied at the same time with a noise like thun-  
“ der: this continued the whole summer. Upon  
“ the same day that the fire first broke out, there  
“ fell a very great quantity of rain in all that  
“ neighborhood, which did almost as much harm  
“ as the fire; inasmuch as the great quantity of  
“ cold water, that ran in vast streams upon the  
“ hot ground, tore up the earth in large cakes, and  
“ carried it down into the lower situations; be-  
“ sides, the water of this rain was strongly im-

“pregnated with salts of different kinds, and sulphur, which it had acquired in falling through the immense cloud of smoke before described; and was so sharp and poisonous as to occasion a considerable smarting, if it fell either upon the hands or face. At a greater distance from the fire there was a great coldness in the atmosphere; and in some places there was a very heavy fall of snow, so that it lay upon level ground about three feet deep; in others so great a quantity of hail, as to do very considerable damage to the cattle, and every thing that was out. The grass, and all manner of vegetables, which were already scorched by the heat, sand, and pumice stones, were covered over with a thick crust of brimstone and sooty matter. The great heat of the streaming fire, meeting with so large a body of water, occasioned such a vapor and steam in the air, as to darken the sun, which appeared like blood\*, and the whole face of nature seemed to be changed. This lasted several days, the sand and pumice stones destroying all the crops that were upon the ground, the moment that they fell, burning up every thing that they touched:

\* In the same summer the sun had a similar appearance in Great Britain, and the same obscurity of air reigned in most parts of our island.—*Pennant*.

“ the whole country was laid waste, the cattle  
“ dying for want of food; and the surviving or  
“ escaping inhabitants, flying from the horrid  
“ scene, betook themselves to other parts of the  
“ country, where they might hope for safety,  
“ and left all their stock and goods a prey to the  
“ outrages of these two turbulent elements.

“ When the fire first broke out, there was a  
“ very considerable increase of water in the river  
“ Skapta, upon the east side of which one of the  
“ fire-spouts was situated, as was mentioned  
“ above: a similar overflow of water was ob-  
“ served, at the same time, in the great river  
“ Piorsa, which runs into the sea a little to the  
“ eastward of the town of Orback, and into  
“ which the river Tuna, after having run through  
“ a large tract of barren and uninhabited land,  
“ empties itself.

“ Upon the 11th of June the river Skapta was  
“ totally dried up in less than twenty-four hours,  
“ and the day following a prodigious stream of  
“ liquid and red hot lava, which the fire-spout  
“ had discharged, ran down the channel of it,  
“ which is very deep, having large rocks and  
“ high banks on each side, the whole length of  
“ its course. This stream of lava not only filled  
“ the deep channel above mentioned, but, over-



“ flowing the banks of it, spread itself over the  
“ whole valley, covering all the low grounds in its  
“ neighborhood; and, not having any sufficient  
“ outlet to empty itself by, it rose to a very  
“ great height, and overran all the neighboring  
“ country, insinuating itself between the hills,  
“ and covering some of the lower ones. The  
“ hills here are not continued in a long chain or  
“ series, but are separated from one another, and  
“ detached; and between them run little rivulets  
“ or brooks: so that, besides filling up the whole  
“ of the valley in which the river Skapta ran, the  
“ fiery stream spread itself for a considerable dis-  
“ tance on each side, getting vent between the  
“ above-mentioned hills, and laying all the neigh-  
“ boring country under fire. The fiery lake, get-  
“ ting fresh and greater supplies from the spouts,  
“ now ran up the course of the river, and over-  
“ flowed all the lower grounds above; and, as it  
“ proceeded upwards, it dried the river, until the  
“ stream was stopped against the side of the hill  
“ from whence the river takes its rise. The lava  
“ now rose to a prodigious height, and the fiery  
“ lake overflowed all the village of Buland; the  
“ church, houses, and every thing in its way  
“ being consumed: those who knew the situation  
“ of this village, upon what high ground it stands,  
“ would be astonished to think that it could have  
“ been overflowed. Two other farm-houses in

“ the same parish of Buland, at about a mile and  
“ a half from the village, northward, were like-  
“ wise destroyed, and three lives lost in both of  
“ them. The whole of this parish, which was  
“ highly cultivated land, is now totally de-  
“ molished. The fiery lake still increasing, and  
“ spreading itself out in length and breadth, over-  
“ flowed all the country for six miles in width.  
“ When all this tract of land was converted into  
“ a sea of fire, the lava stretched itself towards  
“ the south ; and getting vent through the chan-  
“ nel of the river Skapta, down which it rushed  
“ with great impetuosity (being confined within  
“ the narrow compass between the high banks  
“ before described, for about a mile) it came into  
“ a more open place, where it poured itself forth  
“ in prodigious torrents with amazing velocity and  
“ force ; spreading itself now towards the south,  
“ tearing up the earth, and carrying along with  
“ it on its surface flaming woods, and whatsoever  
“ it met with : in its course it laid waste another  
“ large district of land. The ground wherever it  
“ came was broke and cracked, and emitted large  
“ quantities of smoke and steam long before the  
“ fire reached it ; so great was the heat : and  
“ every thing near the edge of the fiery lake was  
“ either burnt up, or reduced to a fluid state.  
“ In this situation matters remained from the  
“ 12th of June till the 13th of August. The

“ fiery lake now no longer spread itself, but re-  
“ mained burning nevertheless; and when any  
“ part of the surface by cooling was crusted over,  
“ the fire from below broke the crust, which,  
“ tumbling amongst the melted substance, was  
“ rolled and tossed about with a prodigious noise  
“ and crackling; and in many parts of its surface  
“ small spouts, or at least ebullitions, were formed,  
“ which continued for some length of time.

“ The river Skapta, that we have talked so  
“ much about, is situated on the north and  
“ north-west sides of the province of Sidu: it  
“ takes its rise in the north-east, and running  
“ first westward, it turns to the south, and falls  
“ into the sea in a south-east direction. The  
“ confined part of its channel, that we have  
“ before made mention of, is an uninterrupted  
“ stretch of about four miles in length; being in  
“ some places two hundred fathoms deep (as in  
“ the neighborhood of Swartanup, where the  
“ river cuts through a hill), in others a hundred  
“ and fifty or a hundred; and in some parts a  
“ hundred, in others fifty, forty, and thirty fa-  
“ thoms broad. Along the whole of this part of  
“ its course the river is very rapid, though there  
“ are no considerable cataracts or falls above two  
“ feet high. There are several other such con-  
“ fined channels as this in other parts of Iceland,

“ but this is the greatest and most considerable  
“ in all its dimensions. This channel was filled  
“ to the brink, and from thence the lava spread  
“ itself over the village Skaptardal, consumed the  
“ houses and every thing in its way, and de-  
“ stroyed the woods and meadow-lands: this  
“ place is situated on the east of the river, upon  
“ a rising ground. The stream then went for-  
“ ward to the south, by a village which is at the  
“ south end of the narrowest part of the channel,  
“ and stretched itself between two hills to the  
“ east. The whole of this village, with all its  
“ meadow and wood-lands, was also totally de-  
“ stroyed. Upon the 12th of June, [the lava,  
“ having run through the narrow part of the  
“ channel and obtained an outlet, stretched itself  
“ out in breadth towards the south-west, as far  
“ as the east side of the hills in the province  
“ Skaptartunga; and also to the west side of  
“ Sidu, and the south-west of Medelland to-  
“ wards the east. Just as the lava began to  
“ overflow this flat country, and had got out of  
“ the channel of the river, the perpendicular  
“ height of its edge was seventy fathoms. Pro-  
“ ceeding now southwards, the lava destroyed the  
“ church and town of Skal and all the neighbor-  
“ ing grounds: in this place a prodigious noise  
“ was heard when the lava overspread the low  
“ lands, and noises like thunder have continued

“ ever since, till the 12th of August. It then  
“ came to the village of Swinadalur, which lies  
“ in a south-west direction from Skal; and having  
“ with a corner destroyed that, it was stretched  
“ out farther to the west, and overran the village  
“ of Hvammar, which stands on a pretty high  
“ rising ground on the west side of the river;  
“ but before the fire had reached these two vil-  
“ lages, they were both overflowed with the water  
“ that had been turned out of its course by the  
“ lava damming up the river when it first came  
“ into the channel. Proceeding forward, the  
“ lava overflowed the village Nez, and all the  
“ grounds belonging to it: from thence it came  
“ to Villungar, and, turning more southwardly,  
“ came near to the village Leidvólla; a little to  
“ the north of which, after having destroyed a  
“ great quantity of grass-land and wood, it en-  
“ tered into the channel of the great river Kuda-  
“ fliôt, and kept a south course along the east  
“ side of it till it came down near to the village  
“ of Hraun, where this branch stopped. A little  
“ above the place where this arm went into the  
“ channel of the river Kudafliôt, a corner of the  
“ lava, stretched itself out to the south-east, and  
“ came to a place called Eystribrun, east of Hraun.  
“ From Skal, which we mentioned just now, the  
“ lava taking an eastward direction, ran by the  
“ side of a hill called Holtfiáll, and destroyed the

“ village Holts, which stood upon a fine level  
“ ground, and was surrounded with very rich  
“ corn and pasture-land. Proceeding eastward, it  
“ came to a village called Heid; and destroying  
“ a quantity of meadow-land and wood belonging  
“ to that village, it went on down the river  
“ Skapta, between the two hills Heilderstapa and  
“ Dalbærstapa, which lie on each side of the  
“ river, and destroyed the villages Hunkabakke,  
“ Holmur, and Dalbear; and proceeded on east-  
“ ward towards the village Nyibear, within a  
“ hundred yards of which it stopped. In this  
“ course there is a very great cataract of the river  
“ Skapta, about fourteen fathoms high, where  
“ the lava falling down, was thrown about, to-  
“ gether with the stones which it tore up, to a  
“ very considerable distance. From Dalbear the  
“ stream of lava went southward, over that large  
“ tract of land called Hrauns-melar, quite down  
“ to Efristeins-myri, the edge of it to the east  
“ passing by Lutandahals, Lutandafit, and Rofa.  
“ In passing over this broad tract of land the  
“ fire did considerable damage, for the whole  
“ was good and rich meadow and pasture-land.  
“ The stream of lava went within thirty fathoms  
“ of Efristeins-myri, on the west; and falling  
“ into the channel of the river Steins-myrifliót,  
“ which is among the larger ones, it filled the  
“ whole valley between Efristeins-myri and Sydri-

“ steins-myri, going on in an eastward direction :  
“ these two villages are totally destroyed, although  
“ the edge of fire only approached within a hundred  
“ fathoms of them. The main body of the  
“ lava from this place went in a south-west direction,  
“ and came to the village Hnauser ;  
“ which, although it was not destroyed by the  
“ fire, yet was overflowed by the water of the two  
“ rivers Steins-myriþiôt and Fegdaquist being  
“ dammed up. Here the lava stopped on the  
“ south ; and its edge goes all the way from  
“ Eystribrun before mentioned, north of Stadar-  
“ holt, to Strandarholt. In this neighborhood  
“ the lava destroyed five villages ; namely, Hol-  
“ masel, with its church ; Botna, Holma, Efri-  
“ þliôta, and Sydrifiôta ; besides a great quantity  
“ of corn and meadow-lands, with woods, and  
“ other property belonging to the villages south-  
“ ward.

“ The spouts still continuing to send forth im-  
“ mense quantities of fresh lava, and all the  
“ passage to the south or low lands being shut  
“ up, the lava spread itself to the north and  
“ north-east, over a tract of land eight miles  
“ long and six broad. All this place is barren  
“ and uninhabited, so that no observations were  
“ made how the fiery stream proceeded : all we  
“ know is, that it dried up the rivers Tuna and

“ Axafyrði. The lava, on account of the high  
“ hills on the east of Hwerfisfliôt, could proceed  
“ no farther in an eastward direction, for these  
“ hills form a continued chain for three miles in  
“ length, running in a direction north and south.  
“ There was then no other outlet for the lava  
“ than the channel of the river Hwerfisfliôt: this  
“ branch broke out from the main body about a  
“ quarter of a mile north of Ytridalur and Eystri-  
“ dalur, two villages situated opposite to each  
“ other, on each side of the river: the lava run-  
“ ning between these two villages, followed the  
“ course of the river, and passed between two  
“ others, Therna and Scialand, about a mile  
“ lower down; coming then into an open and  
“ level ground, it spread itself out, and formed a  
“ small lake of fire, about two miles long and  
“ one broad; lying in a direction a little west-  
“ wardly from the south. The only damage  
“ done by this branch was the destruction of the  
“ corn and grass-land, and some wood; no vil-  
“ lages having suffered. Upon the 16th of Au-  
“ gust this branch stopped.

“ It appears then, from the whole, that the  
“ utmost extent of the ground covered with lava,  
“ and making the appearance of a fiery lake,  
“ was fifteen miles long and seven broad in its  
“ utmost extent. The edge of it, reckoning



“ all that part south of Buland, with all its in-  
“ equalities on the south side, is upwards of thirty  
“ miles long; what it may be on the north is not  
“ known, as nobody chooses to venture himself  
“ near that part as yet. The perpendicular height  
“ of the edge is from sixteen to twenty fathoms,  
“ so that wherever it came it covered every vil-  
“ lage it met with, as well as several hills; and  
“ those which, on account of their great height,  
“ it did not cover, were melted down by it, so  
“ that the whole surface was in a fluid state, and  
“ formed a lake of fire, in appearance like red  
“ hot melted metal.

“ The whole number of villages totally de-  
“ stroyed are twenty or twenty-one, either by the  
“ fire or the water overflowing them. About  
“ thirty-four are very materially hurt, having  
“ their lands and woods burnt up; but most of  
“ them may be furnished with fresh ground being  
“ taken up in their respective neighborhoods.  
“ Besides villages, there are seven parish churches  
“ and two chapels destroyed. In the whole there  
“ were two hundred and twenty lives lost by the  
“ fire, and twenty-one by water. The rivers that  
“ were dried up are twelve: namely, Tuna,  
“ Axafardi-Hwerfisfliót, Skapta, Steins-myrfliót,  
“ Landa, Melquisl, Green-lackur, Tungu-laeker,  
“ Fedaquisl, Kararvikarsh-urdu, and Hraunsâ.

“ Besides this immense fire, there happened  
“ two other circumstances that are equally won-  
“ derful. Two islands have been thrown up. One  
“ of these was thrown up in the month of Fe-  
“ bruary, 1784, where there was before upwards  
“ of one hundred fathoms deep water; it lies  
“ about sixteen miles from the land, south-west  
“ from Reikianese in Iceland, and about eight  
“ miles from the cluster of islands called Gier-  
“ fugla. By the last accounts this island\* con-  
“ tinued burning with great vehemence, and sent  
“ forth prodigious quantities of pumice, sand,  
“ and other matters, similar to other burning  
“ mountains. The island is somewhat above half  
“ a mile in circumference, and full as high as the  
“ mountain Esian in Iceland. The other island  
“ is at a greater distance from Iceland to the  
“ north-west, lying between Iceland and Green-  
“ land: it has burnt without intermission, day  
“ and night, for a considerable time, like the  
“ other; is very high, and larger in circumference  
“ than the other.—The account of this island  
“ is taken from the report of certain masters of

\* To the above interesting piece of information related by Mr. Pennant, I will only add, that this lofty island is now reduced to a sunken rock extremely dangerous to navigators, and is the one mentioned at page 7 of this journal. With the Icelanders it bears the name of Geir Fugle-skier drangr (the concealed bird-rock).

“ ships, but is not so well authenticated as the  
“ former.

“ We have also some very indubitable accounts,  
“ partly by the relation of sailors, and partly by  
“ letters from Trondheim in Norway, that before  
“ the fire broke out in Iceland, there was a very  
“ remarkable eruption in the uninhabited parts of  
“ Greenland; and that in the northern parts of  
“ Iceland, opposite to Greenland, the fire was  
“ visible a vast while. These accounts were  
“ strengthened by a letter from Iceland, bearing  
“ date the 21st of September; which says, that  
“ when the wind was north there fell a great  
“ quantity of ashes, pumice, and brimstone, upon  
“ the north and west coasts of Iceland; and that  
“ this continued for the whole summer, when-  
“ ever the wind was in that quarter; and that  
“ the air was always very strongly impregnated  
“ with a brimstone smell, and thick smoke,

“ But to return to Iceland. Ever since the  
“ first breaking out of the eruption, the whole  
“ atmosphere has been loaded with smoke, steam,  
“ and sulphureous vapors. The sun became at  
“ times wholly invisible, and, when it could be  
“ seen, was of a reddish or bloody color. The  
“ fisheries were most of them destroyed; for  
“ the banks where the fish used to be, were so

“ shifted and changed, as not to be known again  
“ by the fishermen; and the smoke so thick, as  
“ to prevent them from going far out to sea, for  
“ there was no seeing any object at above the  
“ distance of fifty fathoms. The water of the rain  
“ falling through this smoke and steam, was so  
“ impregnated with salt and brimstone, as to de-  
“ stroy the hair, and even the skin, of the cattle;  
“ and all the grass in the whole island was so  
“ covered with the sooty and pitchy matter before  
“ described, that the most of it was destroyed,  
“ and, what was left, was sure poison for any  
“ cattle that eat of it; so that those which  
“ escaped the fire died for want of food, or  
“ were poisoned by the unwholesome remains of  
“ the vegetables. Nor were the inhabitants, in  
“ many respects, more free from dangers than the  
“ cattle. Many lost their lives by the poisonous  
“ quality of the smoke and steam of which the  
“ whole atmosphere consisted; particularly old  
“ people, and such as had any weakness or com-  
“ plaint of the breast and lungs.

“ During the fall of the sharp rain, which we  
“ have before made mention of, there was ob-  
“ served at Trondheim, and at other places in  
“ Norway, and also at Ferroe, an uncommon fall  
“ of sharp and salt rain, which was so penetrating  
“ that it totally destroyed the leaves of the trees,

“ and every vegetable it fell upon, by scorching  
 “ them up, and causing them to wither. At  
 “ Ferroe there fell a considerable quantity of  
 “ ashes, sand, pumice, and brimstone, which co-  
 “ vered the whole surface of the ground whenever  
 “ the wind blew from Iceland; and the distance  
 “ between these two places is at least eighty miles.  
 “ Ships that were sailing between Copenhagen  
 “ and Norway were frequently covered with ashes  
 “ and brimstone, which stuck to the sails, masts,  
 “ and decks, besmearing them all over with a  
 “ black and pitchy matter. Many parts of  
 “ Holland \*, Germany, and other countries in  
 “ the north, observed a brimstone vapor in the

\* In a copy of *Horrebow's History of Iceland*, now before  
 me, is the following marginal note written by Mr. Sparrow  
 of Worlingham-Hall, a gentleman to whom I am happy in  
 thus having the opportunity of acknowledging the obligations  
 I feel myself under for the ready access he has granted me to  
 his valuable library, and especially for the use of some scarce  
 works relative to Icelandic history.—“ An eruption of Hecla”  
 (as it was for a long time supposed) “ broke out again in  
 “ the spring of the year 1783. In the May of that year I was  
 “ in Holland, where the sun appeared for a great length of  
 “ time to be enveloped and obscured in a thick dry mist;  
 “ the cause of which was not then known. About the end  
 “ of the year two very large and luminous meteors astonished  
 “ the world; they took a south-westerly direction, and were  
 “ seen, apparently at the same elevation and nearly at the  
 “ same point of time, in the eastern parts of England and  
 “ the southern parts of Europe. They were remarked about

“ air, accompanied with a thick smoke; and  
“ there fell in some places a light grey-colored  
“ substance upon the earth every night, which,  
“ by its yielding a blueish flame when thrown on  
“ the fire, evidently appeared to be sulphureous :  
“ upon those nights in which this substance fell  
“ in any quantity, there was observed to be little  
“ or no fall of dew. These appearances continued  
“ more or less all the months of July, August,  
“ and September.”

“ seven or eight o'clock in the evening, within, I think, six  
“ weeks of each other, and about the middle of November.  
“ They approached so near the earth that I remember hear-  
“ ing a servant say he stooped as one passed over him, fearful  
“ of being struck by it. They went with amazing velocity,  
“ and were soon out of sight.”

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END OF APPENDIX. C.

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APPENDIX. D.

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ODES AND LETTERS

PRESENTED

*BY THE LITERATI OF ICELAND*

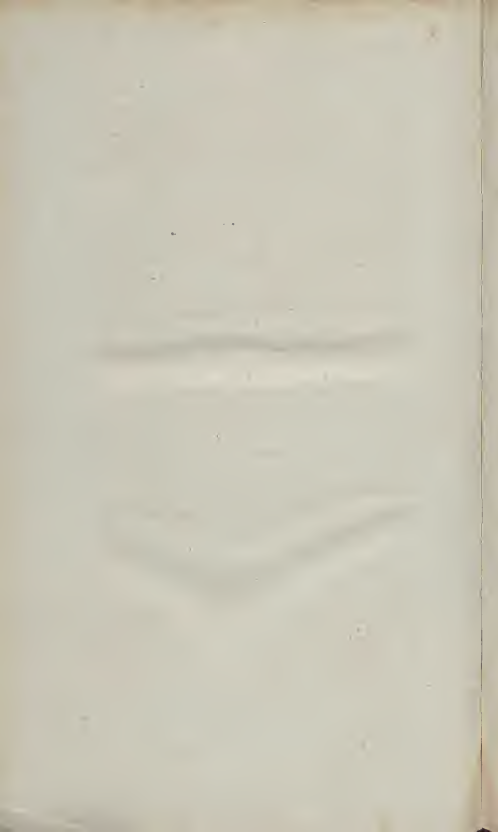
TO THE

RIGHT HONORABLE

SIR JOSEPH BANKS

AND THE

HONORABLE CAPTAIN JONES.





## APPENDIX. D.

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### ODES AND LETTERS.

---

THE ORIGINALS OF THE ODES WERE WRITTEN BOTH IN LATIN  
AND ICELANDIC ; THE LATTER, HOWEVER, I HAVE  
NOT THOUGHT IT NECESSARY TO INSERT.

Nos. 1, 2, and 3 are Addresses to Sir JOSEPH BANKS from BIARNE JONESON,  
and No. 4 a Letter from THEODORE JONESON.

No. 5 is a congratulatory Address from MAGNUS FINNUSEN  
to Captain JONES.

---

#### N<sup>o</sup> 1.

#### HEKLÆ VALE ANGLIS HEROIBUS.

##### I.

Auscultate,	Me
Excelsi Jökli *,	Sapientes viri
Montes, tesqua,	Ambierunt quinque,
In terrâ glaciali !	Omnes Britanni ;

\* Montana glaciers.

## II.

Inclytus BANKS,  
 Inclytus SOLANDER,  
 Cum pulchro  
 Comitatu.  
 Nunquam antea cumu-  
 lata sum

Prioribus seculis  
 Tanto honore  
 Ab Anglicâ gente.

## III.

Juvenis priùs eram,  
 Nemo favebat  
 Elegans vir  
 Annulatæ Virgini;  
 Sola steti

Longo tempore,  
 Donec Vulcanus  
 Me exornavit\*.

## IV.

Hinc Nomen meum  
 Jam per terrarum orbem

Valdè inclaruit  
 Apud honestas nationes.  
 Multi desiderant  
 Antiquam grandævam  
 Oculis usurpare  
 Et ulnis complecti.

## V.

Me cùm Viri elegantes  
 Convenerunt,  
 Amorem exhibui  
 Juvenibus Dominis.  
 Perreptavit me  
 Flamma amoris.  
 Nullum denegavi  
 Viris honorem.

## VI.

Monstravi illis  
 Rubra Cimelia,  
 Pluresque alias,  
 Quas habui,  
 Eximias opes,  
 Quas olim nacta sum

\* Primam Heklæ eruptionem quidam Annales ponunt ad annum 1004; alii aliter; Si autem quot vicibus talia in monte hoc contigerint incendia scire desideras, vicies ter id factum esse creditur. Ab hoc tempore nobilitari imprimis cæpit, antea minùs celebris.

Ex Vulcani  
Admirandâ fabricâ.

## VII.

Me sapientes  
Manibus contrectârunt  
Antiquam Virginem,  
Dederunt et oscula.

Bene sit  
Alacribus viris,  
Qui me inviserunt  
Ex australibus oris!

## VIII.

Resideo jam  
Tristi fronte  
Vidua desolata.  
Sæpe Lachrymas fundo,  
Postquam mei  
Insignes amici  
Reliquerunt me  
Fortunâ orbatam.

## IX.

Longum dolorem  
Corde premo.

Neminem habeo  
Cui aperiâ.  
Si vero vocem sopitam  
Altiùs extulerim,  
Res mira videbitur  
Et immanis strepitus\*.

## X.

Vale BANKS!  
Vale SOLANDER!  
Valete omnes  
Alacres Viri!  
Nolite oblivisci  
Annosæ virginis  
Reduces  
In Angliam.

## XI

Largior ventos secundos;  
Largior fortunam;  
Largior nomen  
(celebre);  
Largior splendorem.  
Sedate hilares  
Ad computationes †!

\* Alluditur hîc ad horrendos et altisonos Heklæ strepitus in eruptionibus.

† *Guma Minni* (verba archetypi Islandici) propriè denotat memoriales scyphos, clarorum virorum in computationibus

Bibite Nomen	HEKLE VALE
Virginis, Eloquentes!	Carminis titulus sit.
	Date Versificatori
XII.	In præmium poematis
Nunc ad finem deducta	Dotem
est	Mihi convenientem.
Hæc cantiuncula;	

evacuari solitos: hęc autem ipsa symposia.—Sub Ethnicismo certa pocula certis Diis, Regibus, vel Heroibus, consecrabant Veteres, qui mos etiam post introductam religionem Christianam, præsertimque inter solennitates nuptiarum, apud nos religiosè fuit observatus. Sed, eliminatâ superstitione Papisticâ, in desuetudinem jam abierunt Scyphi isti memoriales; ut *Gudsrodurs minni*, Dei Patris Scyphus; *Heilags anda minni*, Sancti Spiritus Scyphus; *Mariu minni*, Beatę Virginis Scyphus; *Marteins minni*, Martini Turonensis Scyphus, et id genus alia.

---

N<sup>o</sup> 2.

PRO FELICI IN ISLANDIAM ITINERE ET IN  
PATRIAM REDITU

MAGNATUM BRITANNORUM,

ANNO MDCCLXXII.

---

*VOTUM.*

Ludat hyperboreo Titan luculentus Olympo,  
Lunaque nocturnos clara gubernet equos,  
Et vehemens Boreas pluviae frigusque facessant!  
Cuntaque disfugiant, quae nocuisse queunt!  
Omne dum fausto Magni celebresque Britanni  
Observant Thules vasta theatra soli;  
Quae contemplari felix mens enthea gestit  
Perspiciat; clarum Jova secundet iter.  
Quo bene confecto, tandem feliciter omnes  
Restituat patriae cura paterna Dei!

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---

N<sup>o</sup> 3.

VIR CELEBERRIME!

Quod me cum erudito tuo comitatu invisisti,  
grates ago quam maximas. Mitto tibi jam, Vir  
humanissime, Carmen gratulatorium, paulo cor-

rectius auctiusque quàm antea. Nimis quidem exiguum hoc est munusculum, longèque tuam infra dignitatem positum, sed velis nihilo minus benignâ id suscipere fronte, inque meliorem partem interpretari, animum potius datoris quam doni vilitatem respiciens; quâ de re eo certiores spem foveo, quo evidentiora humanitatis tuæ habeo indicia; velim id typis vulgari permittas, in Angliam, Deo duce, cum redicris. Adjici etiam posset Versio Anglica, si ita visum fuerit; ut vestra in gentem nostram merita eo clariora evadant, atque hoc pacto in vulgus emanent. Iter vestrum ad Heklam quomodo cesserit scire gestio; utinam bene et ex animi sententiâ.

Deus te salvum et sospitem patriæ reddat, omnesque tuos gloriosos conatus secundet.

Vale, Vir humanissime, nostrique memor,  
Felix diu vive.

Tui Nominis observantissimus,

BIARNUS JOHNEUS.

*Schalholtii, IV. Calend. Octobr.  
Anni MDCCLXXII.*

## TRIPUDIUM,

A Musis Schalholtensibus agitatum

In Adventu

Celeberrimi Herois

DNI. JOSEPHI BANKS,

Armigeri,

Qui ex Angliâ in Islandiam transfretavit  
ad eruenda et observanda quæcunque intra  
Pauperculæ hujus Insulæ limites in Regno

Naturæ observatu digna,

Unà cum ornatissimo et eruditissimo comitatu,

Cum Historiæ naturalis Doctore,

Magni Nominis et solidæ Eruditionis viro,

DRE DANIELE SOLÄNDER,

Cum Astronomo, cum Antiquario,

Cum tribus Pictoribus, duobus Scribis,

Capitaneo navali, et subcenturione,

Honoris et debitæ observantiæ ergo,

Anglo Heroi ejusque Comitibus oblatum

Schalholti, A<sup>o</sup> MDCCLXXII.

X. Calend. Octobris.

A BIARNO JOHNEO,

*Philosoph. Mag. et Schol. Schalholt. Rectore.*

## I.

Fausto omine adsis  
Cordata gens ab oris Angliæ.  
Primùm tibi gratulabunda assurgit  
Glacialis terra cum applausu !  
Mariti, uxores, liberi,  
Gaudio perfusi tripudiant.  
Cælum, Salum, Solum, Solitudo,  
Resonant cum lætitiâ.

## II.

Præstantes oïm (Islandi),  
Relictis patriis oris, Londinum studiosè petebant,  
Artium addiscendarum cupidi,  
Quas contenta libris eruditio commendat.  
Oxoniæ in Anglico solo  
Pedem hoc temporis tractu figere  
Imprimis arridebat ;  
Deinde fortunæ favore suffulti  
Solum natale repetebant.

## III.

Superioribus itidem sæculis  
Magno animi robore,  
Virorum multitudo  
Ad Tamesis ripas direxit navem.



Alacritèr non sine insigni fortitudine  
 Milvum Odini sanguine pascebant \* ;  
 Ulterius porrò progressi  
 Magnis Angliæ Regibus militabant.

## IV.

Larga sæpe munera acceperunt †  
 Strenui isti bellatores ;  
 Soli pro carminibus præmii loco  
 Magnis cumulati divitiis ‡.

\* Milvus Odini Corvum denotat, qui Odino sacer et admodum familiaris fuit, unde et ipse Corvorum Deus in Eddâ et antiqûâ Poesi dicitur.

† Sic inter complures alios, *Egillus Skallagrimi* filius Islandus, insignis bellator, *Adalsteni* Angliæ Regis castra secutus, fratrem suum *Thorulfum* in prælio quodam ibidem amisit, unde, satisfactionis et stipendii loco, binas arcas argento repletas a Rege accepit ad patrem deferendas, quas in Islandiam redux ipse retinuit, tandemque senex et luminibus sub mortem orbus, in palude quâdam submergebat. Occisis ibidem, qui ipsum manu duxerunt, duobus servulis. Prolixa hujus Athletæ vita, plurima etiam exotica hoc temporis tractu gesta continens, Islandorum manibus hodiedum teritur.

‡ Poetæ fuerunt Islandi ab initio optimi, unde in exterorum Regum et principum aulis, in summo semper honore et luce versati sunt, pro Encomiasticis, quæ haud rarò tantis nominibus obtulerunt, carminibus largâ sæpenumerò munera

Sedebant ultra mare  
 Compotationibus intenti,  
 Deinde honoribus aucti  
 Domum navibus remeabant.

## V.

Sic etiam Anglorum naves appulere  
 Prisco tempore ad oras nostras,  
 Pretiosis vestibus et victu oneratae,  
 Quod nos lucrum diu recordamur.  
 Vestes optimas lintea et funes  
 Nobis subministrârunt, usibus inservientia ;  
 Nunc Islandis negatum est  
 His bonis diutiùs frui\*.

accipientes. Inter alios *Thorarinus Lostunga*, *Laudans lingua* appellatus, pro cantilenâ in honorem Canuti Magni Daniæ et Angliæ Regis confectâ, quam *Hösudlausn*, sive Capitis redemptionem vocavit, quinquaginta marcas argenti puri, muneris loco, recepit, testante Knutidarum vitâ.

\* Angli seculo quatuordecimo et sequentibus insignia cum Islandis commercia exercuere, optimas semper nec unquam adulterinas merces advehentes, unde haud rarè eorum mercatores in Islandiâ hyemârunt, domibus passim in hos usus exstructis. Ab iis qui ex Cambriâ huc appulerunt, loca quædam denominata sunt, ut *Kumbravogur* et sic porro. Hæc Anglorum commercia per varia interdicta in desuetudinem sensim abierunt, jamque penitùs exspirârunt.

## VI.

Hùc jam bonæ frugis viri,  
 Ab occiduis oris vela dirigere  
 Non detrectant. Angli nimirùm,  
 In sinu Hafnarfiord subsistentes,  
 Plurimis cluentem artibus  
 Peritum itineris antesignanum  
 Opum datorem omnes fatentur  
 Unum Josephum laude præditum.

## VII.

Summâ profectò cum laude  
 Dominus BANKS nil cunctatus est  
 Per vastos pelagi fluctus  
 Navem dirigere ;  
 Gloriosus suo cùm comitatu  
 Per tres annorum orbis,  
 Vero cum honore perlustravit  
 Varias mundi plagas \*.

## VIII.

Ignotas hoc pacto detexit  
 Insulas, id quod assevero,  
 In vastâ et vorticosâ maris serie,  
 Optimas † plurimâ soli fertilitate ;

\* Profectus quippe Anno 1768, rediit in Angliam Anno 1771.

† Mari scilicet pacifico, quod non immeritò dixeris,  
 cùm à Japponiâ ad Mexico MD mill: perhibeantur.

Harum una Otaheite, quam novimus,  
 Summâ amœnitate conspicuam ;  
 Ignorat imperium hyemis,  
 Omnigenâ felicitate circumdata \*.

## IX.

Lætus, per æquoreas undas  
 Navem aquilonem versus  
 Ventorum flatu celeritèr actam,  
 Nunc propellit pretiosarum vestium dator †,  
 Desiderans terram sub Zonâ frigidâ ‡  
 Perlustrare (nemo id prohibeat!).  
 Dignatur, id quod admodùm miror,  
 Pauperrimam gentem invisere.

## X.

Alterum SOLANDER asserimus,  
 Supremo illi honore proximum ;  
 Hic optimis artibus excultus,  
 Ipsi Linnæo vix inferior §.

\* *Otaheite* insula inter Americam et Asiam sita, ab armigero Banks detecta, optimæ et benignissimæ naturæ, atque proinde omnigenâ felicitate abundans. Invenit præterea *Novæ Zelandiæ* partem, in mari pacifico itidem sitam.

† Epithetum poeticum viri largi et opulenti, quod in Armigerum Banks optimè quadrat.

‡ Quædam enim Islandiæ pars jacet sub Zonâ frigidâ.

§ Illi nempe decantatissimo rerum naturalium scrutatori.

Indolem rerum investigat ;  
Plerosque antecellens.  
Elegantem naturæ mystam,  
Eruditi proinde collaudant.

## XI.

Ter trinos præterea deprehendimus,  
Gentis decora, bonâ eruditione  
Et artium disciplinâ,  
Ut optimè convenit, instructos  
Omnes pari elegantîâ,  
Tam largo opum diribitori  
Per terras passim et maria  
Faventes semper adhærent.

## XII.

Quid causæ quòd huc direxistis vela  
Artificiosè texta, aquilonem versus ?  
Quid iter jam confectum causatur ?  
Plusquam modica animi delectatio :  
Herbas, lapides, oculi exposcunt :  
Optimatum sapientiam alit  
Sparsas per territoria conspicere  
Ignitas Heklæ montis scorias.

## XIII.

Lunæ et lucidi Solis  
Conjunctiones stellarumque orbes

Contemplantur admodùm sapientèr  
 Nobiles viri, ut ars augeatur. \*  
 Geiserem præterea convenire gestiunt \*,  
 Et, si quæ plura audiuntur,  
 Manuscripta antiquitatis monumenta  
 Conquirere student honesti viri, ut ritè intelligant.

## XIV.

Impensas omnes magnifico sumptu  
 Sine cunctatione agere  
 Haud gravatur  
 Anglus ille Heros, prout expedit.  
 Distribuit largè, ut novimus,  
 Lachrymas Sororis Freieri, aurum †,

\* *Geiser*, Nom. propr: aquæ æstantis in Toparchiâ Arnesensi, australis Islandiæ, miræ profectè et reconditæ indolis; hujus contemplationi Angli Nostri integrum fermè diem impendunt. Nomen habet a verbo islandico *ad giosa* evomere, ebullire; aquas enim per intervalla in altum evomit.

† In Eddâ et antiquâ Poesi Islandicâ, a Freyâ Odini uxore plurima auri Epitheta deducta sunt; nam juxta veterem Mythologiam lachrymæ Freyæ in aurum convertebantur; Pari modo, quod locuti sunt *Jöttnar*, seu Gigantes, in aurum mutabatur; unde *Jöttna mal*, *Jöttna tal*, Gigantum sermo, Gigantum loquela, pro auro apud Poetas haud rarè ponitur. Aurum autem largè distribuere, jure dicitur Armiger Banks; cùm non tantùm aureis sed et aliis pretiosis rebus Islandos donaverit.

- Eximias artes liberales promovet  
Vir munificus magnæque dexteritatis.

## XV.

Ambabus ergo ulnis  
Excipite nobiles viros ;  
Subministrate omnia ex animo,  
Equos largè suppeditantes.  
Monstrate viam, prout optimè nôstis ;  
Acceptissimos viros per terram deducite.  
Musæ hilari animo  
Canentes talia depromunt.

## XVI.

Salvete ! (sic fari lubet)  
Ad nos venientes, illustres Domini,  
Quibus fortuna favet,  
Commendabiles sapientiæ luce,  
Fortuna vobis aspiret ;  
Prosperè cedant omnia itinera ;  
Favor cæli et felicitas viris  
Facem per gelidam terram præferant !

## XVII.

Nigricantes formæ usum Oculorum  
Fortibus Anglis non intercipient !

Adspiret lucens sol!  
 Contingat itidem videre cursum Lunæ!  
 Lucidæ stellæ claro lumine splendeant!  
 Ut sciant omnia juxta institutum ordinem  
 De Siderum situ  
 Sub Polo Arctico\*.

## XVIII.

Recedite subitò ad mare,  
 Recedite subitò densæ nubes!  
 Pluvia, Caligo, pulverisque vis  
 Ita aufugiant, ut non appareant!  
 Fumi vehementia divitibus viris  
 In oculos nequaquàm irruat!  
 Nihil amplius molestiam facessat,  
 Nil amplius iter reddat impeditum!

## XIX.

In supremum Heklæ montis cacumen  
 Vestrum iter expediat  
 Fortuna laudem paritura,  
 Prout usibus vestris optimè inservit!

\* Præprimis luminis borealis indolem ejusque causas eruere, quod eo magis optandum, quo majore difficultate res ista laborat, cùm in tot sententiarum divortiis quid de phenomèni hujus naturâ certo statuendum sit, adhuc ignoretur.



Ignis subterranei tecta latibula  
 Eruendi via vobis pateat  
 Adustosque lapides jacentes  
 In vastâ terræ superficie ;

## XX.

Herbas pretiosas disparuisse novimus,  
 Pallidæ quippe autumnno emarcuere ;  
 Proinde hæ grato ornatu  
 Viros excipere nequeunt.  
 Honorem interim elegantibus exhibere  
 Virgulta norunt passim obvia.  
 Sabula fluvii et quæ iis innatant  
 Iter beatorum collaudent !

## XXI.

Negotia omnia in vestrum honorem  
 Prosperè vobis succedant !  
 Augescat artium ludus  
 In austro per vestrum iter !  
 Eloquentes viri cumulatum gaudium  
 Et utilitatem ex itinere reportent,  
 Cùm hinc tendit navis  
 Occidentem versus \* !

\* Ita nobis loqui liceat, venerandæ Antiquitatis exemplo,  
 quæ Angliæ, Scotiæ, Hiberniæ, Orcadumque incolas, *Vest-*

Grates vobis agimus, Domini erecti animi,  
 Grates vobis haud cunctantèr agimus  
 Pro honore nobis præstito ;  
 Qui nobis imprimis gratus est.  
 Oras nostras nunquam inviserunt  
 Britanni, ut memoriæ proditum est,  
 Pari in Universum eloquentiâ præditi  
 Parique eruditionis laude inclyti.

## XXII.

Salvo et incolumi curru  
 Domum hinc evehamini ;  
 Viros quippe Anglos  
 Angelorum læta cohors deducat ;  
 Rata maneant vota nostra,  
 Et fausta quæ ominamur  
 Vobis ex intimo corde,  
 Optimates artibus instructi !

## XXIII.

Hinc per vastum æquor  
 Cùm navis celeri cursu tetenderit,  
 Secundi venti vela impleant !  
 Donec in occidente gradum sistit,

*mannos*, viros occidentales, eorumque terras *Vesterlönd*, terras occidentales, appellârunt. Vid. inter alia *Landnam*, part. 1. cap. 5 et 7.

Et in vadis Anglici soli  
 Anchora jacitur,  
 Ut lætitiâ tandem perfusi  
 Excensione factâ itineris labore levemini.

## XXIV.

Nunquam prioribus seculis  
 Alii ex his mundi partibus  
 Heroicæ adeò indolis viri  
 (Naves) applicârunt ad nostros clivos \*.  
 Josephe, Te semper prædicat,  
 Te, Josephe, collaudat Islandia ;  
 SOLANDER, decore notus,  
 Per Cygnorum † habitacula splendeat ‡.

\* Elogium hoc Angli nostri optimo jure promeruerunt ; præ omnibus quippe exteris nationibus, oras nostras invisentibus, erga gentem Islandicam adeo munificos affabiles et humanos se exhibuerunt, ut simile vix reperire liceat exemplum. Eorum proinde adventum, itineris rationem, Nomina et raram benevolentiam, sempiternæ posteritatis memoriæ, annaliumque monumentis, grata me suasore conservabit Islandia.

† Territorium Alstades ad sinum Hafnafiord, ubi navis Anglorum in anchoris consistebat, a cygnis nomen habet, unde tractum hunc *Svanabigder*, seu Cygnorum habitacula, nominamus, habito simul ad universam insulam respectu.

‡ Splendeat cluentis famæ præconio.

## XXV.

Valete, humanissimi Domini ;  
 Laus vestra super terram  
 Per longam vivat ætatem !  
 Laudent vos quæcunque moventur !  
 Plura loqui supersedemus  
 Doctæ Sorores gratiam sitientes \* :  
 Hoc gratulatorium Carmen non ingratum  
 Londini et Assatuni † palàm pronunciamus.



Nº 4.

## VIRIS

ILLUSTRISSIMIS, NOBILISSIMIS, SUMMÈ REVE-  
 RENDIS, AMPLISSIMIS ET CONSULTISSIMIS!

PLURIMA SALUS!

Vestra hïc in Schalholtiâ conversatio omnibus  
 erat grata, quare in omnium ore versamini in ce-  
 lebritate, immò indigenarum laude et memoriâ.

\* Gratiam tantorum virorum sibi humillimè apprecantes.

† *Assatun* antiquitùs urbs Angliæ; forte non procul a  
 Brandfurdâ, hodie Brentfort, ad quam utramque Canutus  
 magnus, cum filiis Adalradi Angliæ Regis conflixit; sed in  
 quâ parte Regni sita fuerit, et num hodie sub alio nomine  
 existat, juxta ignoramus. Sed hïc metri tantùm causâ ad-  
 hibetur.

Verùm post vestrum discessum res novæ mihi sunt relatæ, quòd totum orbem intra triennium emensi fueritis; quo vasto itinere audito, miratio mihi facta est, immò omnes in admirationem vestri trahit, suo animo apud se perpendentes, quòd non minùs incredibili animi robore septi, quàm firmissimâ corporum complexione præditi sitis. Quod Jacobus de Lamaire et Wilhelmus Soutensis terrarum orbem peregraverint, memoriæ est proditum: vestrum susceptum molimenque omnium est cultu dignum. Præterea liberalitas vestra penè regifica omnium meritò retinet animos; qualis munificentia rara est in exemplis, Præsulis Mag. Johannis Widalini exceptâ, cujus super anniversaria Evangelia orationes incolæ habent, a Te, Nobilissime Troili, Schalholti emptas. Huic olim objectum, parsimonium optimum esse vectigal, seram esse in fundo, opus esse cauto: ad quod Præsul; Mors semper impendet, nunquam longè abesse potest. Accedit stabilis atque ingenuus mos et decor, ac inoffensa gravitas, nec sine jucunditate senile illud vix dum viriles annos ingressi pondus, illaque exacta frugalitatis lex, sine quâ frustrâ aliquis mentem applicet magnis; modestiaque inusitata, quæ neque summis, ut ille ait, mortalium spernenda est, atque a Diis æstimatur. Igitur cùm vos ipsos loco ornatissimos lepidis exornetis moribus, singularibusque studiis, tùm meum adjicere decet suffragium, et unà cum

aliis laudibus exquisitis ornare. Quod reliquum  
est, Poetæ verbis,

Sic te Diva potens Cypri,  
Sic fratres Helenæ, lucida sidera,  
Ventorumque regat pater,  
Obstrictis aliis, præter Iapyga!

Vos, illustres optimos, saluto! Quid dico, poetæ  
et ipsâ Apostolicâ salutatione amplector; vos Deo  
Opt. Max. cujus nutu et arbitrio omnia reguntur,  
omniaque vestra commendare non desistam. Ip-  
sissimus vestrum per orbem iter fortunet, et ad  
umbilicum ducat! postremò patriis redditi terris,  
ad summas in cælesti curiâ evehat dignitates.

Hæc pauca boni æquique consulere dignemini.

Vestræ nobilitatis

Addictissimus,

THEODORUS JOHANNIS, P. Em.

*Schalholti, Isl. d. 27, Dec. 1772.*

P. S. In hoc vobis, viri nobilissimi, gratulor,  
quòd igniflua, ignivoma, et crudelis Virgo, (Hekla)  
cum pace incolumes dimiserit.

Viris perillustribus et excellentissimis,  
Magistro Josepho Banksio,  
Doctori Danieli Solandro, et  
Magistro Troilio.

HONORABILI DOMINO,  
 ALEXAND. JONES,  
 NAVIS BELLICÆ REG. BRITANN.  
 THE TALBOT,  
 PRÆFECTO.

Obscurus errorum vapor  
 solem scientiarum po-  
 pulis Christianis  
 pertexit.

Sinum præbuit insula,  
 glacie circumdata, genti-  
 bus oppressis e vicinis  
 regionibus ;

Astutia Paparum ani-  
 mis custodias, tyran-  
 ni coronati corporibus  
 vincula instruxerunt.

Effugerunt hîc viri liberi  
 voracitatem clerico-  
 rum et violentiam  
 principum :

Prohibuerunt nebulones  
 isti secularibus littera-  
 rum studia, et linguæ  
 vernaculæ rectam tracta-  
 tionem.

Norvegi, Dani, Hiber-  
 ni, Britanni, terram fre-  
 quentârunt et floresce-  
 re fecerunt.

Tum in mari septentrio-  
 nali, nuper visa terræ  
 particula navigatoribus  
 innotuit.

Libertas artes pa-  
 ruit ; sermo et  
 scriptura jus suum  
 obtinuerunt.

Sonuit ibi poetarum aurea Lyra ; patrum cecinit celebria facinora.

Sua et notorum coëvorum fata et acta alii composuerunt ;

Leges canendi, scribendi, dicendi, artium et opificiorum scriptis tradiderunt.

Mirantur adhuc docti Europæi atavorum nostrorum eruditionem.

Mutabatur terra, mutati sunt incolæ, divitiarum et gloriæ aviditas infatuavit istos.

Utraque scientiis præposuerunt ;—Regis

et cleri oppressionem nacti sunt.

*Mors atra* \* populum devoravit ;—laus antiqua emigravit e terrâ ;

Perierunt artes, opes et felicitas ;—solum deterioratum amœnitatem amisit.

Sed in Europæ cætera regna scientiæ et beatitudo e meridie transmigrârunt.

Difflexerunt ita annorum aliquot centuriæ ; status Gardaris insulæ assiduò decrevit ;

Quousque clementes Daniæ Reges damna istius reparare desiderabant ;

\* Pestis ita nominata.



Solventes noxias commercii catenas, pecuniam offerentes ad rem incolarum augendam.

Ignis, glacics, tabes, terræ increta (nostratum) egestas, proposito generoso obstiterunt ;

inopiam autam istam, Angelus pacis, animo sorte suâ læto, auro præstantiore, subdidit.

Nullibi videbatur gladius vibratus, nec tormenta bellica, pernicie plena ;

nec manus hostilis sanguinem effundens, nec flammæ classicæ domicilia vorantes.

Vidimus procellosum turbinem solam Islandiæ prosperitatem humi rapidè prosternare.

Vidimus pacem nostram et patrum nostrorum tandem pallescentem in fugam verti.

Totus circumcirca conturbabatur orbis bellici cruentis incendiis ;

Perstrepuerunt universum mare hominibus noxia cædium tonitrua.

Eminùs tamen aliquamdiu spectabat prodigia ista extrema hæc mundi regio.

Potenti Regi Magnæ Britanniæ, Danorum omnium hosti facto,

Visum fuit Islandiæ miseræ parcere, nolenti eam suarum classium in-

cursa-

tionibus infestatam fore ;

Ipsius autem subditorum

quidam, aurum sperabant  
se in terrâ auro destitutâ  
acquisituros.

Adduxit Gilpinus Rei-  
kiavicæ navem armatam,  
ad captandas divitias ;

Non pro nummis verbera  
nactus, abstulit hinc  
provinciæ unicum æ-  
rarium,

Auxilio pauperum et præ-  
sidio securitatis publicæ  
destinatum.

Nundinas alii armigeri  
frequentabant, merces  
ita permutantes.

Pacem tamen internam  
gentis nostræ leges pa-  
triæ adhuc defenderant.

Vidimus tandem, hâc  
æstate, publicam quie-  
tem penitùs disturba-  
tam ;

Primarium provinciæ  
Procuratorem solio de-  
jectum et in carcerem  
detrusum.

Vidimus seditionis hor-  
ribilem dæmonem, ar-  
mis succinctum, om-  
nia obruere.

Simulavit se Anglorum  
Regi servire, istius exer-  
cituum favore nisum.

Frater se in fratres  
armavit ;—rapuit  
terror reliquum popu-  
lum,

qui nunquam ante en-  
sem aut sanguinem con-  
spexerat, et invitus col-  
la jugo insolentiæ sub-  
didit.

Fortior ille munimen-  
ta ponens, orci instar,  
atrum vexillum erexit.

<p>Ducalem sumpsit digni- tatem, sibi Regiam po- testatem arrogare ausus.</p>	<p>Sic mœstorum optimum solamen, cœlestis spes, aufugit.</p>
<p>Prætexit gentem nos- tram hæc a se deprecata[m] fuis- se, ipsamque tales turbas un- animem poscere;</p>	<p>Ut navita, per lon- gum temporis spatium, æquoris et tempestatis impetibus vexatus, qui, fulgure lumen præben-</p>
<p>Dicens se pacem et liber- tatem adferre ipsis iis- dem, quos servilibus onera- bat catenis.</p>	<p>te, navem inter scopu- los insidiosos jactari nupèr conspexit, portum autem nullum, nisi in medio oceani</p>
<p>Metuebant contraria op- tantes fidem et hones- tatem omninò abolitam fore;</p>	<p>abyssu, jam ex his eripitur pe- riculis, ceu numinis nutu;</p>
<p>perduellioni fortunam necnon Angliæ invictum vexillum favere ominantes.</p>	<p>vertitur in tranquilli- tatem procella, mare undis montuosum in malaciam,</p>

in solarem splendorem  
fulminantia fulgura—  
aura prospera et pla-  
cida portum versus navi-  
gium ducit :—

Sic tuus adventus,  
generosâ ALEXANDER !  
gaudium et libertatem ter-  
ræ huic attulit ; levasti  
istam Anarchiæ horro-  
ribus.

An tantum benefi-  
cium, ab hoste hosti  
datum, monstret  
historia mundi ?

Certus scio celeberrimum  
tuum cognominem le-  
viore magnanimitate  
perennes laudationes  
acquisivisse.

Non dominationis, nec  
divitiarum, nec digni-  
tatis, nec laudis gratiâ  
auxilium nobis præbuisti.

Alia præmia, ut videtur,  
tibi afferentur, quæ  
tamen non metuis.

Sine ut tibi et re-  
liquis tui ordinis  
ductoribus, singula-  
res agamus gratias !

Nunquam vestra abo-  
lebitur memoria in  
prisco hocce musarum  
habitaculo.

Sacrificio potiùs pla-  
cet anima grata isti,  
qui victimam petere  
nolet.

Sine etiam, ut ulte-  
rius a te auxilium pe-  
tamus—quòd nempe  
primati, nobis vi adem-  
to,

tibi et indolis et stir-  
pis nobilitate pari,  
adminiculum, ut ad

huc, porrò etiam præ-  
beas,

ad bonæ causæ tri-  
umphum, nostrique  
perfectionem gaudii  
suo tempore compa-  
randum.

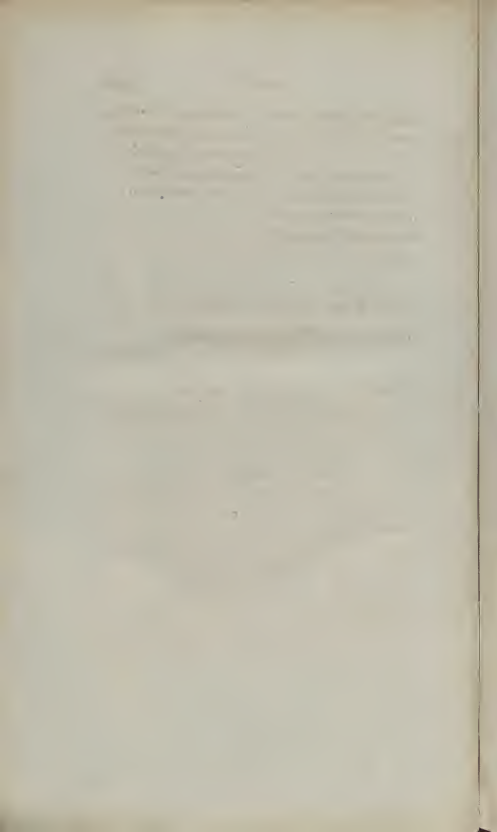
Precamur tibi et tuis  
honorem, salutem et  
lætitiâ, nobisque  
junctim annonæ  
et pacis felicitatem!

*Mense Augusto, Anni 1809.—in Islandiâ.*

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END OF APPENDIX. D.

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APPENDIX. E.

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ICELANDIC PLANTS.





## APPENDIX. E.

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# LIST \*

OF

## ICELANDIC PLANTS.

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### I. MONANDRIA.

#### I. MONOGYNIA.

*Hippuris vulgaris.*

*Zostera marina.*

\* This catalogue is principally taken from Zoega's *Flora Islandica*, (attached to the Danish edition of Povelzen and Olafsen's account of Iceland) and Mohr's *Forfög til en Islandsk Naturhistorie*, published at Copenhagen in 1786. The few additional species, which I am enabled to insert by means of Sir George Mackenzie's and Mr. Paulsen's collections and my own researches, are distinguished by being printed in italics. In some instances, where I have, in the course of my journal, had occasion to notice any new plant or any peculiarity belonging to those that are already known, I have referred to the page where it is mentioned.

## II. DIGYNIA.

Callitriche aquatica.

—————  $\gamma$ . autumnalis.

## II. DIANDRIA.

## I. MONOGYNIA.

Veronica officinalis.

————— serpyllifolia.

————— Beccabunga.

————— Anagallis.

————— scutellata.

————— alpina.

————— fruticulosa. (p. 92.)

————— marijandica.

Pinguicula vulgaris.—“ Les Islandais s'en servent quelquefois en guise d'ail.” *Voyage en Islande.*

————— alpina.

## II. DIGYNIA.

Anthoxanthum odoratum.

## III. TRIANDRIA.

## I. MONOGYNIA.

Valeriana officinalis.

Schœnus compressus.

Scirpus palustris.

————— lacustris.

Scirpus cæspitosus.

—— acicularis.

—— setaceus.

Eriophorum polystachion.—Of the *pappus* of this plant the natives make wicks for their lamps.

—— vaginatum.

—— capitatum. *Hoppe.* (p. 146.)

—— alpinum.

Nardus stricta.

## II. DIGYNIA.

Phleum pratense.

—— nodosum.

—— alpinum.

Alopecurus geniculatus.

Milium effusum.

Agrostis rubra.

—— stolonifera.

—— canina.

—— vulgaris.

—— ——— *Æ. pumila.*

—— alba.

—— arundinacea.

—— cærulea.

Aira cæspitosa.

—— flexuosa.

—— montana.

—— subspicata.

*Aira alpina.*

—— *aquatica.*

—— *præcox.*

*Holcus odoratus.*—Said to be used by the Icelanders to perfume their apartments and their clothes.

*Sesleria cærulea.*

*Poa pratensis.*

— *trivialis.*

— *compressa.*

— *annua.*

— *angustifolia.*

— *alpina.*

— *maritima.*

— *glauca.*—Both this and the following species are far from uncommon in Iceland.

— *cæsia.*

*Festuca ovina.*

—— *rubra.*

—— *elatior.*

—— *fluitans.*

—— *duriuscula.*

—— *vivipara.* (p. 261.)

*Arundo Phragmites.*

—— *Epigejos.*

—— *arenaria.*

*Elymus arenarius.*—The seeds are occasionally made into a sort of bread.

*Triticum caninum.*

——— *repens.*

### III. TRYGINA.

*Montia fontana.*

*Koenigia islandica.* (p. 124 and 146.)

### IV. TETRANDRIA.

#### I. MONOGYNIA.

*Scabiosa succisa.*—The Icelandic names for this plant, *Pukabit* and *Dievelsbit*, have both the same signification as our *Devil's bit*.

*Galium verum.*

——— *palustre.*

——— *Mollugo.*

——— *pusillum.*

——— *boreale.*

*Plantago major.*

——— *lanceolata.*

——— *maritima.*

——— *alpina.*—This I recollect seeing, in some plenty, at Thingevalle, and I have since received specimens from Sir George Mackenzie and Mr. Paulsen.

——— *Coronopus.*

*Sanguisorba officinalis.*

*Alchemilla vulgaris.*

————— *alpina.*

### III. TETRAGYNIA.

*Potamogeton natans.*

————— *marinum.*

————— *compressum.*

————— *lucens.*

————— *crispum.*

————— *perfoliatum.*

————— *pectinatum.*

————— *pusillum.*

*Sagina procumbens.*

*Tillæa aquatica.*

### V. PENTANDRIA.

#### I. MONOGYNIA.

*Myosotis scorpioides.*  $\alpha$  and  $\epsilon$ .

*Pulmonaria maritima.*

*Echium vulgare.*

*Primula farinosa.*

*Menyanthes trifoliata.*—This plant is important to travellers who are not acquainted with the route in the morasses; for they are well aware that where-soever it grows they may safely pass; its closely woven roots making a firm bed upon the soft sub-soil.

The Icelanders call it *Reidinga*, and employ the matted tufts to prevent the saddle or any load from chafing the horses' backs.

*Azalea procumbens*.

*Campanula rotundifolia*.

———— *patula*.

*Viola canina*.

———— *tricolor*.

———— *palustris*.

*Glaux maritima*.

## II. DIGYNIA.

*Gentiana campestris*.

———— *amarella*.

———— *nivalis*.

———— *aurea*.

———— *detonsa*.

———— *bavarica*.

———— *tenella*.

———— *verna*.

———— *rotata*.

*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*.

*Ligusticum scoticum*. (p. 263.)—To this plant, which Mr. Paulsen named by mistake *Imperatoria Ostruthium*, was attached the following observation; “ Hæc (in Islandiâ) rarissima herba, in saxis solùm et montibus

“ præruptis maritimis reperiunda.  
 “ Devoratis radicibus hęc traditur  
 “ divinos edidisse effectus in hy-  
 “ daridibus abdominalibus. (isl. *me-*  
 “ *inlæti*.)”

*Angelica Archangelica.* (p. 156.)—The Icelanders gather the stems and roots of this plant, which they eat raw, and generally with the addition of fresh butter.

———— *sylvestris*?

*Imperatoria Ostruthium.*

*Carum Carui.*—Naturalised in Iceland, according to Sir George Mackenzie.

#### IV. TETRAGYNIA.

*Parnassia palustris.*

#### V. PENTAGYNIA.

*Statice Armeria.*

*Linum catharticum.*

#### VI. HEXAGYNIA.

*Drosera rotundifolia.*

———— *longifolia.*

### VI. HEXANDRIA.

#### I. MONOGYNIA.

*Convallaria biflora.*



*Juncus effusus.*

——— *arcticus.*—Discovered by Sir George  
Mackenzie.

——— *squarrosus.*

——— *trifidus.*

——— *articulatus.*

——— *bulbosus.*

——— *bufonius.*

——— *biglumis.*

——— *triglumis.*

——— *pilosus.*

——— *campestris.*

——— *spicatus.*

## II. TRIGYNIA.

*Rumex digynus.*—All the species of *Rumex* are boiled and eaten by the Icelanders; though only the young shoots of *acutus* are employed. Of the *Acetosa* a beverage is made by the common people, by steeping the plant in water till all the juice is extracted. This drink is kept some time; but soon becomes bad and putrid in warm weather.

——— *acutus.*

——— *Acetosa.*

——— *Acetosella.*

*Triglochin palustre.*

Triglochin maritimum.

Tofieldia palustris.

## VIII. OCTANDRIA.

### I. MONOGYNIA.

Chamænerium halamifolium (p. 212 and 260.)—

From specimens now before me it appears that this species is subject to considerable variation, as well in the proportional breadth of its leaves, as in the size of the flowers. Mr. Paulsen remarks “Crescit ferè  
“ solum ad fluvios montium gla-  
“ cialium, in argillâ et arenâ vul-  
“ canicâ.”

————— angustifolium. (p. 263.)

Epilobium montanum.

————— palustre.

————— *organifolium*.

————— alpinum.

————— tetragonum.

Vaccinium Myrtillus.

————— Oxycoccus.

————— uliginosum.—For its uses see p. 176.

Erica vulgaris.—“ Ex ejus magnâ florescentiâ de magnâ nivis hyemalis copiâ augurantur Islandi.” *Paulsen in Epist.*

## II. TRIGYNIA.

*Polygonum viviparum.* (p. 92.)

———— *Bistorta.*—The roots are often eaten raw, and sometimes converted into bread.

———— *Hydropiper.*

———— *amphibium.*

———— *Persicaria.*

———— *aviculare.*

## III. TETRAGYNIA.

*Paris quadrifolia.*

## X. DECANDRIA.

## I. MONOGYNIA.

*Andromeda hypnoides.* (p. 70 and 99.)

*Arbutus Uva Ursi.*—See note at p. 176.

———— *alpina.*

*Pyrola rotundifolia.*

———— *secunda.*

———— *minor.* (p. 99.)

## II. DIGYNIA.

*Saxifraga Cotyledon.*

———— *stellaris.*

———— *nivalis.*

———— *Hirculus.* (p. 208)

———— *palmata.*

Saxifraga punctata.

——— oppositifolia.

——— autumnalis.

——— aizoides.

——— bulbifera.

——— *cernua*. (p. 171)

——— rivularis. (p. 95.)

——— tridactylites.

——— cæspitosa.

——— groenlandica.—My specimens of this, gathered by Sir George Mackenzie, exactly accord with the figure of this species in the *Flore des Pyrenees*. La Peyrouse has observed it growing at the height of sixteen hundred toises above the level of the sea.

——— hypnoides.

——— *tricuspidata*.

——— petræa.

Scleranthus annuus.

### III. TRIGYNIA.

Silene maritima.

——— acaulis.—Boiled and eaten with butter by the Icelanders.

Stellaria media.

——— biflora.

——— cerastoides.

*Arenaria peploides*.—This is steeped in sour whey, where it ferments; then the liquid is strained off, and fresh water added to the beverage, which is said to taste like olive-oil; whence the name of the plant in Iceland, *Smidju-kaal*.—*Voyage en Islande*.

———— serpyllifolia.

———— ciliata.

## IV. PENTAGYNIA.

*Sedum saxatile*.

———— rupestre.

———— annuum.

———— acre.—“Vulgatum in Islandiâ vomitorium.”—*Paulsen in Epist.*

———— villosum.

*Lychnis Flos-Cuculi*.

———— alpina.

———— ———— *var. fl. albo.*

*Cerastium viscosum*.

———— vulgatum.

———— alpinum.

———— *latifolium*.

*Spergula arvensis*.

———— nodosa.

———— saginoides.

## XII. ICOSANDRIA.

## II. PENTAGYNIA.

*Pyrus domestica*.—This was found by Sir George Mackenzie, growing eight feet high, in a cleft of lava near Budenstad in Snœfel-syssel. Another plant of the same was also discovered by the same gentleman at Eyafjord, on the north coast.

—— aucuparia.

*Spiræa Ulmaria*.

## III. POLYGYNIA.

*Rosa hibernica*.—This, the only species of *Rosa* discovered in Iceland, was sent me by Mr. Paulsen with the following remark: “Nulli hîc priùs obvia. Crescit in rupe  
“unicâ ad villam Seljaland.”

*Rubus saxatilis*.

*Fragaria vesca*. (p. 68.)

*Potentilla verna*.

———— anserina.—The roots are frequently eaten in the southern parts of the island.

———— aurea.

*Tormentilla officinalis*.

*Geum rivale*. (p. 192 and 219.)

*Dryas octopetala*.—Its leaves, as observed at p. 39

of the journal, are gathered, and made into a sort of tea.

*Comarum palustre*.

### XIII. POLYANDRIA.

#### I. MONOGYNIA.

*Papaver nudicaule*. (p. 263.)

#### V. POLYGYNIA.

*Thalictrum alpinum*.

*Ranunculus acris*.—Often used for making blisters.

———— *hederaceus*.

———— *reptans*.

———— *aquatilis*.

———— *lapponicus*. (p. 146.)

———— *repens*.

———— *glacialis*.—A rare plant in Iceland.

I was not so fortunate as to meet with it myself. Sir George Mackenzie has favored me with the only specimen which he procured: it was found growing among loose stones on the declivity of a mountain between Stadar-braun and Kolbein-stadr.

———— *nivalis*.

*Ranunculus hyperboreus.*

*Caltha palustris.*

#### XIV. DIDYNAMIA.

##### I. GYMNOSPERMIA.

*Lamium purpureum.*

*Galeopsis Ladanum.*

——— *Tetrahit.*

*Thymus Serpyllum.*—An infusion of the leaves is often used to give an aromatic flavor to the sour whey.

*Prunella vulgaris.*

##### II. ANGIOSPERMIA.

*Bartsia alpina.*

*Rhinanthus Crista-Galli.*

*Euphrasia officinalis.*—I possess alpine varieties of this plant from Iceland, which (though bearing perfect flowers) scarcely rise a quarter of an inch above the surface of the ground.

*Pedicularis sylvatica.*

——— *flammea.*

*Limosella aquatica.*

#### XV. TETRADYNAMIA.

##### I. SILICULOSA.

*Subularia aquatica.*



*Draba verna*.

—— muralis.

—— incana.

—— ——— *var. contorta. Retzius.*

*Thlaspi Bursa Pastoris*.

—— campestre.

*Cochlearia officinalis*.

—— danica.—Occasionally eaten as spinage, and reckoned of service in the cure of the scurvy, though seldom made use of.

*Bunias Cakile*.

## II. SILIQUOSA.

*Cardamine pratensis*.

—— hirsuta.—A singular variety of this plant, if not a distinct species, has been sent me both by Sir George Mackenzie and Mr. Paulsen, having the lower leaflets round, the upper ones linear, and all very entire.

—— bellidifolia.

*Sisymbrium terrestre*.

*Arabis alpina*. (p. 219.)

—— hispida.

*Brassica alpina*.—Sent me by Sir George Mackenzie.

## XVI. MONADELPHIA.

## V. DECANDRIA.

Geranium sylvaticum.

———— pratense.

———— montanum.

## XVII. DIADELPHIA.

## III. OCTANDRIA.

Polygala vulgaris.

## IV. DECANDRIA.

Lathyrus pratensis.

Vicia cracca.

Pisum maritimum.

Lotus corniculatus.

Anthyllis vulneraria.

Trifolium arvense.

———— pratense.

———— repens.—“ Les gens de la campagne,  
 “ dans la partie Nord et Est de cette  
 “ ile, en mangent en légume.”—*Voyage en Islande,*

## XIX. SYNGENESIA.

## I. POLYGAMIA ÆQUALIS.

Leontodon taraxacum.

Leontodon autumnale.

*Hedypnois Taraxaci.*

Hieracium Pilosella.

———— Auricula.

———— alpinum.

———— præmorsum.

———— Murorum.

Serratula arvensis.

Carduus lanceolatus.

———— heterophyllus.

## II. POLYGAMIA SUPERFLUA.

Gnaphalium alpinum.

———— uliginosum.

———— *sylvaticum.*

———— fuscatum. *Pers.*

Erigeron alpinum.

Senecio vulgaris.

Pyrethrum inodorum.

———— *maritimum.*

*Achillea Millefolium.*—The Icelandic appellation, *Vall-humall* (field-hops) seems to imply that this plant has been used instead of hops in that island, as it is still in some parts of Sweden. At present the natives only make an ointment of its leaves with butter, which they apply to cutaneous and other external sores.

## XX. GYNANDRIA.

## I. DIANDRIA.

*Orchis maculata*.

—— *Morio*.

—— *mascula*.

—— *latifolia*.

—— *hyperborea*. (p. 70.)

*Satyrium viride*.

—— *albidum*.

—— *nigrum*.

*Epipactis ovata*.—I possess the only specimen of this ever gathered in Iceland; it was found at a place called *Vik*, by the son of Mr. Paulsen.

—— *Nidus avis*?—Either this or a new species of *Epipactis* has been sent me by Sir George Mackenzie. The specimen is destitute of its root, so that I cannot ascertain it with certainty.

*Cymbidium corallorhizon*.

## XXI. MONŒCIA.

## I. MONANDRIA.

*Zostera marina*. (p. 90.)—This the cattle eat, and the natives gather and dry for their beds.

*Chara vulgaris.*

— *hispidia.*

### III. TRIANDRIA.

*Sparganium natans.*

*Cobresia scirpina.* Willd. (p. 124 and 146.)—

*Carex Bellardi* of preceding authors,  
under which name it is mentioned in  
my journal.

*Carex dioica.*

— *capitata.*

— *pulicaris.*

— *arenaria.*

— *uliginosa.*

— *leporina.*

— *vulpina.*

— *muricata.*

— *loliacea.*

— *canescens.*

— *clongata.*

— *flava.*

— *pedata.*

— *montana.*

— *rigida.*

— *limosa.*

— *atrata.* (p. 95.)

— *pallescens.*

— *capillaris.*

Carex Pseudo-cyperus.

—— acuta.

—— *ampullacea*.—The specimen sent me by Sir George Mackenzie is a slight variety with branched spikes.

—— vesicaria.

—— hirta.

#### IV. TETRANDRIA.

Urtica dioica.

—— *urens*.—This I only saw growing in Mr. Savigniac's garden at Reikevig.

#### VIII. POLYANDRIA.

Myriophyllum spicatum.

————— verticillatum.

Ceratophyllum demersum.

Betula alba.

—— nana. (p. 197.)

## XXII. DICECIA.

#### II. DIANDRIA.

Salix Myrsinites.

—— arbuscula.

—— herbacca.—The downy substance from this and other species of Willow is applied by the natives to wounds both of man

and beast. The leaves steeped in water are employed in tanning skins. The wood is used in making ink, being steeped in a decoction of the leaves, to which is added some of the earth used in dying, mentioned in the note at p. 176; it is then all boiled together until the liquid has acquired a proper consistency.

- Salix purpurea.
- reticulata.
- myrtilloides.
- glauca.
- lanata.
- Lapponum.
- arenaria.
- fusca.
- capræa.
- pentandra.

### III. TRIANDRIA.

*Empetrum nigrum.*

### VIII. OCTANDRIA.

*Rhodiola rosea.*

### XIII. MONADELPHIA.

*Juniperus communis.*

## XXIII. POLYGAMIA.

## I. MONŒCIA.

*Atriplex laciniata.*

——— *patula.*

## XXIV. CRYPTOGAMIA.

## I. FILICES.

*Equisetum sylvaticum.*—Various species of *Equisetum* are given to the cattle in Iceland, where they are said to be excellent food for the saddle-horses.

——— *arvense.*

——— *limosum.*

——— *palustre.*

——— *fluviatile.*

——— *hyemale.*

*Osmunda Lunaria.* (p. 95.)

*Ophioglossum vulgatum.*

*Lycopodium alpinum.*—For its use in dyeing wools, see p. 175.

——— *clavatum.*

——— *annotinum.* (p. 70.)

——— *Selago.*

——— *selaginoides.*



*Lycopodium dubium* \*.

*Polypodium vulgare*.

———— fontanum.

———— ilvense.

———— arvonicum. (p. 48.)

———— Phegopteris.

———— Dryopteris. (p. 261.)

*Aspidium Lonchitis*.

———— Thelypteris.

———— Filix mas.

———— Filix fœmina.

———— fragile.—I possess a curious and elegant species of *Aspidium* (*Cyathea* of Doctor Smith) somewhat allied to this, but hitherto undescribed.

*Asplenium septentrionale*.

*Isoetes lacustris*. (p. 170.)

## II. MUSCI.

*Phascum muticum*.

*Sphagnum obtusifolium*.—The same use being made of this moss in Iceland as in Lapland, I shall be readily excused for inserting Linnæus' words upon the subject. "*Feminis Lapponicis maxime notus est hic*"

\* Surculis simplicissimis, erectis, compressis; foliis complicatis, carinatis, acutis, alternis, distichè imbricatis. *König*.

“ muscus; hunc enim, linteis cùm  
 “ destituantur, infantibus, dum  
 “ cunis suis continentur, undique  
 “ circumponunt, qui et pulvinaris  
 “ et tegmenti vices servat, urinam  
 “ acrem absorbet, calorem con-  
 “ servat, sericisque stragulis gra-  
 “ tior est tenellis; mutatur deinde  
 “ vesperi et mane, dum purus et  
 “ recens substituitur in prioris  
 “ locum.”—*Fl. Lapp. p. 337.*

Sphagnum capillifolium.

Gymnostomum truncatulum.

————— *fasciculare.* (p. 41.)

Tetraphis pellucida.

Andræa rupestris.

————— *Rothii.* (p. 126.)

Splachnum ampullaceum. (p. 72.)

————— urceolatum.

————— mnioides.

————— rubrum.

————— vasculosum. (p. 212.)

*Conostomum boreale.* (p. 70 and 78.)

Encalypta vulgaris.

————— *alpina.* (p. 68.)

Grimmia apocarpa.

————— *maritima.*—Not uncommon on rocks  
 by the sea shores.

Weissia cirrata.

*Weissia lanceolata* ? (p. 20.)

*Dicranum scoparium.*

———— *undulatum.*

———— *heteromallum.*

———— *purpureum.* (p. 92.)

———— *flexuosum.*

———— *squarrosum.*

———— *pusillum.*

———— *pulvinatum.*

———— *taxifolium.*

*Trichostomum fontinalioides.*

———— *fasciculare.*

———— *canescens.* (p. 68.)

———— *ellipticum.* (p. 48.)

*Syntrichia ruralis.*

———— *subulata.*

*Tortula tortuosa.*

———— *convoluta.*

*Catharina hercynica.*

*Polytrichum commune.*

———— *alpinum.*

———— *sexangulare.* (p. 216.)

———— *urnigerum.*

———— *aloides.*

———— *subrotundum.*

*Orthotrichum striatum.*

*Neckera curtispindula.*

*Bryum androgynum.*

———— *argenteum.*

Bryum *Zierii*.

Bryum *cæspititium*.

——— *dealbatum*. (p. 48.)

——— *hornum*.

——— *crudum*.

——— *turbinatum*.

——— *serpyllifolium*.

——— *pyriforme*.

——— *dendroides*.

Hypnum *sericeum*.

——— *abietinum*.

——— *filamentosum*. (p. 48.)

——— *prælongum*.

——— *velutinum*.

——— *proliferum*.

——— *nitens*.

——— *illecebrum*.

——— *purum*.

——— *filicinum*.

——— *aduncum*.

——— *uncinatum*.

——— *revolvens*.

——— *denticulatum*.

——— *triquetrum*.

——— *squarrosum*.

——— *cuspidatum*.

——— *Crista castrensis*.

——— *cupressiforme*.

——— *scorpioides*.

- Hypnum silesianum.* (p. 95.)  
*Bartramia fontana.*  
 ———— *ithyphylla.*  
 ———— *pomiformis.*  
*Fontinalis antipyretica.*  
 ———— *squamosa.* (p. 171 and 212.)  
 ———— *falcata.* (p. 212.)  
*Funaria hygrometrica.*  
*Buxbaumia foliosa.* (p. 72.)

## III. HEPATICÆ.

- Jungermannia concinnata.*  
 ———— *julacea.*  
 ———— *asplenioides.* (p. 124.)  
 ———— *scalaris.*  
 ———— *Sphagni.*  
 ———— *angulosa.* (p. 42 and 132.)  
 ———— *byssoides.*  
 ———— *bicuspidata.*  
 ———— *disticha.* *Mohr.*  
 ———— *albicans.*  
 ———— *nemorosa.*  
 ———— *resupinata.*  
 ———— *complanata.*  
 ———— *dilatata.*  
 ———— *ciliaris.*  
 ———— *cpiphylla.*  
 ———— *pinguis.*  
 ———— *furcata.*

*Marchantia polymorpha.*

———— *hemispherica.*

———— *tenella.*

*Targionia hypophylla.*

*Blasia pusilla.*

*Riccia crystallina.*

———— *glauca.* (p. 125.)

*Anthoceros punctatus.* (p. 257.)

#### IV. LICHENES.

*Lepraria botryoides.*

———— *Jolithos.*

*Lecidea sanguinaria.*

———— *fusco-atra.*

———— *fusco-lutea.*—About Reikevig. (p. 20.)

———— *atro-virens.*  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$ .

———— *pustulata.*

*Gyrophora glabra.*  $\zeta$ .

———— *deusta.*

———— *erosa.*

———— *cylindrica.*—Used, in times of scarcity, as food, but more frequently for dying woollen of a brownish green color.

———— *hirsuta.*—“ Longè optimum in re cibariâ Lichenis genus.—Pagina inferior pilosa. Crescit unicè in lapidibus magnis discretis, et rupibus alpinis, imprimis summis cacumini-

bus, ubi Falcones sæpiùs insident."

*Paulsen in Epist.*

Gyrophora vellea.

Endocarpon Hedwigii.

————— *tephroides*.—About Reikevig. (p.20.)

Sphærophoron compressum.

Isidium defraudans.

Urceolaria calcarea.

Parmelia tartarea.

————— *subfusca*.

————— *pallescens*.

————— *candelaria*.

————— *brunnea*.—About Reikevig. (p. 20.)

————— *gelida*.

————— *stygia*.

————— *fahlunensis*.

————— *omphalodes*.

————— *saxatilis*.

————— *stellaris*.

————— *parietina*.

————— *olivacea*.

————— *scrobiculata*. (p. 20.)

————— *nigrescens*.

————— *physodes*.

————— *furfuracea*.

————— *ciliaris*.

————— *Prunastri*.

————— *fraxinea*.

*Parmelia farinacca.*

———— *ochroleuca.*

———— *sarmentosa.* (p. 285.)

———— *jubata.*

*Peltidea venosa.*

———— *resupinata.*

———— *canina.*

———— *apthosa.*

———— *crocea.*

———— *saccata.*

*Cetraria islandica.*—For the account of this and the following species, see Journal, p. 106, and the note at p. 176.

———— *nivalis.*

*Cornicularia lanata.*

———— *pubescens.*

*Usnea hirta.*

*Stereocaulon paschale.*

———— *globiferum.*—About Reikevig and other places, not uncommon. (p.20.)

*Bæomyces cocciferus.*

———— *digitatus.*

———— *deformis.*

———— *pyxidatus.*

———— *cornutus.*

———— *gracilis.*

———— *endivifolius.*—About Reikevig. (p.20.)

———— *uncialis.*



- Bæomyces subulatus*.  
 ——— rangiferinus.  
 ——— *vermicularis*.  
 ——— *tauricus*.

## V. ALGÆ AQUATICÆ.

*Fucus serratus*.—This and various other large species of *Fucus* serve occasionally for food for the cattle and fuel for the poor natives.

- vesiculosus.  
 —— ——— *var. divaricatus*.  
 —— ——— — excisus.  
 —— ——— — inflatus.  
 —— ——— — spiralis.  
 —— ceranoides.  
 —— canaliculatus.  
 —— distichus. (*Fl. Dan.* 351.)  
 —— nodosus.  
 —— siliquosus.  
 —— loreus.  
 —— aculeatus.  
 —— *purpurascens*.  
 —— lycopodioides.  
 —— ramentaceus. (p. 31.)  
 —— muscoides.  
 —— Filum.  
 —— lanosus. *Mohr*.  
 —— fastigiatus. (*Fl. Dan.* 393.)

*Fucus digitatus.*

—— *palmatatus.*—This, the *Sol* of the Icelanders, is the most frequently prepared and eaten of any of the genus. (See p. 37.)

—— *esulentus.*

—— *saccharinus.*

—— *edulis.*

—— *sanguineus.* (p. 65.)

—— *ciliatus.*

—— *crispus.*

—— *alatus.*

—— *dentatus.*

—— *rubens.*

—— *plumosus.*

—— *cartilagineus.*

—— *spermophorus.*

—— *gigartinus.*

—— *confervoides.*

—— *flagelliformis.* (p. 31.)

—— *plicatus.*

—— *albus.* (*Fl. Dan.* 408.)

—— *corneus.*

—— *fungularis.* (*Fl. Dan.* 420.)

—— *clavatus.* *Mohr.*

—— *coronopifolius.*

—— *fœniculaceus.* (*Conferva Huds.*) (p. 31.)

*Tremella lichenoides.*

—— *verrucosa.*

—— *hemispherica.*

- Tremella adnata.  
 ——— Nostoc.  
 Ulva umbilicalis.  
 ——— intestinalis.  
 ——— latissima.  
 ——— compressa.  
 ——— pruniformis.  
 ——— Lactuca.  
 ——— lanceolata.  
 ——— Linza.  
 ——— plicata. *Mohr.*  
*Rivularia cylindrica.* *Wahl. MSS.* (p. 71, 82,  
 and 271.)  
 ——— *angulosa.* (p. 212.)  
 Conferva dichotoma.  
 ——— *spiralis.* (p. 41.)  
 ——— *bipunctata.*  
 ——— *nitida.*  
 ——— *flavescens.* (p. 133.)  
 ——— *æruginosa.*  
 ——— *vaginata.* (p. 41.)  
 ——— *limosa.* (p. 132.)  
 ——— littoralis.  
 ——— scoparia.  
 ——— cancellata.  
 ——— polymorpha.  
 ——— rupestris.  
 ——— ægagropila.

Conferva corallina.

Byssus Cryptarum.

VI. FUNGI:

Agaricus campanulatus.

—— fimetarius.

—— campestris.

Boletus luteus.

—— bovinus.

Helvella atra. (*Fl. Dan.* 354.)

—— æruginosa. (*Fl. Dan.* 354.)

Peziza lentifera.

—— scutellata.

—— cupularis.

—— zonalis.

Clavaria coralloides.

—— muscoides.

Lycoperdon Bovista.

Mucor Mucedo.

*FINIS.*

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## ERRATA ET EMENDANDA.

- Page xxi, line 18, for *diocese* read *diocese*.  
 20, 7, for *L.* read *Parmelia*.  
 64, 16 of the note, after *of* read *the*.  
 66, 8, for *sitting* read *setting*.  
 77, 22, for *nealy* read *nearly*.  
 78, 7, after *whose* read *house*.  
 93, 12, after *his* *dele* *of*.  
 152, 3, of the note, for *tom.* read *tab*.  
 160, 5, of the note, for *nigarrima* read *nigerrima*.  
 185, 4, of the note, for *croass* read *across*.  
 223, 7, after *it* read *in*.  
 237, 8, of the note, for *Eigil-Sogas* read *Eigil Sagas*.  
 265, 21, for *to* read *in*.  
 271, 17, for *nitens* read *nitida*.  
 408, 22, for *Shaptarfiall* read *Skaptarfiall*.  
 431, 5, stanza 11, for *Sedate* read *Sedete*.  
 433, 10, for *Cunta* read *Cuncta*.  
 446, 10, for *hiner evehamini* read *hine revehamini*.  
 456, 7, first column, for *generosa* read *generose*.  
 456, 19, second column, for *adem* read *ademp-*  
 456, 23, second column, for *ad* read *ad-*  
 487, 1, for *Weissie* read *Weissia*.

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## DIRECTIONS TO THE BINDER.

1. *An Icelandic Lady in her Bridal Dress*, to face the title.
2. *Ground Plan of an Icelandic House*, to face page 89.
3. *View of an Eruption of the Geyser*, to face page 120.
4. *View of the Crater of the Geyser, when empty, immediately after an Eruption*, to face page 122.

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Keynes, Printer, Yarmouth.







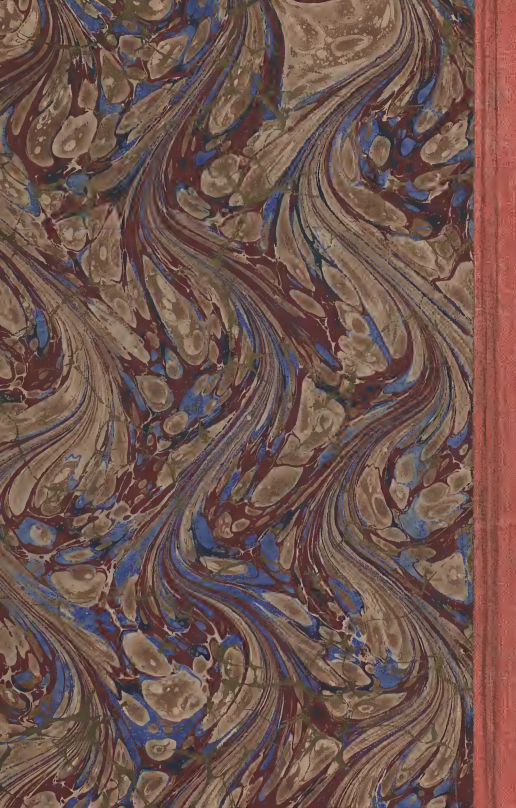




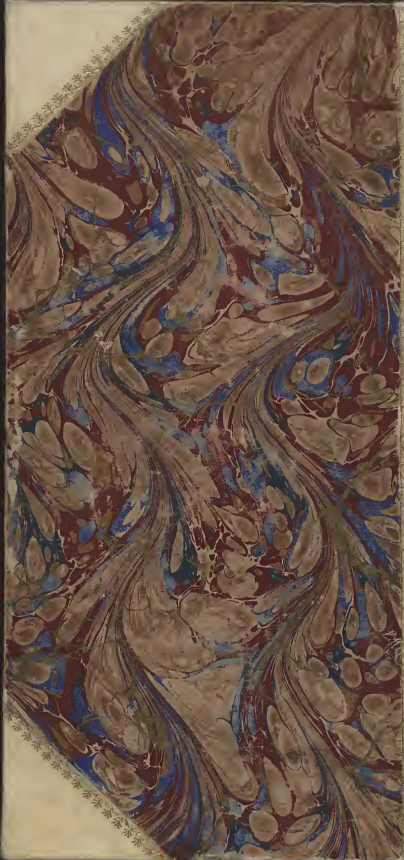


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