

and Bridge—Pass of Kringelen—Fatal Expedition of Colonel Sinclair—Cause of his disastrous march—History of the Inscription—Fate of the Prisoners—Breiden—Peculiar Character of a Norwegian Landscape—Viig—Moen—Beauty of the Forests—Oden—Tumuli—Elstad—Lake Miösen—Remarkable Chasm and Bridge—Losnes—Stav—Moshuus—Economy of the Natives—Deviation from the King's Road—Sunde—Torsted—Louven River—Difficulties of the Route—Ronne—Interior of a Norwegian Inn—Svennes—Extraordinary Adventure—Cow-house—Glass Manufactory—Svee—Appearance of the Harvest—Views of the Miösen Lake—Hund—Brelie—Cataract—Lunden—Glass-works of Garsjoe—Bandelie—Junction with the King's Road—Roholt—Iron Foundry—Dragvold—Moe—Schesmoe—Strange Observance of the Sabbath—Romsaas—Excellent State of the Roads near the Capital—Arrival at CHRISTIANIA.

UPON the third of October, we took leave of our friends, and left *Trönyem* with much regret. Mr. *Horneman* and Mr. *Nelson* remained with us to the last moment before we quitted the town. It was one of the finest days ever seen. As we ascended the Mountain *Steenberg*, which rises to the west of the city, loitering and looking back upon the delightful scene afforded by the Bay, the buildings, and the mountains, every thing wore a cheerful aspect. We felt a wish that we might never lose the impression made upon

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Departure
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us by our last view of this *Baia* of the *North*; for if there be a spot which, next to his own country, an *Englishman* might choose for his residence, it is *Trönyem*: and while every grateful recollection of the kindness and hospitality of its inhabitants, and of those sentiments which had awakened sympathies that are the boast of *Britons*, remained fresh within our memory, we felt and acknowledged that *Trönyem* had more of *home* in it than any other place in *Europe*, out of our own island. We had now parted with our little *Swedish* waggon, as it had no covering; and expecting rain with the autumnal season, had purchased a little low phaëton with a head to it, which was recommended to us as the best kind of vehicle for travelling in *Norway*. Walking by the side of it, in our way up the *Steenberg*, we found the heat almost oppressive. Several plants were still in flower: we collected many specimens of the Field Gentian (*Gentiana campestris*), that beautiful ornament of the alpine-pastures: its blossoms, clustering among the short grass, studded all the surface of the mountain: the whole plant, scarcely an inch in height, seemed to consist of little else than the petals of its flowers, which in size and luxuriance were out of all proportion to its diminutive leaves and branches.

We returned by our former route, as far as *Sognæs*; where the roads to *Trönyem*, from *Rörås* and *Christiania*, meet. In the course of this day's journey, as we descended from *Oust* towards *Melhuus*, we saw an amazing prospect of the *Guuldal*, a valley surrounded by mountains, excepting upon its western side, where an inlet of the sea appears, into which the *Gul* river discharges itself. This valley is highly cultivated¹. The rocks have very singular shapes: they consist, for the most part, of *clay-slate* and *trap*, in which a number of vertical fissures occasion a prismatic appearance resembling *basalt*; but the remarkable tendency of the former to a quadrangular fracture, with tarnished

(1) "The *Guuldal* is a beautiful valley: it is long and broad, delightfully environed, and well-peopled. The views down the valley, over numerous and considerable hamlets and churches, with the broad and glittering stream in the middle, are altogether enchanting. Fertility and cultivation smile upon us from every hill. The whole antiquity of the nation is crowded together in this valley: it is the cradle of the land. Here *Norr* came first over from Sweden. Here dwelt the mighty *Hakon Earl*. In this valley he was found out, and conquered, by the valiant, noble, and wise adventurer, *Oluf Tryggvasin*. Here many of the Heroes of the country dwelt in their Courts: and those kings who bloodily contested the dominion of the land, never imagined they had made any considerable progress in it, till they had conquered *Drontheim* and its valleys. Now we everywhere see healthy boors; and no *Hakon Earl*, no *Liuar Thambaskielver*, no *Duke Skule*. Their repose has sometimes been disturbed by the tempests of the Swedish wars; but the inheritance continue to advance, in an easy yet perceptible progress, in all the arts of peace, towards their higher destiny." — *Von Buch's Travels*, p. 104. Lond. 1813.

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surfaces, discoloured by the *oxide of iron*, as if decomposed, and somewhat splintery, serve to distinguish it in some degree from *basalt*, however nearly allied the substances may be as to their chemical constituents'. 'From *Melhuus* to *Leir*, *Foss*, and *Sognæs*, the road mæanders through close surrounding precipices, amidst bold and abrupt mountains, embosoming the waters of the *Gaul*. Between *Melhuus* and *Leir*, we were delighted with the beauties of the country; and especially with the elegance of a bridge constructed of the trunks of fir-trees, of one arch; of which there are many in *Norway*, of surprising magnitude and boldness of design, cast across the most rapid cataracts². There is nothing in all *Switzerland* to surpass the grandeur of the prospects between *Sognæs* and *Hoff*: and if, in stating this circumstance, it should appear but as a repetition of former observations, it is because this kind of scenery, in the general survey of the globe, is by no means

Scenery
between
Sognæs and
Hoff.

(1) The description given by *Von Buch* of the rocks in the *Gualdal* makes the whole formation to consist of *clay-slate* and *grey-wacke* (see *Travels*, p. 106. *Lond.* 1815); but he is unable to ascertain the precise nature of the rocks between the *Gualdal* and *Trönyem*. "Are we to consider it," says he, "as *mica-slate*, or as *clay-slate*? On the *Steenberg*, towards *Drontheim*, downwards, it appears, at first sight, to resemble *clay-slate*." To our eyes, the appearance was rather that of *trap*; and perhaps this may explain the ambiguity.

(2) See the *Vignette* to this Chapter.

common: it is more prevalent in *Europe* than elsewhere, and most conspicuous in *Switzerland*, where "*Alps on Alps* arise.". Consequently, the traveller who has enjoyed such sights in *Switzerland*, when he finds any thing similar in other countries, cannot avoid making the comparison; being touched by a feeling of gladness at the recurrence of objects inspiring the utmost degree of sublimity, and affording, by their *geological* phænomena, something to gratify his curiosity respecting the original formation and structure of the earth.

The mercury in *Fahrenheit's* thermometer at *Sognæs*, at noon, stood at 51°. We shall be careful to note the changes of temperature, by observations made at the same hour, during our passage of the *Dovrefield*. The farms upon these mountains, as in the Passes of the *Alps*, rise one above the other, until they reach the clouds. Sometimes, as in our journey from *Röråås* to *Trönyem*, we saw clouds skirting the sides of a mountain upon which there appeared villages high above the clouds. These mountains rise to the height of three thousand two hundred *English* feet; which is the elevation assigned by *Von Buch*³ to the mountains east-

Elevation
of the
Mountains.

(3) See *Von Buch's Travels*, p. 107. Lond. 1813.

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Gammel
Orse.

ward of *Melhuus*. The earth below them is formed into a series of tabular eminences, whose shapes are probably owing to the subjacent masses of *clay-slate*. They appear like the artificial ramparts of a fortification; their tops and sloping sides being covered with verdure. Upon these green mounds, farms are also stationed: the cattle belonging to each appeared in herds, grazing all the way down, and sometimes in places so steep, that we wondered how they could find a footing. We dined at *Hoff*; and for the first time tasted the old *Norwegian* cheese, called *Gammel Orse*, or *Norske*, of which the inhabitants are very fond. It resembles very excellent old *Cheshire* cheese, without any rankness. This kind of cheese is sometimes sent in presents to *England*; but the *Norwegians* themselves prize it so highly, that it is difficult to purchase any of it. The *Gammel Orse* is sometimes kept for ten years before it is brought to table. In making it, they use buttermilk, mixed with yeast. We observed, upon the circular tray in which the bread was served, an inscription in the *Danish* language, to the following effect: "*Eat your bread with thanks to God.*"

In going from *Hoff* to *Birkager*, we ascended a lofty and steep hill, and from the summit had

a prospect of the *Alps*, covered with snow. 'The horses were entire, and without shoes. Woollen caps, made of red-worsted knit, are universally worn by the men: these are imported from *Copenhagen*. Almost every other part of the dress of the peasants is of their own manufacture: it is, in general, very neat and tight, and we considered it as superior to the common dress of our *English* labourers.' *Hoff* stands in the middle of the Valley of the *Sogna*: it is only one thousand and five feet above the level of the sea. In this road, fields of the finest verdure are seen among the trees, in the midst of which the *birch* appears with peculiar softness and beauty. The country produces rich crops of *barley*: the soil consists of a dark vegetable earth, and is very rich. Proceeding to *Sundset*, we descended into a wide and beautiful valley watered by the *Oerbel*. Hence, leaving the valley, we had a long, winding, and laborious ascent. The view below was in an eminent degree striking. The roads were stony, but our unshod stallions paced dauntlessly over them. Upon this ascent we found the *Pyrola uniflora*, in seed. From the summit, the view below exhibits the grandest masses of rocks, descending perpendicularly towards the valley, forming precipices nearly a thousand feet high,

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Farms.

with *fir* and *birch* trees sprouting from their crags and fissures: whole mountains rise in the most abrupt manner from the green pastures and corn-fields by the sides of the river, and, as they tower upwards, present upon their sides the noblest forests. High above the woods appear farm-houses and cultivated lands, and, at a still greater elevation, forests; then a fleecy rack of clouds; then upland farms and forests again; and in the upmost range, glittering in æther, snow-clad summits, of all else, except their icy mantle, denuded, bleak, and bare. As the view, after extending over all their tops and shining heights, descends amidst the aerial habitations of the upland farmers, it sees, with surprise, immense herds of cattle feeding at an elevation so extraordinary, that even the actual sight is scarcely to be credited. Every hanging meadow is pastured by cows and goats; the latter often browsing upon jutties so fearfully placed, that their destruction seems to be inevitable: below are heard the cheerful bleatings of the sheep, mingled, at intervals, with the deep tones of the herdsmen's *trumpets*¹ resounding among the woods.

(1) The same as the *Lure* in Sweden: that is to say, a long trumpet, made of splinters of wood, bound together by withy.

Soon after we had completed the ascent of this mountain, we descended, and arrived at *Sundset*. Here we found a numerous family assembled round a large fire, all busily employed. The accommodations were cleanly. The walls of the chambers were much painted, and even the beams in the ceiling were covered with inscriptions. These inscriptions, common in *Norway*, are always either of a moral or religious tendency, or relate to the duties of hospitality; and in this the resemblance to the customs of the *Greeks* is very striking: among whose modern descendants the taste for inscriptions is still so prevalent, that moral aphorisms in Modern *Greek* are commonly inscribed upon their drinking-cups, and upon the handles of their knives and forks*. *Sundset* is one thousand five hundred and seventy-eight feet above the

(2) "I saw a man making a corn-shovel with an axe; and a book-case and bureau of very good carved work, which was done with a knife: some figures represented upon it were well executed. Everywhere we observe the symptoms of industry, and of a thriving people; yet beggars are not unfrequent. In the villages of *Norway*, if there be any miserable objects, you are sure to find them sitting by a door near the road, to extort charity. This we never saw in *Sweden*, which is a much poorer country. In the room at *Sundset*, there was a Copy of Verses upon the wall of the room, that were composed upon Mr. *Bates's* riding several horses at once, as at *Asley's*. He exhibited his feats of horsemanship at *Copenhagen* in the year 1769, and no doubt astonished the *Danes* beyond measure."—*Cripps's MS. Journal*.

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level of the sea: and here the *spruce-fir* is seen mixed with *Scotch-firs*; but in this latitude the former is not found at a greater elevation¹. Our journey the next day led us among the more savage districts of the *Fjäl* or *Alps*, and into regions of snow, where vegetation was sensibly diminished. Between *Sundset* and *Stuen*, we passed the copper-work and mine of *Indset*, upon our left. 'The stones which we saw on the sides of the road were of *gneiss* and *grey granite*.' We continued to ascend, as we journeyed towards *Stuen*, a *Danish* mile and a quarter. From *Stuen* we descended almost the whole way to *Ofnet*, close to *Opdal*. In the higher parts of this passage, the trees were few in number; and even those were dwindled in size, and disposed to creep. We soon recognised some of our old *Lapland* acquaintances; such as, *Betula nana*, with its minute leaves, like silver-pennies; *mountain birch*; and the dwarf *Alpine* species of *willow*, of which half-a-dozen trees, with all their branches, leaves, flowers, and roots, might be compressed between two of the pages of a lady's pocket-book, without coming into contact with each other². At *Ofnet*

(1) See *Von Buch*, p. 105. *Lond.* 1813.

(2) After our return to *England*, specimens of the *Salix herbacea* were given to our friends, which, when framed and glazed, had the appearance of

we bought an abundance of *Sno-Ripas* (*Ptarmigans*?) with a plumage more beautiful than any we had yet seen. Many of them were already almost white; and this whiteness was more splendid than newly-fallen snow. We carefully took off the skins of several of these birds, that we might afterwards have them stuffed and preserved in *England*¹. A very accurate account of the *Sno-Ripa* is given by BRISSON², who calls it LA GELINOTE BLANCHE³. According to this author, it is the *white partridge* of the *Alps*. It is figured by *George Edwards*, in his "*Natural History of Birds*;" and *Brisson*, referring to this part of *Edwards*'s work, adds, "*avec une figure exacte*:" but the etching by *Edwards*

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Sno-Ripas.

of miniature drawings. The author, in collecting them for his *herbary*, has frequently compressed twenty of these *trees* between two of the pages of a duodecimo volume. "*Minima*," says LINNÆUS, "*inter omnes arbores est hæc salix*."—Vide *Flor. Lapp.* p. 236. •*Amst.* 1737.

(3) It was our intention to present them to the *British Museum*, having been always uncertain whether the bird named *Sno-Ripa* be really the *Ptarmigan*. Unfortunately, upon our arrival in *England*, somebody recommended to us a boozing fellow (employed to shew to strangers the *British Museum*) as a proper person for stuffing these skins. It was said that he stuffed birds for our National repository of Natural History: accordingly, he was entrusted with the care of our *Sno-Ripas*; but his incapacity was soon conspicuous; and being reproved for it, in a fit of drunkenness he destroyed the specimens.

(4) *Ornithologie*, tom. I. p. 216. *Paris*, 1760.

(5) "*Lagopus hyeme alba, æstate albo et fusco varia; rectricibus lateralibus nigricantibus, apice albis* . . . LAGOPUS."

(6) Vol. II. p. 72. *Lond.* 1747.

would never have reminded us of the original; it is too stiff and clumsy: his description is more accurate. The *Sno-Ripa* is one of the most beautiful of the feathered race. In the season when its hues are variegated, some of its feathers are brown, others tinged with a Nantkin buff colour; and all the feathers of its breast and legs are of the most splendid whiteness: its flesh is delicious food: it is nearer to a pheasant than a partridge in size. *Edwards* made his draught and description from a stuffed skin of the bird preserved in Sir *Hans Sloane's* Collection. This he confesses; and therefore it is not to be wondered at, that his representation does not strictly agree with nature. The *Sno-Ripa* escaped *Albin's* notice, and no faithful figure of this beautiful bird has yet been published: it is of the kind that we call *Heath Game*, being neither partridge nor pheasant. It thrives best in snowy regions, and therefore inhabits the tops of the highest mountains in *Europe* and *America*. In climates where the frost is so severe that the snow is like fine dry white sand, it reposes, towards evening and during the night, under the snow. In this manner it is found in *Hudson's Bay*; and we often found its dung in the hollows of the snow, where some of these birds had passed the night,

as *Edwards* says, "in their snowy lodgings." The *Italians* call this bird *Pernice petrosa*, and *Pernice alpestre*: by the *Germans* it is named *Schnee-Houn*. The people of *Iceland* and *Greenland* call it *Rypen*, and *Ryper*; and the *Laplanders*, according to *Linnaeus*, give it the name of *Che-runa*. The name *Ptarmigan*, if it be applied to the same bird, was bestowed upon it by the *Scotch*. Of all the places which it inhabits, one of the most remarkable is the stony and craggy summit of *Oar Fowhl*, in the mountainous and unfrequented Island of *Rum*, in the *Hebrides*, where it is sometimes but rarely seen in places almost inaccessible, and always upon the highest ridges.

At *Ofnet* begins the Passage, called, from its principal mountain, that of the *Dovrefield*, and, as it is observed by *Von Buch*¹, under circumstances very similar to that of the mountain *St. Gothard* from *Altorf*, and that of *St. Bernard* from *Martigny* in *Switzerland*; the length of the Pass being nearly the same as that of *St. Gothard*; and there is also some resemblance between the two Passes, in the nature of their declivities. In the evening we reached *Rüsen*, where we found a small but exceedingly clean inn; every

Passage of
Dovrefield.

Rüsen.

(1) See *Von Buch's Travels*, p. 100. Lond. 1813.

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Game.

part of the walls, ceiling, floor, benches, and tables, which were all of deal, were perfectly white, and actually burnished with frequent rubbing. The peasants came into our comfortable little cabin, bringing *Black Game*¹ and *Sno-Råpas*, in such numbers, that they offered to us whole sacks filled with these birds. They take them by snares and with guns. We bought many of them, at the rate only of fourpence *English* for the finest birds. Here we had also brought to us that king of the *Heath-fowl*, the *Mountain Cock*, or *Cock of the Wood*²; the body being as large as that of a *Peacock*, and its length nearly three feet from the point of its beak to the end of its tail. The season for killing game had commenced among the mountaineers. When the frost sets in, to allow of their being sent off in a frozen state to *Trönyem* and *Christiania*, the destruction is very great. Our only difficulty was, how to convey with us so many of these *Alpine* birds. At last, we had recourse to our former expedient, of taking off their skins, as the only part we wished to pre-

(1) UROGALLUS MINOR. *Le Cog de Bruyères à queue fourchue.* Vid. *Brisson Ornitholog.* tome I. p. 186. Paris, 1760.

(2) UROGALLUS MAJOR. *Le Cög de Bruyères. Lagopus maximus.* Ibid. p. 182.

serve; which employed us the whole evening; and after making a hearty meal upon the bodies of some of them, we gave those which we had flayed to our host and his family, who did not seem to set much value upon an acquisition, the mere name of which is sufficient to make an *English* epicure's mouth water.

The next day we came from *Rüsen*, amidst *Alpine* scenery, to *Drivstuen*. Masses of *mica-slate* were conspicuous among the loose fragments of the rock. In the kitchen at *Drivstuen* we saw seven men eating a most comfortable meal of fried bacon and veal, some fried fish, large bowls of milk, and oatcakes and butter. Each had his knife and fork and spoon, but the bowls of milk were in common. We afterwards inquired of the master of the house, whether these men were all in his service: he said they were; and added, that there were also others besides these, who lived with him; his whole family amounting in number to twenty persons. He had but little ground near his dwelling, but cultivated a farm higher up the country. In fact, grain does not grow here, for the place is two thousand four hundred and fifty-seven feet in elevation: but the mountains, the *Säter* or *Alps*, and the valley itself, are excellently adapted for grazing, and the inhabi-

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tants avail themselves of this advantage. They keep about thirty milch cows, send a number of cattle for sale to *Trönjém*, and breed, besides, strong and useful horses, highly prized for their docility and hardihood¹. 'None of the men living with our host were married. His own appearance was altogether that of a common peasant. The establishment of the farmers in this country seems to be much larger than with us in *England*.' At *Drivstuen* begins the more immediate ascent of the *Dovre*field mountain. The mercury in *Fahrenheit's* thermometer, at mid-day, stood at 41°. Here they put four horses to our phaëton; providing us, also, with saddle-horses; as the next stage, to *Kongs-wold*, is exceedingly laborious and difficult²; but the magnificent scenery repays a traveller for all the trouble it will cost him: it is in the highest style of *Alpine* grandeur, not to say horribly sublime. The author could not call to mind any part of *Switzerland* where the mountains and the rocks exhibit bolder features than

(1) *Von Buch's Travels*, p. 99. *Lond.* 1813.

(2) *Von Buch* describes it as "dangerous and painful in the highest degree." (See *Trav.* p. 98. *Lond.* 1813.) But he passed on the last day of *April*, and met with great difficulty, owing to the state of the ice, in crossing the stream. He says, "he was compelled to feel, that in spring no person travels in *Norway*."

he beheld in this stage;—naked and tremendous precipices of *mica-slate*³ on each side of the Passage, and the torrent of the *Driva* roaring below, in many an impetuous cataract⁴. All the tops of these towering crags were covered with snow, and often concealed by clouds, being also destitute of trees: but ‘the lower parts were still enriched by the hardy *birch*, and nearer the bottom were *willows* and *wild cherries*.’ The most beautiful and scarce plants were pendent among the rocks, especially of the genus *Saxifraga*⁵; and a species of *Gentiana* was still in flower, peeping above the snow. We found *Salix lanata*⁶, guarded by its woolly coat, as if

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Alpine
Plants.

(3) In some places the *mica-slate* appeared to us to support *clay-slate*, which, from the nature of its separation into angular and prismatic masses, had an appearance resembling *trap*. This circumstance is not mentioned by *Von Buch*, to whose work the Reader is nevertheless referred for the best account of the *geological* phenomena of *Norway*.

(4) “The valley is, in truth, surrounded by steep and savage rocks of a most alarming height. We can no longer measure their height from below; and the huge blocks at the bottom seem inconsiderable pieces, when compared with the surrounding masses. It is such another fissure as the *Schöllenen* at *St. Gothard*, or the abyss of the *Hongrin* above *Château d’Oex*. It is not a valley in which the mountains incline gently towards the plain; but a rent, which divides the mountains throughout the whole extent of their breadth.”—*Von Buch’s Travels*, p. 99. Lond. 1813.

(5) *Saxifraga nivalis*; *Saxifraga stellaris*; *Saxifraga autumnalis*; and *Saxifraga oppositifolia*. Nothing can be more elegant than the hanging clusters of the last, like pendent pearls upon the rocks.

(6) “*SALIX foliis integris utrimque lanatis subrotundis acutis.*” *Linn. Flor. Lapp.* p. 293. (368.) Tab. viii. fig. 10. et Tab. vii. fig. 7. *Amst.* 1737.

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wrapped in a pelisse of fur ; also *Salix herbacea* ; and such diminutive specimens of *Betula nana*, that the little circular leaves, smaller than upon the *Lapland* mountains, did not present surfaces of greater magnitude than those of split peas. The *Gentiana nivalis* was in seed : of this, as of many other seeds, we collected samples for our Botanic Garden at *Cambridge*. Just before the end of this stage of two *Norwegian* miles, we saw some very large icicles hanging from the rocks, six or seven feet long, and as thick as a man's arm.

Kongsvold.

We descended upon *Kongsvold*. This day, being that of the Sabbath, we found the inhabitants, as it is usual in *Norway*, all asleep. Five or six of the men came gaping out of a house ; and upon our asking them if they had been sleeping, they all answered in the affirmative. Here they offered for sale the skins of large foxes, with very fine fur, at the rate of two dollars each. We had constantly inquired, in our route, for the skin of the *Cat Goube*, or *Norwegian Lynx* ; and we asked for it at this place, but in vain. This animal is certainly rare at present in the country, although known to all the peasants. *Kongsvold*, surrounded by monstrous rocks, is one of the four "*Field-stuer*," established on the *Dovrefield*, by King *Eyestein*,

in the year 1120, for the safety and comfort of travellers. We dined at this place: our servants arrived afterwards with the carriage, without meeting any accident. 'The horses that had been ordered came galloping up by themselves to the door of the inn, where they were fed with salt, which they seemed to eat very greedily. The *Norwegians* are almost as fond of salt as these horses. They have no idea of eating any thing quite fresh. The moment the butter comes from the churn, it is mixed with coarse lumps of salt. In one of the places where we halted for the night, a very fine trout was caught, which we were to have for supper; but the master of the house, as a matter of course, asked us whether we would not have it first salted. The family at this inn were all fair, fat, and rather handsome; the children particularly plump. One of the men had for his dinner, sour milk, oat-cake, cheese, and butter. All the men wore the same coloured coat, cut in the same fashion; and this *costume* continues for a great distance along this route. It was a kind of livery, or uniform of grey cloth, with green worked button-holes. The coats were made in the form of full dress, with long waists, short skirts, and very long flaps to the pockets. We had some thoughts

Grotesque
habit of
the Na-
tives.

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of borrowing two of these suits, to help us out with our full dress at *Petersburg*, when we should arrive there; as the *ukase*, or order, of the Emperor *Paul*, for wearing such uncouth habits, even in a morning, had now been promulgated.

Our journey from *Kongsvold* to *Jerkin*, a *Norwegian* mile and a half, was less difficult, and the road good. Almost the whole stage consisted of an ascent over the most bleak *Alpine* region, covered with snow; first by a ravine, down which the *Driva* is precipitated towards the *north*, between immense perpendicular rocks, in a rent which hardly affords room for the water of the stream. "Great fragments, like pyramids and towns," says *Von Buch*¹, "have in some places fallen down, and completely choked up the valley." Afterwards, a wild and dreary prospect was presented to us—wild bogs, and deserts, where the drifting snow seemed to be contending with the driving clouds through which we passed. Posts, placed to mark the road, stood as evidences of the danger to which travellers are sometimes exposed in these ærial solitudes. A wooden gate, in the midst of the upmost level, serves to mark the boundary between the two great Governments

Boundary
between
Trönyem
and *Agger-
huus*.

(1) *Travels through Norway*, &c. p. 98. Lond. 1815.

of *Trönjem* and *Aggerhuus*. Here the road reaches an elevation of four thousand five hundred and sixty-three *English* feet above the level of the sea². This is properly the head of the principal chain of the *Dovrefield*; and the elevation of the mountains here is by much the greatest in all SCANDINAVIA. This Pass exceeds in height almost all the known Passes over the *Northern* mountains. "But then the mountains which overtop the Pass!" says *Von Buch*³; who seems lost in wonder at the prodigious accumulation of *Alps* on *Alps* here presented. A mountain called *Sneehättan* rises far above the Pass, until its immense form is lost in the clouds. The traveller looks up to its summit, as from a deep valley, unconscious of the height upon which he stands. Mr. *Estmark*, with whom we afterwards became acquainted at *Kongsberg*, carried a barometer with him to the top of *Sneehättan*. Its summit had not before been reached by any man. He determined its elevation as being equal to eight thousand one hundred and fifteen *English* feet, nearly double that of *Ben-nivis*, the highest mountain in *Great Britain*: and he also ascertained that the whole of this stupendous mass

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Sneehättan.

(2) Ibid.

(3) Ibid.

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VI.*Jerkin.*

consists of *mica-slate*; of which substance the rocks are also composed in all the higher parts of the passage of the *Dovrefield*. Having at length gained the summit, we descended, for about the space of half an *English* mile, to the village of *Jerkin*; which is so situate beneath this eminence, that it was not visible to us until the moment before we reached the place. The inn was not so clean as the accommodations for travellers generally are in this route; and, as it generally happens in such cases, it was difficult to avoid imposition; indolence and want of principle being cousins-german. A demand of two dollars was made for our lodging only: this we refused to pay; and then they were satisfied with one dollar. We found, however, some tolerably good small beer: it was served in an earthenware brown mug, with a silver cover, holding a quart. The *Norwegians* are fond of finery: they like to have their tables and the windows of their apartments painted with showy colours: even the ceilings and beams of the roof are thus ornamented, and set off with blue and red colours. The tables are often painted in imitation of the coloured patterns of oil-cloth; and sometimes the sides of their rooms are lined with painted cloth. The houses are invariably roofed, or rather thatched,

with a thick covering of turf-sod, in which trees sometimes take root and grow; and hay is almost always gathered from the roofs of the houses. 'We have seen lambs turned for pasture upon the tops of their houses, after the grass has been mown; so that it may be fairly said in *Norway*, they mow the tops of their houses, and then turn their cattle on for the after-grass.' The galleries about these houses may remind the traveller of *Switzerland*; and the girls of the country braid their hair into long *queues*, and dress somewhat like the female *Swiss* peasants. From our windows we had a wide and dreary prospect of snow-clad summits and extensive plains, in which there is scarcely a vestige of a tree; except here and there, in places, where the *dwarf alpine birch* and *creeping alder* penetrate the snowy surface.

We left *Jerkin*, on *Monday* morning, *October* the *seventh*, for *Fogstuen*, a stage of two *Norwegian* miles and a quarter. We were mounted on saddle-horses, and had three horses for the phaëton; but we soon found that there was no necessity for so much cavalry. A hard frost had rendered the road excellent, although covered with snow; and we travelled with as much expedition as in *Sweden*. Not a leaf now remained upon any of the dwarf plants peeping

through the snow; nor was a tree to be seen anywhere: all was airy alpine nakedness. We saw marks, in the snow, of the feet of animals, which we believed to be those of bears: other tracks, also, were visible, that seemed to have been made by wolves and foxes. Our horses disturbed some *Sno-Ripas*. We passed two lakes: one upon our left, called *Af Soe*; the other, named *Vola Soe*, upon our right. This last is connected with smaller lakes, extending to *Fogstuen*; whence the *Folda* river takes its rise, and proceeds eastward to the *Glommen*, which it joins near *Lil Elvedal*, just after passing *Fredericsgaves* copper-work. We found a neat little room at *Fogstuen*. The inn here is situate in a level valley: it is intended solely for the reception of travellers passing the mountain. *Von Buch* compares it to the *Hospice* of *St. Bernard*, because it is one of the highest habitations in the country, and buried, in a similar manner, in almost perpetual winter; but we had not yet attained the summit of *Dovrefield*. The ascent to the highest point was made after leaving *Fogstuen* for *Tofte*. In this journey, however, the road was so excellent, that we proceeded in our phaëton, which was drawn by three horses. The snow was about five inches in depth. We had a long ascent to the highest

point of the passage; but at mid-day we arrived upon the summit, and immediately estimated the temperature of the atmosphere. The weather was remarkably clear and fine; scarcely a cloud was visible. Before we could take the thermometer from the case in which it was contained, the mercury had fallen below the freezing point; and in five minutes it fell to 27° of *Fahrenheit*. We then found the air so keen and piercing, that we did not give it a longer trial. This point is the greatest elevation of the road in the whole passage of the *Dovrefield*: its height, as stated by *Von Buch*¹, is four thousand five hundred and seventy-five *English* feet above the level of the sea. The hill itself is called the *Harebacken*². Upon this elevated spot we detached from a rock, as the only memorials of

*Hare-
backen.*

(1) *Von Buch's Travels*, p. 96. Lond. 1813. •

(2) "The *Norwegian* language is rich in names for the different forms of mountains. *Aus* (Ohs) is a very long-extended row of small hills; *Kullen*, is an insulated prominent head; *Nuden*, a round and less prominent hill; *Egg*, a sharp ridge, an edge; *Hammer*, a rocky cape, which juts out, either into the sea or the plain; *Bakke*, is a little hill; *Fjeldt*, on the other hand, is the highest mountain, rising beyond every ordinary human habitation; *Tind*, a point or peak on the mountain, the *horn* of the Swiss, and the *aiguiller* of SAVOY; *Fond*, an ice-hill; *Brüe*, or *Gökul*, among the *Laplunders* *geikna* (*jäkna*), a glacier. In *Christiansandstift*, a distinguished height visible at a great distance, is called *heien* or *hei-eidsheien*." (*Von Buch's Travels*, p. 52, Note.) The natives of *Finland*, in their language, have almost as many names for the different forms and modifications of snow.

CHAP.
VI.

the place we could bear away, some specimens of one of the most elegant *mosses* we had ever seen, with minute hoary divergent branchlets (*Lichen pubescens*?). It reminded us of Darwin's beautiful allusion to the singular locality of plants of this *genus*¹. Upon the *moss*, exceedingly small scales of silver *mica* might be discerned, glittering among the leaflets: and the same curious mineral decoration of the hairs of the *Mountain-moss* was also extended to the leaves and branches of the *Salix myrsinites*, which we found near the same spot. Perhaps something similar might first have suggested to antient nations the custom of powdering their hair with *arenaceous mica*. The Emperor *Galienus*, according to TREBELLIVS POLLIO, "*crinibus suis auri scobem aspersit*."

Descent
from
Dovrefield.

Immediately after passing this place, a descent begins towards the *south*; and from regions of ice and snow the traveller is suddenly conducted into the most beautiful valley that the imagination can conceive. From the summit we had a very extensive view of all this chain of mountains: their tops appeared below us,

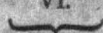
1) "Retiring *Lichen* climbs the topmost stone,
And mid the airy ocean dwells alone."

Botanic Garden, Part II. v. 295. p. 29. Lond. 1813.

covered with snow. The moment we began to descend, a change took place; and in three quarters of an hour we passed from a frigid to a temperate climate. Long before we reached *Tofte*, we were able to collect plants in flower. The snow vanished—trees appeared—the road was dry and in good order—and in the space of forty-five minutes from our leaving the summit, the mercury had risen in the thermometer to 36°. Nothing can be more remarkable than this sudden transition, in descending *Dovrefield* towards the south. The change is much more rapid than on the *northern* side: the season, consequently, was much less advanced. All the trees excepting the *birch* retained their green foliage; but the leaves of the *birch* had changed, and were falling². The mountains on this side appeared of an astonishing height, and rose more abruptly on each side of the passage than in the *northern* declivity. Their summits were visible above us, capped with snow.

Geological
Phænomena.

(2) We collected seeds of the *Astragalus alpinus*, *Pinguicula alpina*, and *Pyrola uniflora*: also, near the summit of *Dovrefield*, in descending towards the south, we discovered that rare plant the *Saxifraga Cotyledon*, in flower; together with *Saxifraga nivalis*, and *Saxifraga oppositifolia*. The other plants in flower, added to our herbarium in the course of this descent, were, *Hieracium alpinum*, *Gentiana campestris*, *Vicia sylvatica*, a dwarf alpine *Geranium*, for which we have no other name, and various species of *Lichen*.

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Everywhere the rocks consist of *mica-slate*; in which the only variation arises from veins of *quartz*, and sometimes from contiguous and parallel masses of *gneiss* or *schistose granite*. As we descended, *firs* and *juniper*-trees began to make their appearance again; extending for a certain distance up the sides of the valley: above them were naked rocks. The principal plants near the road were wild *Myricas* and *Vaccinium*. At an earlier season of the year, as we were afterwards informed, our friend Mr. Otter had found this part of the Passage of *Dovrefield* the best place for botanical pursuits he had ever seen. The *Primula Norvegiensis*, and many new plants, were here added to his herbary. The inn at *Tofte* was remarkably neat and clean. We dined here, upon some of the *Sno-Ripas* we had brought with us, and a soup made of eggs, milk, and sugar; in fact, what we should call *custard* in *England*. The women here were handsome: they had fair complexions and agreeable countenances. In all parts of our journey through *Norway*, we were struck with the superiority of the *Norwegian* above the *Swedish* women. One of the young women here was upon the eve of being married: she was very handsome. Her lover was present: we had therefore an opportunity of seeing them in the

Tofte.

Marriage
Customs.

full dress worn by the peasants upon such an occasion. There was nothing very remarkable in the dress of the young man, beyond what we have before described; excepting that his clothes, shaped according to the uncouth fashion already noticed, were of a white colour, and that he wore very large buckles in his shoes. The girl was dressed in a jacket and petticoat of brown cloth. Upon her head she had a cap of black silk, edged with silver lace, over which she wore a black silk handkerchief as a turban: this head-dress was further set off by a little pink riband tied under the chin, part of which fell down the neck behind. Her shift was fastened in front by a neat silver broach. She had high heels to her shoes, that were soled with iron; and also wore large buckles. She had rather a dark complexion, with the most regular arched eyebrows and dark hair, aquiline features, and the liveliest bloom upon her cheeks. Judging from the warm hue of her complexion, and the form of her countenance, one might have imagined her to be rather a native of the north of *Italy*, than of the mountains of *Norway*. Yet such a cast of features belongs to the female peasants of this country, who are thereby remarkably distinguished from the *Danish* women. Her mother had been also extremely beautiful:

CHAP.
VL

she had eight children. When a marriage takes place in *Norway*, open house is maintained, during an entire week, to all comers. Every neighbour, and every relation of the bride and bridegroom, bring with them provisions, as a contribution to this feast. The new-married couple are expected to provide beer and brandy. The food consists of *meat, cakes, fritters, &c.*; besides a standard dish for a wedding, which is called *cabbage-soup*; it is made with beef, and pork sausages, and contains culinary vegetables of every sort. When the guests take their leave, they all make presents to the wedding-pair, according to their circumstances and the degrees of their consanguinity and friendship. Some give them two, others three, four, and five dollars; and in this way a newly-married couple will collect sometimes a sum equal to three hundred, and rarely less than one hundred dollars. They marry young; but the women marry much earlier than the men. Upon these occasions the peasants frequently consign to their care the management of their farm; taking no other security, than a bare promise from their children that they will never suffer them to want. According to this custom, the young *Norwegians* have only to marry, and the means of subsistence follow as a matter of course; and

this encouragement to "increase and multiply," among a people naturally prone to industry, may perhaps in some degree explain the cause why the population of *Norway* so much exceeds that of *Sweden*; where the same custom exists, with much greater limitations; and where the people, equally industrious, are less disposed towards agricultural pursuits.

After leaving *Tofte*, we entered the beautiful valley called *Guldbbrandsdale*, and proceeded by the side of the River *Louven*. From this place, to the distance of one hundred and seventy *English* miles, the road continues through a series of the finest landscapes in the world. Indeed, it is allowed by all travellers who have made this journey, and whose opinions upon such a subject are worth citing¹, that 'it is doubtful whether any other river can shew such a constant succession of beautiful scenery.' Another remarkable circumstance, characteristic of the whole district, is, that it is remarkable for the tallest people, and the finest horses and cattle, in all *Norway*. The women are fair and

(1) The author would particularly notice the testimonies of Professor *Malthus* and Mr. *Otter*, whose observations respecting the astonishing beauty of the scenery in this part of *Norway* perfectly agree with the description of it which has been here given.

CHAP.
VI.Perilous
Assault.

handsome; and the men, stouter and more athletic than any we had ever seen, except in *Angermannland*, with their light and long flowing hair, reminded us of *Ossian's* heroes. The farmers, all along the vale, are reckoned rich, and a very good sort of people. Surrounded, therefore, by every object worthy of admiration, pleased with the country and its inhabitants, we were, of all men, the least disposed to engage in a quarrel with the natives: yet, in consequence of a very trivial and unavoidable mistake, to which travellers are liable, we encountered one of the most deadly feuds, to which, without death providentially on either side, it was possible to be exposed. In general, the peasants who supply the post-horses accompany the traveller's carriage, to see that their horses are taken care of; but with our light phaëton, we had left these men in the rear, and consequently had passed the post-house at *Olstad*, where the horses ought to have been changed, without having noticed it; and were proceeding in the road to *Formoe*, the next relay. As we were ascending a hill, we observed the drivers of our luggage making great efforts to come up with us; upon which we loitered, and they overtook us, bringing with them the owners of our horses. At this moment, rushing towards the phaëton,

they attacked us in the most violent manner, two of them being armed with bludgeons; and as we had no other idea, from the manner of the assault, but that they intended to murder us, we determined to sell our lives as dearly as possible. We had the good fortune to succeed in wresting the largest bludgeon from the hands of one of them; and being joined by our *English* groom, who quitted the reins of our horses for this purpose, we presently made the other fellow surrender his bludgeon also. Being thus disarmed, with the agility of mountain-goats they scrambled up a stony steep upon the left side of the road, where, having gained a commanding situation above us, each of them took up a huge stone, and, holding it in a menacing posture, threatened to hurl it upon our heads if we attempted to advance. As this was the only pause which had occurred from the onset of this broil, and they had now seen that we were determined not to yield to them, we attempted a parley. Unfortunately, our interpreter, having made the same mistake that we had done, had gone forward; but by signs, with a few words of *Norske*, we gave them to understand, that if they would throw down the masses of stone which they held, we would also lay aside our bludgeons. To this they assented,

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VI.

and the weapons on either side were mutually discarded. We then beckoned to them to descend, and held out our hands towards them in token of peace. To our surprise, they came to us, and shook hands with us; and, as they seemed disposed to shed tears, we began to perceive that we had unknowingly been the aggressors. We therefore resigned every thing into their care, and they conducted us slowly to *Formoe*. Here every thing was explained: it appeared that a very laudable tenderness for their horses had been the cause of their rough treatment of us, whom they believed to be actuated by a design of ill using their cattle: and, as it sometimes happens where blows have been pretty liberally bestowed upon both sides, we did not part the worse friends because we had fought as enemies, but took leave of each other mutually desirous of forgiveness and reconciliation.

These two stages, from *Tofte* to *Olstad*, and to *Formoe*, considered with respect to the grandeur of the scenery, constitute the finest part of the Passage: it is, perhaps, the boldest defile in *Europe*; not even excepting that of *St. Gothard*, near the *Pont du Diable*, in *Uri*. Precipices, woods, and cataracts, produce a mixture of fear, wonder, and pleasure, which it is actually

necessary to have felt, in order that any idea of it may be entertained. Indeed, it would be to little purpose that an endeavour is made to describe such prospects; but that there are many who have had this feeling, and who will call the scenery to their imagination from the suggestions which a few notes made upon the spot are calculated to afford. The road, as in the Passage of *St. Gothard*, is very often little more than a shelf placed along the side of a precipice; and at a great depth below it, is heard the noise of a torrent. Looking backwards or forwards, the projecting terminations of the different mountains, intersecting each other towards their bases, produce the wildest and most gloomy glens. Upon their craggy sides, towering forests, reaching almost to the snow-clad summits, wave their dark branches over cliffs where there seems hardly soil enough to maintain the *Lichen* hovering upon the stony precipice. From the sides of these mountains, innumerable cascades, dashing among the rocks and through the trees, carry their clamorous tribute to the torrent of the *Louven*, whose mightier and more impetuous waters, shaking the very rocks, seem to agitate the whole wilderness, as by an earthquake. One of those tributary cataracts, after a fall of at least five

Louven
River.

hundred feet, having swept away every trace of the road, if ever there had been any road here, now rushes beneath a bridge of fir-trees, and is thence hurled into the gulph beneath. As we stood upon this bridge, wet with its scattering foam, we beheld, above us, to our surprise, part of the structure of a mill-dam, which the people of the country were endeavouring to build of the trunks of trees, upon some projecting rocks in the very midst of the falling water. How it was to remain an instant in that situation, when finished, its owners best knew. This bridge and cataract is near *Formoe*: but many other instances might be mentioned of prospects equally striking, if it were possible, by mere description, to do justice to the angry grandeur of scenery, which renders *Norway* more worth seeing, to the lovers of picturesque beauty, than any other country in the world¹.

The appearance of the farm-houses upon the mountains, standing upon the very brink of precipices to which there are no perceptible means

(1) To the *Geologist*, every step he takes through this defile will present him with objects worthy of his investigation. The crumbling disposition of the rocks, their separation into *drusy* fissures, the regularity of their shapes, which he will observe in many of the immense masses that have fallen over the road, especially towards *Formoe*, lead him to believe that he is surrounded by mountains of *basalt*; but these masses belong to *porphyritic* strata. *Quartz* also appears towards *Formoe*.

of ascent, is one of the most extraordinary sights which a traveller meets with. We saw harvest yet standing, near one of those farms.

‘A farmer who met us on the road had descended from the heights, where he cultivated many acres of land: he had sixty cows, and fifteen horses, besides other stock.’ We found

an excellent inn at *Formoe*: the rooms were lofty and spacious. Every thing was as clean

Formoe.

as it could be: but the customs are so strictly those of former times in *England*, that, from the appearance of one of these houses, an *Englishman*

*English
Customs.*

would call to mind the manners of his ancestors, as they are still preserved in some part of our country. Old ballads pasted on the wall—

story-books of witches and giants—huge heavy carved work upon the cupboards and furniture—rows of shining pewter-plates and earthenware—

brown mugs for beer—hog’s puddings and sausages dangling from the roof—these, and all the amusements of their fire-sides, carry us back to

“the golden days of good *Queen Bess*.” In their houses, cleanliness may certainly be considered as very generally a characteristic: a dirty dwelling is an uncommon sight in *Norway*; and in the

few instances where it occurs, a large family of young children belonging to poor parents serves to account for it. We were now entering

CHAP.
VI.Gulsbrands-
dalen.

Gulsbrandsdalen, famous, as we have said before, for the tallest and stoutest men in *Norway*: yet the men of this country, although robust and hearty, appeared to us to be of lower stature, and less athletic, than the *Swedes*, especially the inhabitants of the *north* of *Sweden*. From the *Danes* they differ in many respects; in having dark hair and copious eye-brows, with countenances full of expression, and the ruddiness of health upon their cheeks. The *Dane*, with an unwieldy stature, and sometimes gigantic limbs, is characterized by a countenance devoid of expression; or, if it express any thing, exhibiting features of apathy and stupidity: add to this, long white hair falling straight on either side of a face with light blue eyes and scanty white eyebrows.

Upon the *seventh* of *October*, we left *Formoe*, and proceeded to *Elstad*. In our first stage to *Breiden*, we had excellent roads, and they were rendered the more perfect by a hard frost. The summits of all the mountains were now covered with snow, and there was not a cloud in the sky. *Fahrenheit's* thermometer at twelve o'clock, 37°. But some plants were still in flower;

(1) *Euphorbia helioscopia*; *Geranium cicutarium*; *Ranunculus acris*, &c.

and as we descended lower, the trees were less and less affected by the season. The road to *Breiden* is an *alpine* defile, and descends the whole way. The aspect of the scenery was much the same as upon the preceding day. Before we reached *Breiden*, a bridge thrown across a cataract, upon our left, again presented us the astonishing appearance already noticed in the journey to *Formoe*, of a square timber mill-dam placed in the middle of the falling torrent, for the purpose of arresting and carrying off, in wooden channels, a portion of the water, to supply some sawing-mills, which have been constructed, in a manner almost as remarkable, by the side of the cascade. We halted for a short time, to make a sketch of this wonderful scene. The fall of water is not in all seasons of the year so great as it was at this time: it is evident that the mill-dam could not long resist the continued action of such a furious tide as we then beheld: to us it appeared very marvellous that it was not swept away by the flood. This dam was constructed of the same materials that were used in building the bridge and the sawing-mills, namely, of the trunks of fir-trees almost in their natural state. The appearance of the bridge was uncommonly light and elegant: it seemed, as it were, to fly

Cataract
and Bridge.

CHAP.
VI.Pass of
Kringelen.Fatal Ex-
pedition of
Colonel
Sinclair.

across the tremendous gulph occupied by the foaming cataract. Our light phaëton made no impression upon it; but few would like to be among the number of passengers, as they are seen heaped upon our *English* stage-coaches, if one of these coaches were engaged in passing such a bridge. Icicles were pending from the rocks above and below; and the whole exhibited a scene that may be considered as peculiarly characteristic of *Norway*. Somewhat farther on, we came to the famous Pass of *Kringelen*; and to a tablet placed by the road side, with an inscription commemorating the overthrow and slaughter of nine hundred *Scotch* soldiers commanded by Colonel *George Sinclair*, who were all defeated and put to death, in this defile, by the ancestors of the very same peasantry who had handled us so roughly: and, with the bruises yet upon us, it may be imagined we heard its interpretation with a due degree of feeling and interest; grateful that we had escaped being "*crushed*," as the inscription tells, "*like pots of clay*." This inscription is in *Norwegian* verse, and in rhyme, as follows:

(1) "HER BLEVE KNUSEDE FAST LIGESOM LEER-POTTER,"—the very words of the *Inscription*, and evidently an allusion to a passage in the *PSALMS*,—"Thou shalt dash them in pieces, like a potter's vessel."

MOD, TROSKAB, TAPPERHED, OG HVAD SOM GIVER ÆRE,
DEN HELE VERDEN KAN BLANDT NORSKE KLIPPER LÆRE!

En Prøve er der seet af saadan Tapperhed

Blandt Klipperne i Nord ret just paa dette Sted:

Et vel bevæbnet corps af nogle hundred *Scotter*

Her bleve knusede fast ligesom Leer Potter.

De fandt: at Tapperhed, med Troskab og med Mod,

I Gulbrandsdølers Bryst i fuld Esse stod.

Georg von Sinclair, som var *Scotternes* Anfører,

Han tænkte ved sig selv, mig her slet ingen rører.

Men see! et lidet Tal af Bønder for ham var,

Som hannem Dødens Bud, af Krud og Kugler bar.

Vor Nordiske Monarch, Kong *Christian den Sjette*,

Til Ære paa Hans Vey vi have opsat dette:

For ham vi rede er' at vove Blod og Liv,

Indtil vor Aand gaaer ud, og Kroppen ligger stiv.

The same, literally translated.

COURAGE, LOYALTY, INTREPIDITY, AND WHATSOEVER GIVES HONOUR,
THE WHOLE WORLD AMIDST NORWEGIAN ROCKS MAY LEARN!

A proof has been seen of such intrepidity

Among the rocks of the North, in this very place:

A well-armed corps of some hundred *Scots*

Was here crushed, just like pots of clay.

They found, that intrepidity, with loyalty and courage,

Lived in full glow in the breasts of the men of *Gulbrand's dale*.

GORGE DE SINCLAIR, who was the Leader of the *Scots*,

Thought within himself, here no one opposes me.

But, lo! a small number of peasants appeared before him,

Who bore to him Death's message, by powder and by ball.

Our Northern Monarch, King *Christian the VIth*,

In honour of his way we have erected this:

For him we are ready to risk our blood and life,

Until our breath goes out, and our bodies lie stiff.

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The place where *Sinclair* was buried is still shewn. *Kringelen* signifies a narrow pass, or defile: it is formed by a precipice bordering on the River *Louven*, which, after flowing through *Gulbrandsdale*, falls into the *Miösen* Lake. The battle here commemorated happened in 1612, on the 24th of *August*. The historian, *Gerhard Schjonning*, states that it was fought between 1200 *Scotch* soldiers, and 500 *Norwegian* peasants armed with a few muskets, bludgeons, bows, and stones. The greatest havoc was made among the *Scotch* troops by the large stones which the *Norwegians* threw upon them from the heights. Colonel *Sinclair*, it seems, expected no attack; for almost all the youth of the country had been drawn to the *Swedish* war in the south of *Norway*. The cause of the invasion is given by *Von Buch*. *Gustavus Adolphus* of *Sweden*, in his first unsuccessful war with *Christian the IVth*, despatched Colonel *Münckhaven*, in the spring of 1612, to enlist men in the *Netherlands*, and in *Scotland*. As the Colonel was endeavouring to return, in the end of the summer, with 2300 fresh troops, he found the fortress of *Elvsberg*, at *Gothenburg*, in possession of *Christian*, and the whole coast, in consequence, from *Norway*, beyond *Calmar*, shut to the *Swedes*. Necessity compelled him to break through *Norway*. The

greatest part entered the *Fjord* of *Trönjhem*, landed in *Stördalen*, and found no *Gulbrandsdali-ans* to oppose them. They were thus enabled to proceed, over the mountains, to *Jemteland* and *Herjeådalén*, and, by their arrival, preserved the Capital of *Sweden*, which was threatened by the *Danish* fleet. But Colonel *Sinclair* landed in *Romsdalen*. He had already proceeded many miles, through *Romsdalen*, *Lessöe*, and down the valley below *Dovrefield*; and might well believe the *Swedish* frontier at hand, when he was destroyed by the circumspect and daring attack of the boors in *Kringelen*. There is a ballad heard in all the towns of *Norway*, which will long hand to posterity the memory of *Sinclair* and the *Gulbrandsdali-ans*. It begins thus:

“*Sinclair* came over the *North* Sea,
To storm the cliffs of *Norway*.”

The boors concerned in this affair were peasants of *Lessöe*, *Vaage*, *Froen*, and *Ringeboe*. Their leader was *Berdon Segelstadt*, of *Ringeboe*. With regard to the *Inscription*, the two first lines are of much earlier date than the rest, and were in fact the whole of the original inscription. They have altogether a *Spartan* character; but their simplicity is destroyed by the addition which has been made to them. There is also a

History of
the In-
scription.

CHAP.
VI.

long prose detail, below, which relates to the persons by whom the addition was made. *Frederic the IVth*, in 1704, when he passed the *Dovrefield*, in his way to *Trönyem*, ordered a medal to be struck, with the two first lines upon it. His successor, *Christian the VIth*, passed by the same road, in his journey to *Trönyem*: he added to those verses, and enlarged upon the subject of them; ordering Dean *Hjorthoy* to compose the lines which were afterwards subjoined; affording no very favourable specimen, either of the Monarch's taste or of the Dean's poetry. It is recorded, that two of Colonel *Sinclair's* officers, the Captains *Bryshe* and *Ramsay*, were sent as prisoners to *Aggerhuus* Castle, with the Colonel's lady and her infant child, and thence conveyed to their own country. *Von Buch* says, that about sixty of the *Scots* interceded for life, and were taken prisoners. They were divided among the hamlets, where, he adds, it was forgotten that prisoners were no longer enemies. The boors soon grew tired of feeding a number of defenceless men: they were therefore collected together into a large meadow, and murdered in cold blood; one only escaping. He does not mention his authority for this last statement. He only says, "The fact is not told in the monu-

ments¹; but they have not destroyed its reality:" it is however so inconsistent with the *Norwegian* national character, that a reasonable hope may be entertained of its want of authenticity.

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VI.

We changed horses at *Breiden*. 'The river which we passed in a boat, to get to the inn, was equal in breadth to the *Thames* at *Richmond*.

Breiden.

The rocky fells are here in fine shapes, and there are some pleasing meadows about the place.' Between *Breiden* and *Fug*, the country becomes more open, and it is more inhabited;

Peculiar
Character
of a Nor-
wegian
Landscape.

but throughout the Passage of the *Dovre-field* there is no want of inhabitants. The mountains are peopled from their bases quite up to their summits; farm-houses being everywhere visible, standing on little sloping terraces, above precipices so naked that they exhibit scarcely a mark of any vegetable produce; excepting where the *pine* and the *birch* occasionally sprout from fissures in the rocks. In looking up these precipices, if a spot appear not absolutely perpendicular, there may be seen a *goat*, and sometimes even a *cow*, browsing, in

(1) Alluding to the two inscribed *Tablets*; one here, in the Pass of *Kringelen*, in the parish of *Vaage*, where the battle took place; and the other hard by, where Colonel *Sinclair* and his unfortunate companions were buried. *Von Buch* was conducted by the natives to the place of their interment, which is called "*Sinclair's Grave*."

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places where it seems to be impossible that they should move without being dashed to atoms. Indeed, it sometimes happens that the latter is altogether unable to quit the place to which it has ventured; and, in such cases, a peasant is let down, with ropes, to the spot, who fastens them about the animal, and both are drawn up by herdsman above. Journeying through *Wales*, the appearance of sheep feeding in mountain pastures is a pleasing but no unusual sight; and in *Switzerland*, the exhibition of farms stationed in alpine solitudes delights the traveller by the singularity and pleasantness of the prospect: but in *Norway* the impression is not that of pleasure—it is a mixed sensation of amazement and of terror. Perhaps, if a *Norwegian*, born and educated amidst these scenes, were suddenly removed into *Flanders*, he would burst forth into raptures at the sight of such an extensive level territory: indeed we know that the *American* farmer, who has felt the difficulty of clearing a tract of forest land, of the timber which he regards only as an incumbrance, is always charmed in beholding districts denuded and flat as the plains of *Tah-tary*, and which he invariably terms “a fine open country:” but the *Englishman*, to whom campaign land and cultivated fields are common

objects of observation, when he is admitted into the Passes of the *Norwegian Alps*, where he finds himself surrounded by rocks and precipices and woods and cataracts, feels that he can dwell with wonder, and even with reverence, in the most savage recesses of the mountains; that his mind is never more disposed towards sublime reflections, nor ever more elevated towards his Creator, than in the midst of so much awful, solemn, and terrific grandeur; where Nature always assumes a frowning aspect; where, instead of the gladness which is inspired by views of human labour in milder and more cultivated scenes, a deep sense of seriousness bids him regard the manifestations of supernatural power, as teaching him that "there are yet greater things than these."

The road all the way from *Breiden* to *Vüig* is a descent skirting the base of a mountain. At *Vüig* we found a very dirty inn¹; which is *Vüig*.

(1) The same of which *Von Buch* complains, who came to this place six years after our visit, and describes it in his usual spirited manner. "The whole family dwelt together in one room, and there was no division of any kind between them and the stable: the pigs run about between the beds. This is true laziness! Hitherto I had never seen a house of this description; and in an inn it was the more remarkable. In *Little Hammer*, in *Moshuus*, in *Lösnes*, and *Odon*, there are always tolerably well-furnished rooms set apart exclusively for travellers. . . . This is also the case farther on, till we arrive at *Dronthim*. But *Vüig* put us in mind of the *Polish villages*."

Travels in Norway, &c. p. 88. Lond. 1813.

really a rarity in this country. We passed several cascades. The situation of the inn at *Vig* is beautiful. The villages are in this respect very much alike: they all partake of the same character—a valley, through which the river flows, surrounded by mountains well covered with forests of fir and birch. Our third stage this day was from *Vig* to *Moen*. After leaving *Vig*, at the distance of about an *English* mile, it being twelve o'clock, we halted, as usual, to observe the thermometer. The mercury stood at 37° of *Fahrenheit*. It was evident that our elevation was still considerable, although we had no means of ascertaining it. Afterwards, we descended the whole way to *Moen*. The roads were the best we had seen since we left *Sweden*, and we travelled with as much ease and expedition as in that country. As we proceeded in our descent, the mountains became more and more open; they seemed to expand before us, forming wider and more magnificent valleys, through which the *Louven* either placidly flowed, or impetuously roared. As the owners of the post-houses often neglect to hang out their signs, we were in constant danger of falling into the same mistake which had occasioned such a turmoil near *Olstad*. This was the case at *Moen*: we had passed the relay before we

were aware of it. The church is a picturesque object; and the same may be said of almost every ecclesiastical structure in *Norway*. In going from *Moen* to *Oden*, the numerous farm-houses, with all their out-buildings, like so many villages, reach, from the water's edge, over all the mountains quite up to their summits: some of them appearing even in the upland snows, afford, certainly, one of the most remarkable sights in *Europe*. Something of the same nature may be observed, it is true, in *Switzerland*, but not to the same extent; neither are the prospects so richly diversified as in *Norway*, where the great variety and beauty of the forests make the view more striking. As we continued our descent, the snow upon the heights became less conspicuous, and appeared in less quantity. We still found rare specimens of *saxifraga* in flower upon the rocks, together with many beautiful mosses and autumnal plants. The gaudy tints upon the woods, at this season of the year, gave an exquisite luxuriance to the landscape. The only tree yet affected by the night frosts was the *birch*, which was beginning to lose its leaves; and this tree, being abundant in all the forests, blended, with singular beauty, its yellow and red tints with the deep green of the *pine*, the *alder*, the *aspen*, the *linden*,

Beauty of
the Forests.

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Oden.

Tumuli.

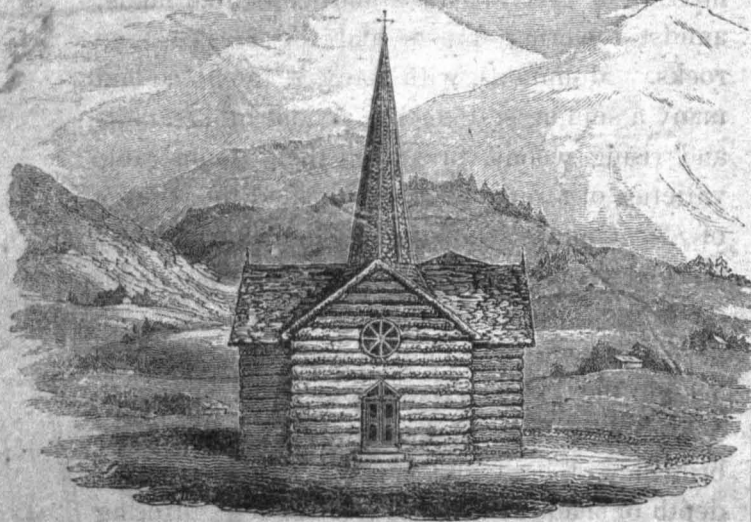
and the *æxel*¹. From the mountains on every side there fell numerous cascades. We did not pass a mile without being charmed with some new and striking scene. The dress of the inhabitants does not materially differ from that used by the natives in the *north* of *Norway*, excepting that red worsted caps were now very generally worn. Having passed *Oden*, on the right-hand in going to *Elstad* between the road and the river, we observed an antient conical *tumulus*, perfect as to its state of preservation, and of considerable magnitude. It was covered with green turf: upon its summit, in the place once occupied by the primeval *stélé*, was a groupe of trees. Near this *tumulus* there is another, with a single tree growing upon it; and, not far distant, may be observed the remains of other mounds of the same nature, less perfect as to their forms. We had a curious trait of the different virtues of the *priest* and the *peasant* at *Oden*. Upon our arrival at the post-house, we found a party of beggars hospitably entertained by the poor owners of the dwelling, who supplied them with meat and drink, and a comfortable fire, after their long journey. These beggars

(1) *Cratægus Aria*.

were old women; whither bound we know not; but a poet might have imagined them to be Gods in disguise, proving the hospitality of *Baucis* and *Philemon*. They had been, they said, to the priest, to crave a little charity; but were dismissed by the reverend pastor with a load of reproaches and the most abusive language. In the evening we arrived at *Elstad*, situate upon a natural mound, or rampart, above the river, at the southern extremity of one of the finest valleys in *Norway*. Here our former companions, *Malthus* and *Otter*, had halted in their journey, being struck by the beauty of the scenery; that they might enjoy the pleasures of bathing in the *Louven*, and of rambling about the mountains. The valley itself is perfectly level, highly cultivated, and surrounded by very high mountains, seeming to close it in on every side. The sides of those mountains are covered by farms and farm-houses. Their bleak and lofty summits were now capped with snow. Had we visited this valley, as our friends did, from the *south*, we should doubtless have felt the sensations which they experienced in viewing it; but having beheld so many finer scenes in *Norway*, we were no otherwise struck by the appearance of *Elstad*, than as a continuation of

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that series of beautiful landscapes which we have already so often described, in following the course of the *Louven*. In fact, the river here did not present itself with its usual effect; being, at this season, full of shallows and sand-banks, which, by dividing its current into several separate streams, diminish its general grandeur. The Church of *Elstad*,



placed in a commanding situation upon the eastern side of it, presents an object highly picturesque, from whatever point of view it is

regarded. In the style and materials of the architecture, these wooden churches remind one of *Switzerland*; and many customs in which the two countries seem to agree have been already noticed. There are many circumstances in which the features of the landscape are in both countries the same; but in *Norway* a finer effect is produced by the abrupt elevation of the mountains, the bolder character of the precipices, and the varying features caused by a mixture of green pasture and cultivated fields, amidst towering forests and the most barren rocks. Mountains, with many a precipice and many a smiling settlement, amidst broken cliffs and rising woods, presented their innumerable varieties of form, and colour, behind the Church of *Elstad*, as we were engaged in making a hasty sketch of this building; one of the most inadequate to represent the real scene, which we have yet ventured to introduce; because wanting all the characteristic touches necessary to delineate every rude and fantastic form, every brilliancy of light and colour, the breadth and depth of shadow, the hoary rocks and glittering heights, "all that the mountain's sheltering bosom shields," and all the dread magnificence of Nature.

CHAP.
VI.Lake
Müsen.*

Lösnes.

Remark-
able Chasm
and Bridge

Leaving *Elstad*, we had to climb one of the mountains that surround the valley; and we had no sooner gained the summit, than another valley, not less enchanting, presented itself: and this succession of beautiful landscapes, characterizing all the country in the descent from *Dovrefield*, is exhibited to the traveller the whole way to *Christiania*. Well, therefore, may it meet with the encomiums that have been lavished upon it by every foreigner of taste that has yet visited this hitherto-neglected land. The river, now widened, had formed itself into a lake, which soon afterwards, extending more than seventy *English* miles in length, is called the *Müsen Söe*. Our carriage broke, upon this mountain; and we walked to *Lösnes*. About half-way we passed over a remarkable bridge, thrown, with a degree of boldness that quite astonished us, across a fearful chasm, at the bottom of which rushes an impetuous cataract. An inscription placed upon this bridge, mentions the history of it, in the following words:

TROMSEBROEN I RINGBOE

OPBYGET IGIEN AF NYE I

AARET 1791.

DEN LIGER 45 ALEN HOYT

FRA WANDES OVERFLADE.

SAMME BROE HOLDES FOR AT

WERE DEN SOM I SNORRO STURLESEN

KALDES IN RINGEBROE HVILKEN HERTUG

SCHUULE PASERACTA

OG HANS KRODE HÆST BLEY

SCHUDT UNDER HAM DA HAND

EFTERATT ULYKKES I ET SLAG WED

OPSLOE VILDE

FLYE OVER TIL TRØNHIEM.

DU REISENDE SOM WANDRER HER BETRACT NATTURENS UNDER

AGT NØYE PAA GUDS GIERNINGER, DU SEER DEM ALLE STUNDER

HAN HAR BEREDET VEY OGE STÜ PAA LAND PAA VAN MED MEERE

AT MENESKER KAN VANDRE FRIT VOR

GUDE SCHEE TACK OCH ÆRE.

This inscription is written in the *Norwegian* language, which is neither *Danish* nor *Swedish*, but resembles the former more than the latter. It was evidently the work of some illiterate person, if we may judge from its orthography, &c. The last lines were intended for poetry, but of a very humble kind. No attempt, therefore, will be made to render these lines into verse, but merely to translate the whole literally.

TROMSEBRIDGE IN RINGBOE
 BUILT AGAIN ANEW IN
 THE YEAR 1791.
 IT LIES 45 ELLS HIGH
 FROM THE WATERS SURFACE.
 THE SAME BRIDGE IS HELD TO
 BE THAT WHICH IN SNORRO STURLESEN
 IS CALLED (*said to be*) IN RINGBROE, WHICH DUKE
 SCHUULE PASERACTA
 AND HIS WHITE HORSE BLEY
 BEAT DOWN UNDER HIM WHEN HE
 AFTER HAVING BEEN SUCCESSFUL AT THE BATTLE AT
 OPSLOE WISHED
 TO FLY OVER TO DRONTHEIM.
 THOU, TRAVELLER! THAT WANDEREST HERE, CONSIDER
 NATURE'S WONDERS;
 THINK DEEPLY ON THE WORKS OF GOD; THOU SEEST THEM
 EVERY HOUR:
 HE HATH PREPARED ROADS AND PATHS ON LAND, ON
 WATER, WITH MANY MORE THINGS,
 THAT MAN MAY GO SECURE.
 TO GOD BE THANKS AND HONOUR!

At *Lösnes* we were informed that the skin of
 the *Cat-Goub* has not commonly sold for a higher
 price, in this country, than seven rix-dollars;
 although the lowest value set upon it by the
 furriers in *Hamburgh* equals one hundred. After

we left this place, we continued our journey in carts, until we came to *Stav*; and amused ourselves, upon the road, hunting the grey-squirrels, which are very abundant, and in seeing the surprising leaps they take, especially when they precipitate themselves from the tops of the trees. From *Stav* we proceeded to *Moshuus*, where there is a good inn. We found here a sort of cheese made with sugar in it. Birch boughs, and other young shoots, were heaped upon racks near the road, as winter fodder for the cattle. A careless observer of the wild exuberance in which vegetation appears throughout *Norway* might suppose that a considerable part, at least, of the productions of the forests is wasted; but this is not true. The industry of the *Norwegians* induces them to appropriate almost every thing to some useful purpose. Their *summum bonum* seems to consist in the produce of the *fir*. This tree affords materials for building their houses, churches, and bridges—for every article of their household furniture—for constructing sledges, carts, and boats—besides fuel for their hearths. With its leaves they strew their floors, and afterwards burn them, and collect the ashes for manure. The *birch* affords, in its leaves and tender twigs, a grateful fodder for their cattle, and bark for

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VI.*Stav.**Moshuus.*Economy
of the Na-
tives.

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covering their houses. The bark of the *elm*, in powder, is boiled up with other food, to fatten hogs: sometimes, but rarely, it is used in the composition of their bread¹. The flowers of the *Hæg-ber* flavour their distilled spirits. The moss, as a substitute for mortar, is used in caulking the interstices between their timber walls. The *turf* covers their roofs. A species of *Lycopodium* is employed in dyeing their woollen. Even the leaves, as they fall from the trees, are carefully raked together, and preserved, to increase their stock of fodder. At *Moshuus*, a mob of young men were collected before the door of the inn. They had been summoned for the purpose of being enrolled. After the age of fifteen, every *Norwegian* is considered as being in his Majesty's service; and once in every year an officer visits every district, to note down the names and to measure the heights of the young men: he also notices any alteration that may have happened in their growth, since the former year. These young men all appeared in their scarlet bonnets and best white coats; which dress is the costume of this part of *Norway*.

(1) See *Pontoppidan's Nat. Hist. of Norway*, Part I. p. 139, Note. Lond. 1755.

A few notes, written as instructions for our route, by our friends at *Trönjhem*, recommended it to us, after passing *Moshuus*, to cross the *Louven*, and to continue our journey on the western rather than on the eastern side of the *Miösen* Lake; as being a shorter and a better way. We found the road, however, on the western side, almost impassable, principally owing to the lateness of the season. Bad, indeed, must be the road by *Lille Hammer*, *Ringsager*, *Furnæs*, *Hoff*, and *Morstuen*, if it can possibly be worse than this which we pursued! After leaving *Moshuus*, we proceeded, by the king's road, as far as *Sunde*, where we crossed the *Louven*, by a ferry, in order to get to *Torsted*. Here we joined the new road which we had been advised to take.

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VI.

Deviation
from the
King's
Road.

Sunde.

Torsted.

It is a remarkable circumstance, that a river of such magnitude as the *Louven* should appear without a name in the very best maps extant of NORWAY. Even the perspicuous and accurate *D'Anville*, of whom it has been said that his blanks are not without instruction, has omitted the name of this river: yet the whole of the renowned *Guldbrandsdale* is owing to its impetuous torrent. *Pontoppidan* takes no notice of it; and a map quite disgraceful to geography, which is prefixed to the *English* edition of his

Louven
River.

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VI.

work, has given with great inaccuracy these cour-
 of the river, but affixes no name to it. This may
 be owing to the different appellations borne by
 this river, in different parts of its course. 'Near
 the *Miösen* it is called *Miösen Elv.* At *Lille
 Hammer*, where it contracts suddenly, it loses
 this appellation; it is then about as broad as
 the *Thames* at *London*; and higher up, towards
 its source, it often changes its name. This is
 owing to the different forms it assumes; being
 now an impetuous torrent, now a lake, as the
 valley through which it flows is expanded or
 contracted. Its shores, throughout its whole
 course, being formed by the bases of the moun-
 tains, nothing can be more beautiful than the
 prospects it affords. Below *Minne*, or *Minde*,
 at the southern extremity of the *Miösen*, it is
 always in the form of a river; and in the large
 map of *Norway*, by *Pontoppidan*, it is called *Vor-
 men*, until this name also is lost with the river
 in the *Glommen*, the principal branch of which
 falls into the sea at *Frederichstad*.'

Difficulties
 of the
 Route.

We soon had occasion, in the badness of the
 road, to repent of the step we had taken, in
 leaving the old highway for this New Cut, as it
 is called. It rained during the whole day; and

Ronne.

we were happy in finding a good inn at *Ronne*,
 where we determined to halt. Both *Torsted*