

## B

- No. 33, valley of Stadarhraun, which was full of lava, the  
34 mountains consisted of the same materials as those we  
had left behind; and contained great plenty of zeo-  
lites of every description. I found one remarkably  
fine specimen, half of which is placed in the cabinet  
of Mr Allan, and the remainder in that of the college  
of this city. It was found entire, among the debris,  
and was afterwards broken, when it displayed a most  
beautiful cavity.
- 35 A specimen of the amygdaloidal rock containing stil-  
bite.
- 36 Lava from Roudemelr. It contains a great quantity  
of augit, and altered olivin.
- 37 A specimen of the range of columns near that place.  
This rock does not differ, except in its being more  
compact, from the lava of Havnefiord and other  
places.
- 38 Part of a rolled mass of sienitic greenstone, the fel-  
spar white.
- 39, 40 Depositions from the spring at Lysiehous, chiefly  
41 calcareous. Not far from this spring are large quan-  
42, 43, tities, several acres, of petrifications that have been  
44 formed by some ancient springs which held silica in  
solution.
- 45 Lava of Buderstad, which differs from that at Havne-  
fiord in containing augit.
- 46 From the columns at Stappen. Here there is still a  
resemblance to common lava, only this contains less  
olivin than the lavas we had met with before.
- 47 From the lower end of a column. Wherever we saw  
48, 49, the lower ends they were slaggy. Slags were found  
50 in the heart of some, and lining every cavity we ob-

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- No. 50 served. The specimens can hardly leave a doubt of the action of heat.
- 51, 52, From a stream of lava that has flowed from Snæfell
- 53, 54 Jokul. The more compact specimens are exactly similar to black basalt. In several parts of this stream, we saw masses very different from the lava in general. They contain a few minute vesicles, some very small crystals of felspar, and specks of augit. The general colour of the stone is ash grey, spotted with white, and it appears to have a slaty texture.
- 55
- 56 A specimen of pumice, picked up from among many that still remain of those heaps which were washed on shore during the eruption in 1783. Masses of pumice exactly similar to this, have been frequently found on the north coast of Ireland; and, in all probability, were derived from the same source, having floated on the surface of the ocean from the place where the marine eruption took place.
- 57, 58, Slags, pumice and obsidian, from the Snæfell Jokul.
- 59, 60, These were picked up by my friends, from a bank composed of them, and which was free from snow.
- 61
- 62, 63, Specimens from a bed on the mountain between Stappen and Olafsvik. The upper part of this bed (B62) is a perfect greenstone, containing small specks of olivin, augit, and felspar. The middle part of the bed (63) has a coarse and scorified appearance; and the lower part (64) is completely slaggy.
- 64
- 65 From another bed on the same road. It contains the largest masses of augit we had observed. We should have remarked that we did not see any augit distinctly crystallised.
- 66 Part of a rock which is heaved up into blisters, like

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- No. 66 those near Reikiavik. It is very like A 1, but is more generally vesicular.
- 67 Tuffa on which a grand range of columns, on the road to Olafsvik, rested.
- 68 Is a part of one of the columns, which differ from those at Stappen in being more compact.
- 69 From a large rolled mass in the river near the columns. It is a highly crystallised greenstone, containing augit and large crystals of felspar.

The rocks about Olafsvik are amygdaloidal; and, in several places, beds of tuffa present themselves. The most curious appearance in this neighbourhood, is a vein of slaggy matter, passing through the bank of gravel which forms the beach.

- On a point of land several miles to the eastward of Olafsvik, are some fine ranges of columns overhanging the sea. Some of these appear as if they had been twisted. At the only place where they were accessible, they presented an undulated appearance on the lower ends, at the separation of the columns from a bed of amygdaloid on which they rested; but of this it was difficult to obtain specimens. When broken, the fracture exhibits the vitreous appearance so often observed on the sides of veins. In some places the same slaggy appearance is seen on the sides, and also in the very heart of the columns.
- 71
- 72
- 73
- 74, 75
- 76 Specimens of greenstone, from a mass that had fallen from a precipice not far from Bulandshöfdè.
- 77 Another mass from the same place. It is of an ash grey colour, vesicular, the vesicles being irregularly shaped, and lined with minute transparent crystals.

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No. 77 Some of the vesicles contained minute diverging crystals of calcareous spar. Near a cascade, mentioned 78, 79, in the Journal, p. 184, we observed numerous veins of 80 greenstone passing through rock, of the same substance, tuffa, and amygdaloid, all in the greatest confusion.

In this part of the country, tuffa frequently occurs; and when it forms the tops of mountains, it is easily recognised by the rugged and fantastic peaks which they present, similar to those in the view of the sulphur mountains. At Stikkesholm, we observed a vein of greenstone, standing erect like a wall, about the height of ten feet, the beds of greenstone on each side having been worn away. The sides, as usual, 82 were vitreous. It contained nodules of obsidian.

83 Shows both sides of a vein, containing small nodules of the same substance. A vein of calcareous spar traverses the rock in various directions; from 84 one of which we took a specimen of semi-opal.

85 Is a specimen of highly crystallised greenstone, which is disseminated through part of the rock near this place.

86 Mineralised wood from Drapuhlid. (*Vid. p. 368 et seq.*)

87 Ash grey pearlstone from the same mountain.

88, 89 Greenish black pearlstone from the same.

90, 91 This rock was immediately above the preceding.

92, 93 Above the last. This rock greatly resembles some we observed near Houls, where it was connected with pitchstone. The colour is dark bluish grey, with round reddish white specks. The fracture is uneven and earthy, and is somewhat slaty in the texture.

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- No. 94 This appears to be the same rock, entirely slaty, with the specks hardly visible; the beds were horizontal. These two rocks are similar to the fossils which accompany some of the pitchstone veins in the island of Arran.
- 95 From a vein of pitchstone at the base of the mountain of Baula, on the west side. The colour is greenish grey. This has much of the character of pearlstone.
- 96 Dark green pitchstone, from the same place.
- 97 Pitchstone porphyry, from the same place.
- 98 This is from a rock connected with the pitchstone veins of Baula, probably a variety of porphyry slate.
- 99, 100 Small masses of coaly matter, which were given to me as having been found on the mountain of Baula. Both have a strong resemblance to wood, but are different from that of Drapuhlid. They contain a small quantity of pyrites, and burn with flame.

## C

- No. 1 This tuffa was found at Eyalstadir, and is the same with B 10, from the mountain of Akkrefell. It is here connected in the same manner with submarine lava.
- 2 The under surface of a bed of amygdaloid resting on tuffa, which has the peculiar characters of a slag. The bottom of this bed is not exposed in many places, being concealed by debris. It is probable, that, in the course of the river Thiorsaa, in places higher up, some interesting examples of submarine lava may be seen.
- 3 The upper part of the rock, containing analcime.
- 4 The same, with green steatite.

## C

- No. 5 Black obsidian. This occurs only in detached masses at the place where this specimen was found. It exists in great quantity in the neighbourhood of Mount Krabla; from whence, we were informed, all the specimens of Icelandic agate, in the European cabinets, were brought. This is not so perfectly vitreous as specimens we have seen from the north of Iceland.
- 6 The most common variety in the great stream which we saw. It is vesicular, with white crystals of felspar scattered through the mass.
- 7 In this the vesicles are elongated, and flattened so much, that when viewed in one direction, it seems as if composed of plates. The other fractures show distinctly the vesicular structure. The crystals of felspar are nearly disengaged. We have seen many similar specimens from Lipari.
- 8 Contains more felspar; the vesicles are minute; and it approaches to pumice.
- 9, 10 Show the whole gradation from compact obsidian, to the most perfect pumice.
- 11 This contains felspar, and is blackish grey. It wants the vitreous lustre, and its fracture is uneven. It is dense, and somewhat vesicular. This and the following have been called compact pearlstone by Mr Jameson.
- 12 The vesicles of this are studded with minute globular, white, and hard masses. It is of an ash grey colour,
- 13 and passes into obsidian. One variety has a peculiar aspect; appearing, when fresh broken, as if dusted over with a purplish grey powder.
- 14 These are seen, in different specimens, passing to
- 15, 16 obsidian, which appears in layers. One specimen

- (C 14) exhibits small globular masses of a reddish grey colour, dispersed through the obsidian.
- No. 17 In this specimen, all these are seen connected, as well as the gradation into pumice.
- 18, 19 These specimens have masses of slag attached to them. Pumice occurs above the obsidian; and from the motion of the stream when flowing, has been sometimes included in it.
- 20 This is a remarkable and beautiful specimen, the last of the series from the stream of obsidian. It is a mass of slag, in a cavity of which some fusible matter has been included, and reduced to the state of glass. The cavity is lined by it in stalactitic masses; and some of the matter has been drawn out to the fineness of hair. No operation of water could possibly produce these appearances.
- 21 to 27 Are specimens of lava from Mount Hekla, which are very like those from the Snæfell Jokul, B 51, &c.
- The remaining numbers to C 40, inclusive, are varieties of slags from Hekla; C 33, 34, being from the very summit of that celebrated mountain.
- 39 Is the only mass we found having the appearance of an ejected stone: it is little altered, and is probably sienite.
- 40 Is a specimen from the hills of tuffa which surround Hekla.

The specimens from the Geysers are marked from D 1, to D 41.

As the productions of the hot springs in Iceland, are of a nature entirely different from those of any other springs in the known world, it is probably not presuming too much when it is proposed to mineralogists, to form a separate class

of those minerals, which have been deposited from chemical solution in water, under the general name of *Hydrolite*, and to arrange the stony depositions of water under the heads of calcareous and siliceous Hydrolite. This is perhaps a more precise denomination than *Sinter*, the word used by Werner, and at once conveys the *known* mode of the formation of such substances. We shall, at present, only point out the specimens in a very general manner.

## D

- No. 1 to 5 The outer part of the mount, 1, 2, being the surface, and much resembling the head of cauliflowers; or, both in colour and appearance, a piece of sponge.
- 6, 7 From the inside of the bason. This takes a tolerable polish, and is very pretty. The vertical section has a dendritic appearance, from the intermixture of brownish streaks with the mass which is chiefly white. The cross fracture presents roundish white spots surrounded by the brownish matter. The fracture is vitreous, and the substance is very brittle. It scratches glass with difficulty.
- 8 Is a mass of old incrustation, coated over with recently deposited matter. It was taken from a hollow on the mount in which the water was retained.
- 9 Is part of the depositions of the New Geyser, formed, apparently, when that fountain presented phenomena different from what it now does.
- 10, 11 From the beautiful cavity described p. 212. The specimens resemble the capital of a Gothic column.
- 13 Is from the same place.
- 14 A mass of turf, on which the water, after having cooled, was depositing its contents while the grass was yet growing.

## D

15 to 18 Masses of petrified leaves, &c.

19 This was picked up among the old incrustations. The opaline matter is arranged in waved lines, which are separated by layers of an open texture, resembling the tables of the scull separated by cellular bone.

20 Contains leaves and rushes, and is discoloured by iron.

21, 22 Masses of petrified peat, containing rushes and branches.

23 Clay from the muddy springs.

24 Shows the opaline matter in layers.

25 Appears to have been produced by the deposition having taken place upon a conferva.

To D37 Varieties of depositions and petrifications.

38, 39 From the spring to the northward of the Geysers. It bears a very striking resemblance to opal.

40 A very curious specimen picked up on the clay bank above the great Geyser. It is in a state of decomposition, and is a good model of a rocky promontory.

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No. IV.

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES, CONNECTED WITH HISTORY,  
LITERATURE, &c.

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BY H. HOLLAND, M. D.

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*The Berserkine Superstition.*

A SHORT account of this superstition has been given in a note to the Preliminary Dissertation, p. 39. The Berserkir, or magical wrestlers, are thus described in the Hist. Eccles. Island. tom. 1. p. 45, note:—‘ Tales athletæ, antiquâ linguâ  
‘ vocantur *Berserkir*, id est, nudi et sine loricâ in cædes et  
‘ pugnas ruentes. Erant viri robusti, sed facinorosi, et ut  
‘ plurimum incantatores, qui cutem arte diabolicâ indurave-  
‘ rant, ne iis ferrum ignisve nocere posset. His furore per-  
‘ citis, ita ad tempus intendebantur vires, ut postea debiles  
‘ et languidi fierent.’ In the treatise *De Berserkis*, annexed to the Kristni Saga, the following account is given of the paroxysms to which these men were subject:—‘ Effectus furo-  
‘ ris Berserkici ex veterum traditionibus præcipui fuerunt,  
‘ quòd eo occupati, ferocitate canum luporumve æmula, ore  
‘ torvum infremerent, clypeosque morsibus non modo attrec-  
‘ tarent, sed et ex parte consumerent; porro quòd robore  
‘ tauros ursosve æquante augerentur, ferro impenetrabiles

‘ evaderent, incendia et flammæ nudis etiam pedibus percurrerent et penetrarent ; denique et torridas prunas igneasve carbones deglutirent.’ p. 159. By Snorro Sturleson and others, the origin of this superstition is ascribed to Odin himself, who was supposed, in those times, not only to have instructed the original Berserkir in the magical arts, upon which their powers depended, but also to exercise an immediate influence upon the mind in every instance where this *furor* was present. With respect to the real history of the superstition, it is probable that some of the Berserkir were men of weak judgment and a depraved imagination, who became almost involuntary agents in these absurdities : others, doubtless, were merely impostors, who assumed this strange character that they might the better work upon the prejudices and terrors of those around them.

For some centuries past, it has been customary among the Icelanders, during the period of any great volcanic eruption, to appoint a day of general prayer and supplication. This was first done in the northern parts of the island in 1477, when a great assembly was convened of the inhabitants of the district. The following is the preamble to the record preserved of the vows and other religious ceremonies of this meeting.

‘ In nomine Domini, amen ! Die Martis primo mensis hyemis ultimi, anno P. C. 1477, in Grund in Eyafjord, convenere clerici et laici inter Vargaa et Gleraa habitantes, et locuti sunt de terribilibus prodigiis, quæ tunc premebant ; eruptio nempe ignis, dispersio decidentis arenæ atque cineris, tenebræ et horrendi stridores. Horum prodigiorum causâ pecora alimentis destituebantur, terra licet nive va-

'cua esset. Convenit inter eos hoc profectò accidisse in  
 'peccatorum et prævaricationum humanarum pœnam: hinc  
 'omnes in id consenserunt, ut gratiam et misericordiam ibi,  
 'ubi abundant, scilicet apud Deum ipsum quærent, ut  
 'ille suæ iræ vindictum a nobis avertere vellet. Non igitur  
 'ulterius divinas castigationes et pœnas in hoc mundo de-  
 'precabimur: ne autem regnum cœlorum nobis occludat,  
 'elegimus, ut Deus, qui omnia scit atque potest, et ea quæ  
 'optima sunt, vult, nobis omnibus et in præsens et in futu-  
 'rum consulat. In primis votum vovebamus omnipotenti  
 'Deo, illi qui est fons omnium bonorum: illustri deinde re-  
 'ginæ Virgini sanctæ Mariæ; sancto Michaeli Archangelo,  
 'et omnibus Dei angelis: sancto Johanni Baptistæ,' &c.

The structure of the ancient Icelandic or Scandinavian  
 verse has been briefly described in the Preliminary Disserta-  
 tion, p. 22. The following verses will furnish a specimen of  
 the modes of alliteration which were employed in the poetry  
 of these times, and upon which its harmony was considered  
 so much to depend. They form the beginning of a sacred  
 poem, called the Liliun, which was composed during the  
 14th century, by Eystein, an Icelandic monk, who possessed  
 much reputation at this period.

Almatigr Gud, allra stetta  
 Yferbiodandinn, engla og thioda,  
 Ei thurfandi stadi ne standir,  
 Stad halldandi i kyrreleiks valldi;  
 Senn verandi uti og inni,  
 Uppi og nidri og thar i midiu,  
 Lof se ther um alldr og æfi  
 Eining sonn i thrennum greinum!

All powerful God, who presidest over  
 all orders of beings, both angels and  
 mortals; who, independent of place and  
 time, continuest undisturbed in thy so-  
 vereign power; who at once art with-  
 out and within, above and below, and in  
 the midst; praise be unto thee for ever  
 and ever, the true unity in trinity!

Æski ec thin en mikla miskunn  
 Mer veitist, er ec epterleita  
 Af klockum hug; thui ec ynnist ecki  
 Annad gott, nema af ther, Drottinn:  
 Hreinsa briost, oc leid med listum  
 Loflig ord i studla skordum,  
 Stefnlig giord svo visan verdi  
 Vunnin ydur af thessum munni.

I ask of thee, that in thy great mercy,  
 thou wouldst grant me what I implore  
 with a submissive soul; for I desire no  
 other good than what comes from thee,  
 Lord: Cleanse my breast, and dispose  
 suitable words with elegance into poeti-  
 cal numbers, that a song of graceful  
 structure may be offered up unto thee  
 from my mouth.

The alliteration employed here is of two kinds; one correspondence appearing in the initial letters or syllables, another in certain letters which occur in the middle of words. Where the alliteration is initial, the same letters generally occur twice in the first line of each distich, and are once repeated in the second. Thus, in the first distich of the second verse, we find *mikla, miskun, mer*; in the third we have *leid, listum, lofig*; in the fourth, *visan, verdi, vunnin*. The rhythm in the middle of the words is also of two kinds. In the first line, the same consonants twice occur, with different vowels preceding them; in the second, the alliteration is complete, both as to the consonants and vowels. Thus, in the first verse, we have of the former kind, *almattigr, stetta,—thurfandi, stundir,—senn, inni,—lof, æfi*. Of the second kind, we have, *yferbióðandinn, thióða,—halldandi, valldi,—nidri, midiu,—eining, greinum*.

This poem, which consists of a hundred stanzas, was, at the time it was written, in much repute among the Icelanders for the elegance and accuracy of its style. There is an old saying in the language, *Oll skálld villdu Liliu kuedit hafa*; or, 'Every poet would wish to have composed the Lilium.'

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The following verses are part of a poem composed by Finnur Magnuson of Reikiavik, in commemoration of the

events which occurred in Iceland in 1809. The first nine verses are descriptive of the earlier condition of Iceland. Those succeeding, which are taken from another part of the poem, describe the usurpation of Jorgensen, in language which certainly assumes some license in the poetic embellishment of facts. In these verses, it will be observed that the alliteration is very frequent, in imitation of the ancient Icelandic poetry.

Fieck theim frelsi  
Frædi skopud,  
Rit og mal  
Retti nadu.

Liberty brought forth the elegant arts: writing and speech obtained their proper privilege.

Gall thar greppa  
Gullinn harpa;  
Fedra saung  
Fræg threkvirki.

The golden harp of the bard gave forth its sound: it sung the heroic deeds of our forefathers.

Sin og kunnra  
Sam lifenda  
Orlog og verk  
Adrir skradu.

The fates, and the deeds, of themselves and of their contemporaries, were written by others.

Skalda log,  
Skrifs og mælsken,  
Lista og ydna  
Litu ritinn.

The laws of poetry, of composition, of oratory, of the arts, and of workmanship, were committed to writings.

Undrast enn  
Europear  
Frodir visindi  
Fedra vorra.

The European nations even now admired the learning and wisdom of our forefathers.

Breyttist fron,  
Breyttust landar;  
Ærdust their auds  
Og æru-syki.

The land was changed, the people were changed: the seeking of wealth and honours became a madness among them.

Mottu hvarfveggja  
Mentum fremur :  
Kings og Klerka  
Kugun hrepptu.

They preferred these things  
to the pursuit of knowledge :  
kings and priests obtained the  
mastery over them.

Soadi meingi  
Svartur daudi :  
Hvarf ur landi  
Hrodur forni.

The *Black-Death*\* devoured the  
people : its ancient glory de-  
parted from the land.

Forust lystir  
Fie og sæla :  
Vesladist fold  
Og fegurð tyndi.

The arts, wealth, and happi-  
ness, perished : the ground,  
diminished in fertility, lost its  
pleasantness.

Lietst hann Engla  
Lofdung thiona  
Hermagtar hanns  
Hafa fylgi.

He pretended that he served  
the English king ; that he de-  
pended on the protection of  
his armies.

Vopnadiz brodir  
Bormum moti :  
Enn otti greip  
Adra lydi.

He armed brothers against  
each other : terror seized the  
remainder of the people ;

Hofdu ei sied  
Sverd nie dreira,  
Lagaleysi  
Lutu naudgir.

Who had never before beheld  
the sword or blood, and unwil-  
lingly submitted to the inso-  
lent yoke.

Sa hinn oblgari  
Ebldi virki  
Og heldocku  
Hreikti mirki.

He more powerful raised for-  
tifications ; and erected his  
standard black as hell.

\* The plague which devastated Iceland at the beginning of the 14th century, is emphatically called, in the writings of the country, *Svartur Daudi*, or the *Black Death*.

Tok hann tignar Títil jarla, Vogandi mildings Magt eigna.	He took a lordly title; having dared to assume possession of the supreme power.
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Lietst at thiod vorri Th ar til kiorim, Ad hun uppreitar Oll svo krefdi.	He pretended that our people wished for these things; and that they all demanded these tumults.
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The following verses are an extract from the translation of Pope's Essay on Man by Jonas Thorlakson, the priest of Backa. They include the first twelve lines of the fourth epistle, beginning,

“ O Happiness! our being's end and aim!”

O! farsæld! þu vort einka hnoss,  
Astefnda lífs og veru mid!  
Lust, gleði, rósemd. alnægd oss!  
Oeld hvað helst nafn þig brufar við!  
Eitthvað sem girnast allir menn  
Ævarandi með stundun frekt,  
Sem gíóerir lífid yndællt, en  
Andlát dauðlegum bærilegt;  
Er svo ei nálæg shnist oeld  
Samt firrist íafnan hendur manns;  
Ímist ei síest, eða' ert tvoefold  
Augum ens vísa' og heimskingians.  
Seig, himin-sæðis himna blom  
Hía oss ef bygd þer gefin var,  
Hvoer hreppti joerd, than heilla dom,  
Ad hæf se til, þu varir þar?  
Maske hófgoerdum megir a  
Með allt thit finnast glansa skraut?  
Ertu með demant hoeddum hía  
Hulin malm-æða ríkt við skaut?

Maske Parnassum byggir blid  
 Blandin larberia kransa vid?  
 Hoendla thig their, sem heyia strid,  
 Og hioervi brytia sigrad lid?

Translation of Anacreon's 34th Ode, by the Assessor Benedict Grondal.

Μη με φυγης, ορωσα.  
 Fly thu mig ecki, fagra mey!  
 Tho mer af hærum herdar vidur  
 Hrynie fannhvitir lockar nidur,  
 Fyrilit mina elsku ei,  
 Medan ther æsku endiz blom,  
 Thui ofurvel a milli rosa  
 Miallhuitar ser, at minum dom,  
 I mai-kroensum liliur hrosa.

The following is a short extract from the *Minnisverd Tíndi*, or Icelandic Historical Register, for the year intervening between the summers of 1801 and 1802. It is a part of the account of the debates which took place in the British Houses of Parliament, upon the peace of Amiens. The celebrated speech of Mr Windham on this occasion, is given at considerable length.

‘ Merkileg var fyrsta seta ens enska Parlaments eptir Fri-  
 ‘ dar-gioerdina, tha Hertoginn af Bolton, eptir nockra bid,  
 ‘ —thui thenari hans kom orseint med ræduna,—baud Yfir-  
 ‘ husinu ad samglediast med ser yfir stridsins luckulegu en-  
 ‘ dingu, og quad tillhydilegt, ad thetta Rikisins haa rad leti  
 ‘ thess vegna Konunginum skriflega thackargioerd i tie, hvoer  
 ‘ ogsvo af oellum Radherrunum i einu hliodi alyktadist ad  
 ‘ ske skyldi. I Undir-husinu framsetti Lord Lovaine lika  
 ‘ osk, og gafu flestir mali hans godann ordrom. Medal

‘ theirra reis thar upp fyrstur fals-vinurinn Fox, og nærst  
 ‘ eptir hann hinn nafnkunni Pitt, er badir urdu a einu mali,  
 ‘ hvad thessi sagdi gleddi sitt hiarta, thar their Fox og hann,  
 ‘ aldrei fyrr hefdu ordid, samthyckir a æfi sinni, en—moti  
 ‘ theim reis upp gamall vinur Pitts, og fyrrverandi Stjornar-  
 ‘ herra Windham, er sagdist engannveginna geta samsiunt  
 ‘ thessu thacklæti, thar ser vyrdtist fridur vid Frankariki,  
 ‘ i thessum kringumstædum, vera mioeg htryggur, og jafnvel  
 ‘ skammarlegur fyrir-hina ensku thiod, og, eins og hann tok  
 ‘ til ords, *Thangadur med eynd og olucku*—“ Eg verd ” sagdi  
 ‘ hann, “ ad vera syrgiandi i gledinnar hop,” &c. &c.

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The following is a catalogue of a few of the papers which appeared in the Transactions of the first Literary Society of Iceland. They are taken indiscriminately from the different volumes of this work.

List of Icelandic plants, fishes, and birds, with their Linnæan names. By Olaf Olafson.

Treatise on the catching of whales. By John Ericson.

On the mines and merchandize of sulphur in Iceland. By Bishop Finsson.

On the maintenance of orphans and crippled persons. By Sysselman Ketilson.

On the catching of sea-fowl at Skaga-fiord. By Olaf Olafson.

On the sea and river-fisheries of Iceland. By Olaf Stephenson.

On the cultivation of trees in Iceland. By Skule Magnuson.

Review and correction of the Icelandic version of certain passages in the Prophecies. A series of treatises by John Olafson.

On the advantages of horned cattle. By Olaf Stephenson.

On the catching of foxes. By Thord Thorkelson, farmer in Eyafjord Syssel.

On faithfulness and affection in servants; and how these qualities may best be produced and cultivated. By Sysselman Einarson.

Treatises on the wheel and axle, inclined plane, screw, &c. By Stephen Birnson.

On the alkaline salt from sea-ware. Translated from the Danish by Assessor Benedict Grøndal.

A short commentary on the flowing back of the waters of the Red Sea for the passage of the Israelites. By Stephen Thorarensen.

A key to meteorological changes, of the sun, moon, stars, air, winds, &c. By Stephen Biornson.

On the causes of the diseases prevailing in Iceland. By John Peterson.

On the building of habitations in Iceland. By Provost Sweinson.

Dr James Home's Essay on the Scurvy. Translated into Icelandic by Land-physicus Sweinson.

On the cookery of fish, flesh, meat, and milk, in Iceland. By Olaf Olafson.

Some words on the free trade of Iceland. By Olaf Olafson

The alphabet of the Icelandic language presents no striking peculiarity, except in the letter called *Thorn*, *Þ*, which has been transferred from the Runic to the modern alphabet. This letter has a double sound. At the beginning of a word, it appears to be equivalent to the Hebrew *Thau*; and has a sound intermediate between *Th* and *Tsh*, such as is not unknown in the English language. At the end of a word, or after a vowel in the same syllable, it is pronounced like *d*, as in *mathur*, a man, which is pronounced *madur*.

The following are the cardinal numbers in the Icelandic language; which, to the number *four*, are declinable: the remainder, up to the *hundred*, are indeclinable words.

Eyrn,	One.	Threttan,	Thirteen.
Tveir,	Two.	Fioortan,	Fourteen.
Thryr,	Three.	Tuttugu,	Twenty.
Fioorer,	Four.	Thriatyu,	Thirty.
Fimm,	Five.	Fiorutyu,	Forty.
Sex,	Six.	Fimmtyu,	Fifty.
Sioe,	Seven.	Hundrad,	Hundred.
Aatta,	Eight.	Tvo-hundrad,	Two hundred.
Nyu,	Nine.	Thriu-hundrad,	Three hundred.
Tyu,	Ten.	Thusund,	Thousand.
Ellefu,	Eleven.	Eyrn thusund,	One thousand, &c.
Twolf,	Twelve.		

The following short catalogue of Icelandic words will show the similarity between this language and the English, derived from their origin in a common source. Numerous other examples of the same kind might have been obtained.

Aska,	Ashes.	Graata,	To weep—Scotch, <i>to greet.</i>
Back,	The Back.	Grey,	A dog — <i>grey-hund,</i> hunter's dog.
Bane,	Bane.	Greip,	A gripe.
Barn,	A child—Scotch, <i>bairn.</i>	Gulur,	Yellow.
Bed,	A bed.	Hæna,	A hen.
Bende,	To bend.	Hagl,	Hail.
Ber,	Bare.	Hil, Pret. Hulde,	To cover—a hull.
Blad,	A leaf or blade.	Hlaatur,	Laughter.
Bladra,	A bladder,	Hlaup,	A leaping—Scotch, <i>to laup.</i>
Blek,	Black.	Ida,	An eddy.
Bloma,	Flower or blossom.	Illia,	Ill—bad.
Dey,	To die.	Klyufa,	To cleave.
Dyn,	To make a noise.	Kref,	To crave—to beg.
Dyr	Dear.	Kioosa,	To choose.
Domur,	Doom—judgment.	Magur,	Meagre.
Draumur,	A dream.	Molld,	Soil—mould.
Dregg,	The dregs.	Nakenn,	Naked.
Duyn,	To fall off—Scotch, <i>to dwine.</i>	Naut,	An ox—Scotch, <i>nowt.</i>
Erende,	Errand.	Ol,	Ale.
Eymnpria,	Embers.	Oop,	A weeping.
Fader,	Father.	Poke,	A bag or poke.
Fæde,	Food.	Rettuys,	Righteous.
Fære,	I move my place—( <i>wayfar- ing man.</i> )	Rif,	A rib.
Fel,	I conceal—Scotch, <i>to feal.</i>	Spade,	Spade.
Fie,	Money—a fee.	Stam,	A stammering.
Fingur,	The finger.	Thif,	A thief.
Fiskur,	A fish.	Tidinde,	Tidings.
Foolk,	People.	Torff,	Turf.
Frys,	To freeze.	Tuinne,	Thread—twine.
Gabl,	A limit—( <i>gable end.</i> )	Vellde,	Power—to wield a <i>sceptre.</i>
Giell,	To shout, or yell.		
Giora,	To make—Scotch, <i>to gar.</i>		

Translation of a letter of recommendation, addressed by the Landfoged Frydensberg to the inhabitants of Guldbringè Syssel.

‘ Sir George Mackenzie is come from Scotland to Iceland, for the purpose of examining the natural curiosities here ; the mountains, lava, and hot-water springs. He, and the other gentlemen who are travelling with him, will first make a journey through Guldbringè Syssel ; and as they are strangers in the places where they are going, it is my earnest request that all good and respectable people will pay every attention to them, and shew kindness to these strangers, as good and hospitable Icelanders are wont to do to travellers ; assisting their journey in every way they are able, guiding them in the road from place to place, and providing food for their horses. For this purpose, I give this letter open into the hands of the Baronet to shew to the people.

‘ FRYDENBERG.

‘ *Reikiavik, 21st May, 1810.*’

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SPECIMENS

of the  
*Ancient Sacred Music*  
of  
*Ireland*

PL. 15.

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No. V.

## MUSIC.

It has been mentioned that, in modern times, the Icelanders have shewn neither genius nor taste for music. It is said, however to have been formerly taught in the island; and from the merit of some ancient sacred tunes, which we copied from a manuscript in the possession of Mr Stephenson of Indreholm, it appears that music was known as a science. We were assured by Mr Stephenson and others, that these tunes were very old, and really native compositions suited to various hymns. Having no reason to doubt these facts, I think that it may gratify the curiosity of some of our readers, to present them with a selection from the tunes alluded to, transposed from the soprano clef, in which the originals are written, to suit the piano fort e.

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## No. VI.

## REGISTER OF THE WEATHER.\*

Days of the Month.	Barometer and Thermometer at Reikiavik.		Atmosphere.	Thermometer at different Places of the Journey, and Miscellaneous Observations.
	Barom.	Ther.		
<i>May</i> 14.	.....	28°	NE. Breeze. Clear.	
15.	.....	34°	N. Gale. Do.	
16.	.....	30°	Do. Do. Do.	
17.	.....	32°	Do. Do. Do.	
18.	.....	29°	Do. Do. Do.	Ice within doors early this morning; $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick.
19.	.....	38°	NW. Moderate. Cloudy.	Snow in the afternoon. Full moon. High water of the second tide at $V\frac{1}{2}$ , 14 feet.
20.	.....	43°	N. Do. Clear.	
21.	.....	40°	SW. Do. Clear morning.	Went to Havnefiord. Snow in the afternoon. Thermometer 30°.
22.	.....	...	W. Calm. Clear.	
23.	.....	...	Do. Breeze. Do.	Evening cloudy. Wind N. Thermometer 32° at Kaldaa.
24.	.....	...	SE. Gale. Rain.	Th. 45°. Wind, evening, NNE. Fair.
25.	.....	...	S. Breeze. Clear.	— 47°. — E. At Krisuvik.
26.	.....	...	SE. Do. Do. Evening cloudy.	— 50°. — — At do.
27.	.....	...	Do. Moderate. Cloudy.	— 46°. To Grundevik. Wind freshening.
28.	.....	...	Do. Gale. Cloudy. Showers.	— 50°. To Kieblivik.
29.	.....	...	Do. Do. Rain.	— 50°. At do.
30.	.....	...	Do. Do. Showery.	— 56°. At do.
31.	.....	...	Do. Heavy gale. Rain.	— 56°. At do.
<i>June</i> 1.	.....	...	SSW. Moderate. Showers.	— 52°. Evening calm. To Havnefiord.
2.	.....	...	Do. Breeze. Clear.	— 50°. To Reikiavik. Evening, Wind S.
3.	.....	53°	S. Do. Cloudy.	— 52°. Do.
4.	30.311	58°	SW. Morn. clear. Even. cloudy.	

\* The observations were generally made between 8 and 10 o'clock A. M., unless when otherwise mentioned.

Days of the Month.	Barometer and Thermometer at Reikiavik.		Atmosphere.	Thermometer at different Places during the Journey, and Miscellaneous Observations.	
	Barom.	Ther.			
<i>June</i>	5.	30.01	58°	Do. Do. Rain.	<p>Afternoon clear. Breeze from NE. Th. 35°.</p> <p>Evening. Wind NE. Th. 47°.</p> <p>Fair afternoon. Th. at 12 o'clock, in the sun 72°, shade 61°.</p> <p>Showers towards evening.</p> <p>Left Reikiavik.</p> <p>Th. at Brauturholt, 53°.</p> <p>— at Houls, 56°.</p> <p>— at Saurbar, 56°; at 2 P. M. 65°; in the sun, 86°.</p> <p>At Indreholm. Th. 56°. In the sun, at 2 P. M. 85°.</p> <p>At do. 49°. Fog in the morning.</p> <p>— — 49°. At 12 at night, 50° at Leira.</p> <p>At Leira, 53°.</p> <p>At Huaneyre, 60°. Heavy rain, evening. At Svignaskard.</p> <p>At Svignaskard, 56°. Rain. At 4 P. M. 58°; at 8, 55°.</p> <p>Evening, at Stadarhraun, NNW. At 11 A. M. 49°; evening, 39°.</p> <p>Th. at 6 A. M. 43°; at 2 P. M. 55° at Roudemelr.</p> <p>— 49°; 10 P. M. 48°, at Miklaholt.</p> <p>— 52°, at 4 P. M. 61°, at 11 P. M. 52°, at Stadarstad.</p> <p>— 52°. To Buderstad.</p> <p>Wind, evening, N. Th. 56°, at Stappen.</p> <p>Th. 57°, at 10 P. M. 56°, at do.</p> <p>— 54°; at 2 P. M. in the sun, 82°; shade, 61°; at Olafsvik.</p> <p>— 56°.</p> <p>— 55°. Some very light showers at Olafsvik.</p> <p>— 51°; at midnight, 48°. Sun 2 h. 35 m. under the horizon, and rose 55° E. of N. At Olafsvik.</p>
	6.	29.718	47°	Do. Do. Do. Fog.	
	7.	29.87	48°	Do. Do. Do.	
	8.	30.14	46°	Do. Do. Clear.	
	9.	29.851	50°	SE. Do. Do.	
	10.	29.117	49°	NE. Calm. Do.	
	11.	29.513	50°	Do. Moderate. Showers.	
	12.	29.619	55°	NNE. Do. Do.	
	13.	29.7	46°	SE. Do. A few clouds.	
	14.	29.65	48°	Do. Do. Rain.	
	15.	29.82	51°	Do. Gale. Rain.	
	16.	29.8	51°	Do. Squally. Showers.	
	17.	29.8	60°	E. & NE. Breeze. Few clouds.	
	18.	29.83	59°	SW. Do. Clear.	
	19.	29.83	62°	Do. Calm. Do.	
	20.	29.92	56°	SW. & S. Moderate. Cloudy.	
	21.	29.84	54°	SW. Do. Do.	
	22.	29.91	56°	E. Do. Do. Rain, Evening.	
	23.	29.83	56°	SE. Do. Do. Do.	
	24.	29.51	54°	E. Do. Thick rain.	
	25.	30.1	48°	Do. Do. Morning foggy, with Showers.	
	26.	30.32	50°	SSW. Calm till evening.	
	27.	30.33	54°	SW. Moderate. Thick fog.	
	28.	30.13	53°	Do. Calm. Clear.	
29.	30.14	60°	Do. Breeze. Morning foggy.		
30.	30.21	61°	W. Calm. Clear.		
<i>July</i>	1.	30.01	64°	Do. Do. Cloudy.	
	2.	30.02	62°	NNW. Do. Clear.	
	3.	29.94	56°	W. Do. Few clouds.	
	4.	29.74	58°	NW. Calm. Cloudy.	
	5.	29.82	59°	Do. Do. Morning foggy. Evening clear.	

Days of the Month.	Barometer and Thermometer at Reikiavik.		Atmosphere.	Thermometer at different Places during the Journey, and Miscellaneous Observations.
	Barom.	Ther.		
<i>July</i> 6.	29.92	63°	NW. Calm. Cloudy.	Th. 60; 10 P. M. 51°, at Grunnefiord.
7.	29.9	50°	N. Breeze. Clear.	— 50°. At do.
8.	29.84	63°	Do. Calm. Do.	— 50°. At do.
9.	29.84	58°	SE. Breeze. A few clouds.	— at 6 A. M. 45°. At Narfeyre.
10.	29.84	58°	NE. Gale. Clear.	— 42°. Rain towards evening.
11.	29.65	48°	Do. Do. Do.	— at 4 A. M. 42°. At Snoksdalr.
12.	29.62	...	Do. Moderate. Clear.	— at 5 A. M. 41°. At Hvam.
13.	29.71	...	Do. Do. Showery.	— 45°. At Huaneyre.
14.	29.68	...	N. Do. A few clouds.	— 52°. At do.
15.	29.72	...	Do. Do. Clear.	At Reikiavik.
16.	29.75	60°	NW. Calm. Clear.	
17.	29.91	60°	W. Breeze. A few clouds.	
18.	30.015	60°	Do. Calm. Clear.	Th. in the sun, at 1 P. M. 80°; shade 68°.
19.	30.26	58°	Do. Breeze. Cloudy.	
20.	30.22	57°	Do. Do. Clear.	
21.	30.18	61°	NW. Moderate. Clear.	Evening. Wind E. Rain.
22.	29.77	60°	W. Do. Showery.	
23.	29.69	54°	Do. Do. Cloudy.	Evening. Wind E.
24.	29.23	52°	E. Gale. Heavy rain.	
25.	29.045	54°	Do. Moderate. Showery.	Evening. At Thingvalla. Th. 52°.
26.	29.13	54°	SE. Do. Do.	Evening. At the Geysers.
27.	29.2	53°	E. Do. Do.	Th. 55°.
28.	29.2	52°	Do. Breeze. Cloudy.	— 56°.
29.	29.72	53°	Do. Do. Showery.	— 56°. At Skalholt. Evg. at Kalfholt.
30.	29.91	55°	SE. Do. Do.	— 58°. Do. Evg. at Storuvellir, 52°.
31.	29.94	54°	Do. Do. Do.	— at Storuvellir 57°.
<i>Aug.</i> 1.	29.93	54°	SW. Moderate. Rainy. even.	
2.	29.94	60°	SE. to SW. Do. Do.	
3.	29.94	50°	SW. Breeze. Clear.	Fog on M. Hekla. Th. at 10 A. M. 59°.
4.	29.91	57°	S. Do. Do.	Th. 60°.
5.	29.84	50°	S. Do. A few clouds.	— 50° at Hlinderende.
6.	29.94	46°	NW. Do. Clear.	— 55°.
7.	29.93	49°	Do. Do. Do.	— 59° at Odde.
8.	29.71	60°	S. Do. Cloudy.	
9.	29.61	56°	SE. Do. Showers.	
10.	29.582	62°	NW. Do. Clear.	
11.	29.61	62°	E. Do. Cloudy. Rain aftern.	
12.	29.723	61°	N. Do. Do.	
13.	29.86	58°	Do. Do. Clear.	
14.	30.18	57°	NW. Do. Cloudy.	
15.	30.21	57°	S. Calm. Clear.	
16.	29.798	55°	SE. Gale. Rain.	
17.	29.06	55°	Do. Do. Do.	
18.	29.08	50°	W. Heavy gale. Cloudy.	

Days of the Month.	Barometer and Thermometer at Reikiavik.		Atmosphere.	Miscellaneous Observations.
	Barom.	Ther.		
Aug. 19.	.....	...	.....	Sailed for Britain.
20.	29.33	54°	SE. Rain.	The observations were now made by
21.	29.21	52°	SW. Do.	Mr Fell, a barometer having been
22.	29.3	54°	SW. Clear.	left with him.
23.	29.31	...	N. Frosty night.	
24.	29.31	50°	NNE. Rain.	
25.	29.53	...	N. Clear.	
26.	29.54	56°	N. Heavy gale. Frosty night.	
27.	29.7	46°	N. Moderate Clear.	The people observed that frost was
				about to set in, and dug up their
				potatoes.
28.	29.84	52°	Do. Calm. Do.	
29.	30.01	46°	NW. Do. do.	Frost at night.
30.	30.1	49°	Do. do. do.	Do.
31.	30.14	52°	Do. do. do.	Do.
Sept. 1.	30.10	60°	N. Do. do.	Remarks made by the people that so
				fine a summer was never known,
				and that a severe winter might be
				expected.
2.	29.81	50°	E. Breeze. Rain.	
3.	29.92	52°	N. Do. Clear. At night rain.	
4.	29.54	47°	Do. Gale. Cloudy.	Before next morning it blew a heavy
				gale.
5.	29.41	40°	NE. Do. Rain.	The mountains covered with snow.
6.	29.9	52°	S. Moderate. Rain.	
7.	29.52	50°	Do. do. do.	
8.	29.3	48°	SE. Do. Heavy rain.	
9.	29.2	50°	Do. do. do.	
10.	29.42	48°	NW. Breeze. Cloudy.	
11.	29.5	48°	N. Do. Clear.	
12.	29.2	39°	NE. Very heavy gale. Rain.	
13.	29.6	48°	N. Calm. Clear.	
14.	29.6	50°	SE. Moderate. Rain and fog.	
15.	29.83	51°	NE. Do. do. Gale at night.	
16.	29.8	53°	Do. do. do. Showery.	
17.	29.33	48°	SSE. Do. Rain and fog.	
18.	29.34	48°	S. Squally. Rain.	
19.	29.73	48°	Do. do. do.	
20.	29.91	49°	N. Do. do. Gale at night.	
21.	29.42	42°	Do. Calm. Clear.	
22.	29.4	47°	SE. Squally. Rain.	
23.	29.51	47°	SW. Do. do.	
24.	29.54	45°	Do. do. do. Clear afternoon.	
25.	29.4	51°	Do. do. do. At night a heavy	
			gale.	

Days of the Month.	Barometer and Thermometer at Reikiavik.		Atmosphere.	Miscellaneous Observations.
	Barom.	Ther.		
<i>Sep.</i> 26.	29.8	53°	NE. Gale. Rain till afternoon.	
27.	29.6	49°	SW. do. do.	
28.	29.64	49°	Do. Moderate. Foggy. Showers	Thunder was heard to-day.
29.	29.71	50°	Do. do. do.	
30.	29.7	50°	Do. do. Showery.	
<i>Oct.</i> 1.	29.43	51°	SE. do. Heavy rain.	
2.	29.61	54°	SW. Breeze. Rain.	
3.	29.4	54°	SE. Squally. do.	
4.	29.64	46°	S. Moderate. do.	
5.	30.03	50°	Do. do. Clear till evening.	
6.	29.81	50°	Do. do. Rain.	
7.	29.9	55°	Do. do. Cloudy.	
8.	29.91	48°	Do. do. Rain afternoon.	
9.	29.8	50°	SE. Gale. Rain.	
10.	30.12	48°	NW. Moderate. Cloudy.	
11.	30.01	49°	S. do. Rain.	
12.	29.82	42°	SW. A heavy gale. Cloudy.	
13.	30.11	41°	Do. do. do.	
14.	29.63	46°	SSE. Gale. Thin rain.	
15.	29.53	45°	S. Moderate. Rain.	
16.	29.7	44°	N. Breeze. Clear. Showers at 2 P. M.	
17.	29.51	44°	NE. Gale. Cloudy.	
18.	29.02	43°	SE. do. Thin rain.	
19.	28.91	44°	N. Breeze. Cloudy.	
20.	29.04	42°	Do. Calm. Clear.	
21.	29.22	41°	ENE. do. do.	
22.	29.41	38°	SE. Breeze. Cloudy.	
23.	29.6	38°	S. do. Showery.	

The following Register of the Weather, kept by Mr Fell since the above date, has fortunately reached me in time to be presented to the public. It exhibits a dismal picture of an Icelandic winter; and rouses the most lively feelings of compassion for the condition of the inhabitants of so desolate a region.

Days of the Month.	Barometer and Thermometer at Reikiavik.		Miscellaneous Observations.
	Barom.	Ther.	
Oct. 24.	29.90	43°	SE. Very dark thick weather. Between 7 and 8 A. M. an earthquake was felt in Reikiavik.
25.	29.54	48°	SSE. Blew very hard, and rained all day.
26.	29.34	41°	SW. Blew heavy, with showers of snow, hail, and rain, the whole day. Frost at night.
27.	29.32	32°	NW. Blew very hard all day. Do.
28.	29.81	24°	NE. Blew a gale of wind all day, with showers of snow, hail, and rain.
29.	29.72	40°	SE. More moderate weather, and rain.
30.	29.5	45°	Do. Fine, but rain at times; frost at night.
31.	29.80	24°	N. Clear.
Nov. 1.	30.24	29°	NE. A fine day; thaw before night.
2.	30.02	45°	SW. Blew very hard, and rained all day.
3.	29.92	39°	SSW. Blew very hard all day; with hail, rain, and snow, at night.
4.	29.72	34°	SW. Blew hard all day, with hail and snow.
5.	29.3	24°	N. Blew extremely hard all day, with showers of snow and hail. During the night came on a most tremendous gale of wind. Dark at 2 P. M.
6.	29.84	14°	N. A most terrible and awful gale of wind during the whole 24 hours. Boats on the beach were taken up into the air, and dashed to pieces. The thermometer in my warmest room, though the stove was red hot, could only be brought to 30°. The weather extremely dark; and the country for several miles round, was covered with salt water driven from the sea, in the form of rain, which destroyed what little vegetation was left.
7.	30.21	24°	N. Blew hard, with clear frost. Towards night the wind increased; and early next morning blew a hurricane.
8.	30.23	28°	N. A fine clear day.
9.	30.10	28°	N. A clear hard frost; the day passed without a cloud being seen. Saw the Snæfell Jokul at 12 P. M. The northern lights were beautiful.
10.	29.90	32°	NE. A day without a cloud. Thaw at night.
11.	29.73	32°	Do. Snow and wind the whole day.
12.	29.84	34°	Do. Fine day; frost at night.
13.	30.14	35°	ENE. Clear weather, but frost at night.
14.	29.71	30°	Do. A fine clear day.
15.	29.12	39°	Do. A dark day.
16.	29.11	40°	NE. A fine day, but frost at night.
17.	29.84	28°	Do. A fine day.
18.	30.13	26°	S. Remarkably fine weather, and hard frost.
19.	29.83	38°	NE. Cloudy, with small rain. A heavy gale, and rain at night.

Days of the Month.	Barometer and Thermometer at Reikiavik.		Miscellaneous Observations.
	Barom.	Ther.	
Nov. 20.	29.50	38°	ENE. Rain the whole 24 hours.
21.	29.50	35°	NE. Frost and thaw by turns the whole day.
22.	29.62	34°	N. Fine day ; a few showers.
23.	29.80	32°	Do. Fine frosty day, but cloudy at night.
24.	29.81	34°	E. Fine day.
25.	29.60	38°	ENE. Fine weather.
26.	29.53	34°	NE. Fine day.
27.	29.11	39°	Do. Dark day ; blew hard at night.
28.	29.64	34°	Do. Do. Do.
29.	29.72	24°	N. Blew hard all day, and very hard at night.
30.	30.02	11°	Do. Blew hard all day.
Dec. 1.	29.74	22°	NE. Dark day, heavy snow, and wind at night.
2.	29.81	30°	SW. Dark weather, and snow at night.
3.	29.22	26°	Do. Dark day, and heavy snow at night. Saw lightning at 11 P. M. but heard no thunder.
4.	29.51	24°	S. Clear.
5.	29.12	24°	NE. Do.
6.	29.41	23°	Do. Blew a heavy gale of wind the whole day.
7.	29.94	18°	Do. Clear weather, and the gale continued till 12 P. M.
8.	30.11	4°	ENE. Clear weather. Thermometer 2° at 2 P. M. ; water froze under the stove.
9.	29.84	16°	NE. Clear.
10.	29.72	15°	Do. Do.
11.	29.61	24°	ENE. Dark weather.
12.	29.34	26°	NE. Blew hard all day ; but fine.
13.	29.32	32°	Do. Dark weather.
14.	29.43	18°	Do. Clear weather.
15.	29.84	22°	ENE. Very fine day.
16.	29.64	35°	S. Rain the whole day, and very thick.
17.	29.80	27°	NE. Dark weather.
18.	29.73	28°	Do. dark ; rained a little towards night, and froze again.
19.	29.61	27°	N. Dark weather ; towards evening began to blow hard, and at night a gale of wind.
20.	28.82	32°	Do. Dark thick weather ; during the day a heavy fall of snow.
21.	29.22	27°	Do. Hard frost ; at 4 P. M. a very heavy fall of snow, and during the night a very heavy gale of wind.
22.	28.42	29°	SW. A heavy gale of wind the whole day, which drifted the snow to the tops of the houses. At night the lightning (or snow lights) was incessant for a few hours.
23.	28.61	32°	NE. Fine weather.
24.	29.01	22°	Do. do.
25.	29.10	23°	Do. do.
26.	29.51	17°	Do. do.

Days of the Month.	Barometer and Thermometer at Reikiavik.		Miscellaneous Observations.
	Barom.	Ther.	
<i>Dec.</i> 27.	29.71	12°	NE. Very fine day.
28.	30.12	32°	Do. Blew hard all day, which increased towards night to a heavy gale. Gentle thaw.
29.	29.94	38°	SE. The gale of wind continued the whole 24 hours, with heavy rain at night.
30.	29.74	43°	Do. The gale still continued blowing very hard, with rain. The whole place inundated.
31.	29.93	43°	Do. The gale still continued blowing very hard, with heavy showers of rain.
1811. <i>Jan.</i> 1.	30.14	44°	SSE. The gale continued the whole day blowing hard, with showers of rain.
2.	30.20	43°	Do. Blew hard all day; but calm towards night.
3.	30.42	37°	SSW. Fine mild day, with rain towards night.
4.	30.50	36°	ENE. Mild weather, with a little rain; frost at night.
5.	30.60	33°	Do. Fine mild weather.
6.	30.22	37°	Do. Fine day; a few showers, which, in some places, froze into ice directly; this is not uncommon.
7.	29.90	34°	S. Fine day, and a little rain, which, in some places, became ice.
8.	29.62	36°	SE. Blew hard all day, with rain; and during the night came on a gale of wind.
9.	28.90	37°	Do. A heavy gale of wind the whole day, with showers of rain; before morning, a hurricane.
10.	28.81	35°	SSE. Heavy squalls of wind and rain all day, frost at night.
11.	28.60	33°	N. Blew hard most of the day; calm at night, with rain, and frost.
12.	28.33	36°	Do. Mild weather, but frost at night.
13.	28.61	32°	Do. Fine day; the whole face of the country like glass.
14.	28.61	28°	NE. Dark day; snow in the evening.
15.	28.80	26°	N. Fine weather.
16.	29.14	21°	Do. Fine day; snow at night.
17.	29.01	22°	NE. Do. do.
18.	29.21	18°	Do. Fine day, and frost at night; when it blew hard, with hail, snow, thunder, and lightning: the latter not uncommon in the winter.
19.	28.90	27°	SSW. Heavy fall of snow the whole day.
20.	29.12	24°	NE. Heavy snow the whole day, and very dark.
21.	28.83	23°	Do. Fine weather, but heavy snow at night.
22.	28.90	28°	N. Fine day.
23.	29.91	33°	SE. Mild weather, and a little rain; at night, blew very hard, with hail and rain.
24.	29.34	35°	SW. Blew a very hard gale of wind the whole 24 hours, with showers of hail.
25.	29.70	27°	Do. Blew hard in the morning, but was moderate at night.

Days of the Month.	Barometer and Thermometer at Reikiavik.		Miscellaneous Observations.
	Barom.	Ther.	
Jan. 26.	30.00	8°	NW. Fine weather; blowing fresh, which increased to a gale of wind.
27.	30.32	10°	N. Blew a tremendous heavy gale of wind the whole 24 hours.
28.	30.30	8°	Do. The gale still blowing.
29.	30.12	10°	Do. do. Sea frozen from the land out to the Islands (about a quarter of a mile), and strong enough to bear a horse.
30.	30.12	16°	Do. Moderate weather.
31.	29.64	16°	ENE. Blew very hard all day, and towards night a gale of wind.
Feb. 1.	29.74	5°	N. A heavy gale of wind the whole day; Th. at night, 6° below 0°.
2.	29.51	4°	Do. Towards night blew hard.
3.	29.42	29°	NNE. Dark weather, blowing hard all day.
4.	29.54	19°	Do. Blew hard all day, and fine.
5.	29.43	16°	Do. Snow, with a gale of wind the whole day.
6.	29.40	15°	Do. Very fine weather.
7.	29.00	27°	Do. A very heavy gale of wind the whole 24 hours.
8.	28.91	22°	Do. The gale continued the whole day, with heavy showers of snow.
9.	29.60	26°	ENE. Blew hard most of the day, but was moderate towards night.
10.	29.30	30°	WSW. Remarkably fine day.
11.	29.11	12°	ENE. Fine day, but blew hard towards night.
12.	28.83	10°	NNE. Blew the whole day one of the hardest and heaviest gales of wind we have yet had; the whole country to a distance of many miles was covered with salt water snow from the sea.
13.	29.70	16°	NE. Fine weather.
14.	29.41	15°	ENE. Blew hard, with showers of snow, the whole 24 hours.
15.	29.43	8°	NNE. Blew a gale of wind all day; Th. at night. 4° below 0.
16.	30.10	1°	ENE. Fine day, but blew hard towards night.
17.	29.50	26°	Do. Blew a gale of wind the whole day; and before 12 p. m. a thaw.
18.	28.50	38°	SSW. Blew a heavy gale of wind all day, from all points in the compass, with showers of rain and snow.
19.	28.63	33°	ENE. Blew a tremendous gale of wind, with showers of rain and snow; but towards evening it was terrible; many people were blown clean off their legs, and the whole place was inundated.
20.	28.62	36°	SSE. Blew very hard all day, with rain and snow.
21.	29.70	27°	N. Blew hard in the early part of the day, but became fine and moderate.

Days of the Month.	Barometer and Thermometer at Reikiavik.		Miscellaneous Observations.
	Barom.	Ther.	
<i>Feb.</i> 22.	29.13	22°	NE. Blew hard, with fine weather; at night the northern lights were brilliant.
23.	29.10	30°	ENE. Fine weather, and calm.
24.	29.02	30°	N. Very fine.
25.	28.94	26°	Do. do.
26.	28.72	36°	ENE. Very fine day.
27.	28.81	38°	Do. Fine weather, but rained a little towards night; and a heavy fall of snow.
28.	29.94	28°	Do. Fine weather, and clear.
<i>March</i> 1.	29.14	25°	SW. Fine day, and sunshine.
2.	28.61	28°	ENE. A dark day, and blew hard.
3.	29.24	19°	N. Fine weather.
4.	29.03	23°	ENE. Fine day, and clear; heavy snow at night.
5.	28.83	23°	Do. Very thick, and snow the whole day.
6.	28.81	22°	N. Very thick, and snow till the afternoon.
7.	29.01	12°	Do. Fine morning; but before noon began to blow hard, with snow, and continued all day.
8.	29.33	24°	SW. Very thick, with storms of snow, from all points in the compass, the whole day.
9.	28.92	33°	NE. Mild weather, and fine.
10.	29.34	24°	SW. A continual succession of terribly heavy storms of snow the whole day and night; and very thick. From 3 A. M. to 6, was an eclipse of the Moon, when the wind thundered like heavy pieces of ordnance. At night came on a heavy gale of wind.
11.	29.54	23°	SSW. One of the most terrible days we have yet had; blew a most tremendous gale of wind all day, with snow.
12.	30.02	26°	ENE. Dark weather; at night blew hard.
13.	29.73	40°	SE. Rain the whole day, which, melting the snow, deluged the whole country; frost at night, with snow.
14.	30.10	33°	SW. A little snow.
15.	29.60	35°	SSW. Blew hard all day; rain at night.
16.	29.31	41°	ESE. A very heavy gale of wind the whole day, with rain; frost at night.
17.	29.02	35°	E. Fine weather, with a little rain; sharp frost at night.
18.	29.03	27°	ENE. A tolerably fine day, but heavy snow towards night.
19.	29.42	26°	SW. A fine day, but blew fresh towards night; Ther. 8° 10 P. M.
20.	29.31	22°	ENE. A most terrible storm of snow and wind nearly the whole day, and so thick that one could not see twenty yards.
21.	29.24	33°	SW. A continual succession of heavy storms of snow and wind the whole day, and very dark.
22.	29.73	32°	S. Blew hard all day, with snow; at night a thaw.

Days of the Month.	Barometer and Thermometer at Reikiavik.		Miscellaneous Observations.
	Barom.	Ther.	
<i>Mar.</i> 23.	29.43	42°	SW. Blew very hard all day, with small rain; and before night a heavy gale of wind.
24.	29.30	36°	Do. Heavy squalls of wind; snow, hail, and rain, most of the day. By the Icelandic almanack, an eclipse of the Sun, but not visible here.
25.	28.92	39°	SE. Blew hard all day, with rain; frost and snow at night.
26.	29.31	34°	SSW. Blew hard all day, with squalls of snow and rain.
27.	29.73	35°	Do. Hail, rain, snow, and sunshine, by turns, the whole day; blowing hard.
28.	30.23	43°	E. Dark weather, blowing fresh, with rain all day.
29.	30.20	43°	S. Dark, calm weather, and rain.
30.	30.20	36°	W. A tolerably pleasant day; little wind.
31.	29.84	32°	NE. Snow with wind almost all day.
<i>April</i> 1.	29.74	35°	N. A fine morning, but wind and snow towards evening.
2.	29.74	31°	NNE. Blew hard all day, with a little snow; sharp frost at night.
3.	29.92	36°	W. A fine morning; but rained towards night.
4.	29.82	35°	NW. Excessively thick, and heavy rain the whole day; but cleared up at night, with a heavy gale of wind, and hard frost.
5.	30.11	16°	Do. Blew an extremely heavy gale of wind all day, accompanied by sea-water rain. Th. 8° at 10 P. M.
6.	30.51	22°	N. Remarkably fine day.
7.	30.23	24°	Do. Blew fresh all day, and severe frost. Th. 8° at 9 P. M.
8.	29.92	15°	Do. Heavy squalls of wind all day, but fine.
9.	30.11	15°	Do. Fine clear weather, with heavy squalls of wind all day. Th. 6° at 9 P. M.
10.	30.11	18°	ENE. Fine clear weather, and squalls of wind; blew a gale before night.
11.	30.01	22°	NE. Fine clear weather.
12.	29.51	34°	ENE. Dark thick weather.
13.	29.21	38°	NE. Dark weather, with small rain; blowing hard all day.
14.	29.84	50°	E. Dark wrather, and rain most of the day.
15.	29.10	45°	ENE. Do.
16.	28.84	46°	SE. Do.
17.	29.24	38°	S. Very thick, with hail and rain all day.
18.	29.21	44°	ENE. Blew a gale of wind all day, with showers of rain.
19.	29.54	44°	Do. Dark weather, blowing hard all day.
20.	29.60	40°	E. Fine weather, blowing fresh all day.
21.	29.41	43°	ENE. Dark weather, blowing fresh all day.
22.	29.73	44°	E. Fine weather; blowing fresh, with a little rain.
23.	30.00	50°	Do. Remarkably fine clear weather.
24.	30.03	50°	N. A fine warm day.
25.	30.51	52°	Do. Fine clear weather; frost at night. The first day of summer by the Iceland almanack.

Days of the Month.	Barometer and Thermometer at Reikiavik.		Miscellaneous Observations.
	Barom.	Ther.	
<i>April</i> 26.	30.53	28°	N. Fine weather, and hard frost.
27.	30.41	34°	ENE. Cold dark weather; blew hard towards night, and before morning a heavy gale of wind.
28.	30.30	24°	N. Blew a heavy gale of wind all day, and very cold.
29.	30.22	24°	Do. Fine weather, and hard frost; blew hard at night.
30.	30.00	26°	Do. Blew a heavy gale of wind all day, and hard frost.
<i>May</i> 1.	30.00	26°	Do. Fine day, blowing fresh all day.
2.	39.91	26°	Do. do. do.
3.	29.73	28°	Do. Fine weather.
4.	29.80	34°	Do. Fine weather, blowing fresh all day.
5.	29.84	38°	E. Dark weather, blowing very fresh all day.
6.	29.74	45°	ESE. Dark weather, and rain; blowing a gale of wind the whole day.
7.	29.80	44°	Do. Dark weather, blowing a gale of wind all day.
8.	29.93	49°	ENE. Dark weather; but cleared up at night, and froze.
9.	29.84	46°	W. Fine clear weather.
10.	29.91	50°	Do. Fine pleasant day.
11.	30.00	49°	N. Very fine weather.
12.	29.72	46°	E. Dark weather and sunshine by turns.
13.	29.72	50°	W. Dark and sunshine at intervals; rain at night.
14.	29.82	50°	Do. Fine; frost at night.

The Greenland ice grounded in the northern parts of the country some time in February, and continued to increase daily till it enclosed nearly two thirds of the island. In the month of June, the sea was not visible from the tops of the highest mountains; so completely was the land beset with these tremendous Icebergs. Numbers of the polar bears made their appearance. From the accounts I have been able to gather, the winter has been a very severe one; and the oldest people do not recollect such a succession of gales of wind. In the north country, and in those places where the ice grounded, the inhabitants suffered greatly from the want of provisions, not being able to go to sea for fish; they lost also a great number of cattle, sheep, and horses, which died for want of food.

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No. VII.

## ICELANDIC REVOLUTION, 1809.

MOTIVES of delicacy withheld from the first edition of this work, a detail of some disturbances which happened at Reikjavik in 1809. Several circumstances have since come to our knowledge, which render extremely difficult any attempt to give an impartial view of the subject, without impeaching the discernment of some, and the conduct of other individuals.\* We shall, however, endeavour to satisfy the public curiosity, respecting this business, in so far as the best information we have been able to procure will enable us; and having heard all parties, and possessing written documents to support us, we can with confidence assert, that we are inclined to favour none, being convinced that, in some degree, all were to blame.

It appears, that towards the end of the year 1808, a person of the name of Savignac, who had been a clerk to Mr Troward, (one of the partners in the house of Phelps, Troward and

\* We are under very great obligations both to Mr Phelps and Count Trampe; and have no reason to be more partial to the one than to the other. Indeed so highly do we respect both, and so deeply do we lament the misfortunes to which the spirit and liberality of Mr Phelps have subjected him, that the necessity we feel ourselves under to give an account of the transactions to the public, is exceedingly painful.

Bracebridge of London), informed Mr Phelps that a friend of his, just arrived from Iceland, had a large quantity of tallow there, which he would dispose of, could a licence be obtained to bring it to England. The business of this house being the manufacture of soap, and tallow being at the time very scarce, Mr Phelps listened to Savignac, who introduced to him Jorgen Jorgensen, a Danish prisoner of war, who became the chief actor in the scenes which followed.

This person stated, that he, and his connections in Iceland, could fill a vessel of 300 tons with tallow, at a price which was very tempting to Mr Phelps. It turned out, however, that Jorgensen had never been in Iceland, and had no connections there.

Being of a singular character, of a bold enterprising disposition, and possessing talents of no despicable cast, this Dane had contrived to impress Sir Joseph Banks, and others, with a good opinion of him. The licence was accordingly obtained, and a ship called the *Clarence* was chartered at Liverpool, and laden with goods which Jorgensen pointed out as being most proper for Iceland, where she arrived about the end of January 1809.

The Danish merchants opposed the landing of the cargo; which was very natural, as any interference on the part of another nation threatened them with ruin. But their prudence in the present case may very well be called in question; for they must have been aware that it was in the power of the British to exclude them altogether from the island, and that a refusal on their part to admit them to a share of the trade, might have been attended with the most disastrous consequences to the natives, as well as with the annihilation of their own commerce.

The Captain of the *Clarence* threatened to take possession

of a Danish vessel which was at anchor in the harbour ; and having proceeded to put his threats into execution, matters were brought to accommodation ; the cargo was landed ; and the Danish ship given up. Thus it appears that the first act of aggression was committed by the British ; and it was no wonder that the Danes should refuse to trade, and endeavour to prevent the natives from doing so. The Clarence returned to Liverpool with ballast of stones, having Jorgensen on board ; Savignac being left to take care of the goods. The latter informed Mr Phelps, by letter, that a return cargo could not then be obtained on account of the opposition of the Danes. But he advised that some articles, which were wanted in the island, should be sent out, and that several return cargoes would be procured in summer, when the people came from the country to barter their commodities.

Jorgensen said that his friend had gone to Denmark, owing to which circumstance he was disappointed of the expected cargo of tallow. It now became a matter of deliberation whether the Iceland trade should be prosecuted. Mr Phelps consulted Sir Joseph Banks ; and having reason to believe that protection would be granted by the Admiralty, and the Board of Trade ; and the Treasury having promised encouragement, he and his partners determined to send out two ships. Mr Phelps resolved to attend this expedition himself ; and on his approaching Reikiavik, a pilot came on board his ship, the Margaret and Anne, and informed him that death was the penalty to be inflicted on any one who piloted an English ship into the harbour. With this information began that tissue of falsehoods by which Mr Phelps appears to have been deceived, probably invented by those in whom he had unfortunately confided, and by some of Count Trampe's personal enemies.

The Count had recently arrived from Copenhagen as Governor of the island; and his general character, and the circumstance of his being much beloved in Iceland, are sufficient evidence of his being totally incapable of acting as Mr Phelps was led to believe. But that gentleman was informed, that the Count had prohibited all intercourse with the English in the way of trade, under pain of death. It must be remarked here, as a circumstance very extraordinary, that Mr Phelps seems to have had no interview, no communication of any kind, with Count Trampe, who speaks and writes English remarkably well; but received all his information from Jorgensen, Savignac, and some people of the country, who were displeas'd at a Dane having the chief authority.

Mr Phelps was informed, that Count Trampe was raising a body of men for the purpose of taking his ship and himself; and on this information, without any communication with Count Trampe, he resolv'd to seize him, and order'd Captain Liston, who command'd the *Margaret and Anne*, to do so. Mr Phelps and Captain Liston went to the Governor's house, and told him he was their prisoner.

During this transaction, Jorgensen and Savignac kept out of the way. Their ends were accomplish'd; and it was wise in them to retire from the reach of danger. The only blame which seems to attach to Count Trampe, appears to have been some delay in publishing a treaty he had concluded with Captain Nott, of the *Rover* sloop of war, a short time before Mr Phelps arriv'd, permitting a free trade to the English during the war. The distance of the printing office was not a sufficient excuse for printed copies not having been distributed eight days after the treaty was sign'd; besides, a written copy might have been posted up where proclamations are usually affix'd; and in not publishing it in this manner,

the Governor was certainly to blame. It has been said that he also directed a placard to be posted, threatening the most severe punishment to those who traded with the English; but the authority on which this assertion is made, has not been stated. As Count Trampe has denied that the alleged obstructions to the trade of the English existed, it may be suspected that Mr Savignac's information was incorrect. But Count Trampe had very good reason to be jealous of Mr Phelps, when he saw a Dane with him, acting the part of a traitor, and promoting discord by every means in his power. It ought to be remembered too, that Count Trampe was in a very difficult situation. On one hand he was bound, as far as his means would allow, to obey the orders of his own Government. On the other, the island being defenceless, an armed ship lay close to the town which could have been destroyed in a very short time, even by a single cannon. While Mr Phelps believed that his property and life were in danger, it was very natural for him to act as he did; but it was extraordinary that he had no communication with Count Trampe. Had an interview or correspondence taken place, Mr Phelps might have been undeceived, and the losses he has since suffered prevented. Mr Phelps had received encouragement from his own Government to go out to Iceland; but no authority to commit hostility. Having received this encouragement, he had good reason to expect indemnification, had he returned to England, and informed Government of the refusal on the part of the people to trade with him; and prudence certainly ought to have dictated his immediate return home. Any property he might have on shore, was perfectly safe till he should return with instructions from his Government; for it is evident, that as Iceland was completely exposed, the seizure of that property could have been well revenged. In a long account

of the whole affair received from Mr Phelps, not the slightest allusion is made to any interview or correspondence with Count Trampe. Every information conveyed by Jorgensen and Savignac, and some natives before alluded to, appears to have been implicitly credited.

In the revolution which followed the seizure of the Governor, Mr Phelps has declared he had no concern. Jorgensen however was brought to Iceland by him, and though Mr Phelps was an idle spectator, it is to be regretted that some degree of responsibility must remain attached to him.

As soon as the Governor was conveyed a prisoner on board the *Margaret and Anne*, Jorgensen proceeded to assume the command of the island.

It is probable that Jorgensen tampered with the natives about Reikiavik, and deceiving them also, procured his elevation to the chief authority. Whatever money he got hold of, he lavishly bestowed; and by the appearance of great generosity, imposed upon those he kept about him, and probably excited in the minds of many, who were incapable of seeing his designs, a desire for a change of masters. While the natives are entirely dependent on the Danes for supplies of provisions, and for the sale of the produce of the country, it is not surprising that they should wish for something like freedom in trade. Good-natured as they are, we cannot believe that the people could have approved of Jorgensen's proceedings, unless they believed them to be sanctioned by the British Government.

But it may be asked, why did not the Danes, who are a brave people, resist the usurpation of Jorgensen and destroy him as a traitor? The only reason which we can assign for their passive conduct, and it seems to be a sufficient one, is, that believing the usurper's proceedings to be authorised by

Mr Phelps, they were afraid lest the guns of the Margaret and Anne should lay their town in ashes, and involve them in utter ruin.

Jorgensen being invested with the chief command, he proclaimed the cessation of Danish authority, and ordered the Danes to remain in their houses under pain of instant death. A body of natives was formed into a regular armed force, and the new Governor, or Protector, as he styled himself, proceeded to seize upon all public and even private property; and travelled about the country for that purpose. The arrival of Captain Jones of the Talbot sloop of war, was unfortunate for Jorgensen, who was soon stripped of his power. Count Trampe went to England, and made such representations to our Government as have been the means of saving the inhabitants of Iceland from destruction by famine, although still their condition is but very miserable. The trade began to revive; and, during the years 1811 and 1812, seventeen or eighteen ships sailed to various ports of Iceland. A severe check has, however, been lately given to the trade, by the prohibition against the exportation from Iceland of oil and salt fish. These are the only commodities of real consequence which the island affords; and a large tract of country depends for provisions entirely on the oil which it has to exchange. No doubt, the Danish merchants trading to Iceland have of late made large profits; but unless a free trade in fish and oil be allowed, our humane feelings will be of no use to the poor Icelanders.

It will be observed from the foregoing statement, that more or less blame is attached to all concerned; and there can be little doubt, that very natural irritation on the part of Count Trampe, and imposition being practised on Mr Phelps, might have led to consequences even more disagreeable than

those which actually ensued. The character of Mr Phelps, as an honest and good man, is unimpeachable. To Jorgensen are to be attributed the whole of the disagreeable events which occurred; and the art and address with which he managed the transactions from first to last, proved that he was not without talents, which he seems to have been capable of misapplying.

It has been thought quite unnecessary to detail a variety of circumstances, which prove the absurdity of Jorgensen's conduct. It would be an insult to common sense, to show the folly of any attempt to render Iceland an independent country, while it possesses no resources within itself; and in truth some apology is required, for having taken up so much of the reader's time with an affair which will soon be forgotten; even, perhaps, in the country where it happened.

THE END.

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