

the people observing did judge, and the next morning this miserable wretch was found dead, with his brains dashed out, (though there were no stones near to the place where he lay), on a hill side at a little distance from the water, his head and shoulders lying downward to the descent of the hill, his brains were scattered, and the ground about him was all wooden, as if there had been (saith my informer), twenty men and horses for twenty-four hours upon the spot. It is not many years since this fell out. So bad a recompence doth the devil give his vassals and slaves for their service, for whoremongers and adulterers God will judge, which judgments often he beginneth to inflict in this life, for the punishment of the guilty, and the terror of all, and to shew that he is of purer eyes than that he can behold such horrid iniquity; though the pouring out of the full vials of his wrath he reserveth for the future, where their worm shall not die, nor the fire for ever be quenched.

The signal defeat and overthrow of the Spanish Armada, that supposed and commonly (though arrogantly) called Invincible Navy, anno 1588, is famous in history, which was especially caused by stormy winds and tempests, some thereby sinking at sea, others splitting upon the coasts both of England and France, and especially upon the north of Scotland, Orkney and Zetland; and the Fair Isle had the honour of the duke of Medina's being driven on shore upon it, under whose conduct this navy was; who after his shipwreck come over to Dunrossness in Zetland, as an old gentlewoman informed me; of whom she heard the country people, who saw him, frequently speak, when she was a child; so the Lord dispersed and broke this huge and formidable navy, that of a hundred and thirty ships which set out from Spain with provision, ammunition, and other furniture, exceeding great, scarce thirty returned; the God of land and sea heard and answered the prayers of his people in Britain, the curse of God pursuing that hellish enterprise, notwithstanding of the infallible Popish benediction on that invincible armada; for as our historian Calderwood observeth, "The rumour of the great Spanish armada being blazed abroad, fervent were the prayers of the godly in Scotland, powerful and piercing were the sermons of preachers, especially in the time of fast, whereupon the Lord uttered his voice against his and his church's enemies, by terrible things in righteousness; our coasts, upon which many of that fleet were cast away, and some of the people in it begging from door to door, proclaiming aloud the glory of his justice and power."

There are no weasels in all the northern isles of Zetland, as I am informed, though numerous in the Mainland, which they report thus came to pass: the falconer having a power given him, to get a hen out of every house once in the year; but one year they refusing, or not being so willing to give, the falconer, out of revenge, brought the next year two weasels with him, which did generate and spread, so that now they are become very destructive to several goods of the inhabitants, whereof a gentleman, our informer, told us he had killed several half an ell long.

CHAP. IX.—*The Fish-Trade is most considerable in Zetland.*

OF all the things remarkable in Zetland, their fish-trade is the most considerable, wherefore I have chosen to speak of it by itself. Which I shall labour to do, by shewing what fishing they have in these seas, and what fishes they do most abound in, and have plenty of; and then hold out who are these who trade, and what advantages do accrue thereby unto the inhabitants, with some reflections upon the whole.

The fishing here is much decayed by what it was, for now neither is there such a great number of fishes taken, nor so easily can they be had, as formerly; for not above forty