

and not deserving the name which it bears, so far as the lowlands are concerned. Still only one-quarter of the entire island is inhabited, the central tableland being unfit for life of any description. More than 5,000 square miles are covered with glaciers, of which there are over 120 altogether. Mount Heckla is the best known volcano, but the whole island is volcanic in its nature, and at present over 100 volcanoes burst into activity from time to time. The principal industries of the people are cattle breeding, sheep-breeding and fishing. Some garden vegetables and small fruits are produced, but all bread stuffs must be imported.

Development has only taken place since 1850. Until that time, no further communication was held with the outside world than the physical needs of the people made necessary. Now the Icelanders travel more and have greater outside interests.

For a very long time previous to the discovery of Iceland by the Scandinavians in 850, it had been inhabited by a number of Irish Culdees. After its discovery, a stream of immigration set in, and over 4,000 farms were established by settlers from Norway and the Western Isles. Queen Ana, widow of the King of Dublin, brought over a number of her kinsmen and relations (part, like herself, being Christians). Some of the Vikings who had colonized the West returned to their kith