

information is possessed by its inhabitants. During their long nights, which sometimes continue several weeks, one of the family frequently reads for the instruction or amusement of the rest, who are employed in certain branches of industry.\* Thus, the habit of reading serves to alleviate the horrors of a most inhospitable climate, and to elevate the ideas and sentiments of a people, who are doomed to subsist on a most sterile soil.

ACCORDINGLY, "The character of the Icelanders is good. They are calm, discreet, orderly, and serious in their religion, capable of great labour of mind and body, and accustomed to live upon little ; not abounding much in men of genius ; but producing, in the various universities of the North, many zealous and indefatigable scholars, who have struck with successful vigour into the most intricate and untrodden paths of literature."† Some of these virtues are, no doubt, produced by other causes : but it cannot be doubted, that they are all promoted by education, and the habit of reading.

THE dominions of the King of Denmark, are, in general, supplied with schools. In each parish, there are two or more, in which children are instructed in Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic. A house, a small salary, and some other advantages, are allowed to every Teacher.‡

THE history of the Danes, furnishes no reason whatever for supposing or suspecting, that any hurtful consequences, can proceed from this instruction of the people. On the contrary, the

\* Edinburgh Review for Jan. 1804. † *Ibid.*

‡ Pinkerton's Modern Geography.