

by-past ages, Greenland had its parishes, as well as farms, and places of worship dedicated to the true God. To such as desire to know the details of these curious facts, the volume before us will prove very acceptable. It were to have been wished, that the author had been somewhat more minute in the history of the Reformation from Popery in Iceland, and the second conversion of Greenland from heathenism to christianity, first, under Egede, and subsequently under the Moravians. * * *

Comparatively speaking, we mean in reference to the other portions of the volume, the portion devoted to the Faroe Islands is less interesting than that devoted to Greenland and Iceland. But the information given regarding these is in itself curious and striking, and will amply repay the task of perusal. The author has unfolded to our view, in the history of the Faroese, a people too much neglected by Denmark, and for whom certainly more might be done, both to advance their moral welfare and add to their temporal resources—and it is well even to hold them up to the view of Britain, although personally she cannot interfere. It may awaken regard from the proper quarters, and we sincerely hope it will. * * *

The Reviewer, in conclusion, presents us with the following extracts:—

ERUPTION OF HECLA.

The eruption of this mountain in 1766, was remarkable for its violence. Four years before it took place, some of the people were flattering themselves with the belief, that as there had been no outbreak from the principal crater for upwards of seventy years, its energies were completely exhausted. Others, on the contrary, thought that there was on this account only more reason to expect that it would soon again commence. The preceding winter was remarkably mild, so that the lakes and rivers in the vicinity seldom froze, and were much diminished, probably from the internal heat.—On the 4th April, 1766, there were some slight shocks of an earthquake, and early next morning a black pillar of sand, mingled with fire and red-hot stones, burst with a loud thundering noise from its summit. Masses of pumice, six feet in circumference, were thrown to the distance of ten or fifteen miles, together with heavy magnetic stones, one of which, eight pounds weight, fell fourteen miles off, and sunk into the ground, though still hardened by the frost. The sand was carried towards the north west, covering the land 150 miles round four inches deep, impeding the fishing boats along the coast, and darkening the coast, so that at Thingore, 140 miles distant, it was impossible

to know whether a sheet of paper was white or black. At Holun, 155 miles to the north, some persons thought they saw the stars shining through the sand cloud. About mid-day the wind veering round to the south-east, conveyed the dust into the central desert, and prevented it from totally destroying the pastures. On the 9th April the lava first appeared spreading about five miles towards the south-west, and on the 23d May, a column of water was seen shooting up in the midst of the sand. The last violent eruption was on the 5th July, the mountain in the interval often ceasing to eject any matter; and the large stones thrown into the air were compared to a swarm of bees clustering round the mountain top. The noise was heard like loud thunder forty miles distant, and the accompanying earthquakes were more severe at Krisuvick, eighty miles westward, than at half the distance on the opposite side. The eruptions are said to be in general more violent during a north or west wind than when it blows from the south or east, and on this occasion more matter was thrown out than in stormy weather. Where the ashes were not too thick, it was observed that they increased the fertility of the grass fields, and some of them were carried even to the Orkney Islands, the inhabitants of which were at first terrified by what they considered showers of black snow.

HOT SPRINGS OF ICELAND.

Next to its volcanoes, the hot springs, warm baths, and mineral waters, render Iceland one of the most interesting countries in the world. Nowhere does the subterranean agency of nature display its powers with a more lavish hand or in more varied forms; and the hot springs alone are sufficient to arrest the attention of the philosophical student on this lonely island of the Northern Ocean. Certain of these cast up a thick column of water to the height of more than a hundred feet, with a noise that seems to shake the surrounding country. In some this happens constantly, in others at stated intervals, and in a third class irregularly, whilst almost all of them deposit a stony matter, (siliceous sinter) which forms both the basin and pipe. This property finally leads to their destruction, the formation increasing more and more till the opening is closed, and nothing of the spring remains but a small cone or hill formed of the flinty concretion. They are found in all parts of the land, some like those on the Torfa Jokul, even sending up clouds of steam from amid fields of perpetual ice. The very ocean that surrounds the coast is not free from them, and in the northern portion of the Baida Fjord, studded with innumerable islands, the water in many places is sensibly elevated in temperature by their action. The coast near Husevik is also remarkable for the hot springs that well forth from its bottom, and cause great injury to the nets or ropes used by the fishermen.