

and shelter in the austere season of the year, and squeak cheerfully many a day, swimming on the warm water."

Of the division of the property after his father's death, he says,—

"As I was a male child I got double as much as my sister and double lesser than my mother.

"My mother secondly married a peasant from the vicinity, and thereafter they changed abode, and then they turned servants, and removed to Grimstada to a rich farmer.

"We two boys (his half-brother and himself) were charged as shepherd's boys, to take care of a few ewe which belonged to my stepfather and another peasant (for they were then two in Itrinesland), and by this time I began to learn grass-cutting, for now I was grown bigger, and could do many works by housekeeping, and besides I had learnt reading of my mother, as is common in Iceland, for here are not schools for children's education.

"Many times we brethren met with 2 neighbouring boys, that also were occupied at sheep-keeping, and we used to amuse ourselves by several sport and playing, viz., go in the water even to the mouth, go in search after eggs, fling stones at flying birds, whilst the sheep was in rest and the weather pleasant.

"I remember my joyfulness when I and my brother Benedict drove the sheep along the water shore to the pasturage, which was surrounded of the water on three sides, and we had but to look after them on the one. . . . As I was a bookish lad, I used to read a great variety of Icelandic books, especially the biographs or saga of the former days' inhabitants in Iceland, and their great exploits; and besides, I learned myself from books the arithmetic. And by all opportunities I went in the water in order to learn swimming, and at length I succeeded and could swim in deep water. But in the summer months here was always hurry of business at several works, viz., fishing trout, search and gather eggs, cultivate the meadows, carry on horses several necessities from town, dress and make *skir* (curds) of the abundant milk, and above all, cutt and make hay, and therefore I, as well as the others, had scarcely time to rest or sleep. But as the winter approached, I set to work, and began to learn writing and arithmetic, and read Danish, and I succeeded [succeeded] to