

both sides by arms of the sea, which extend far inland and afford some of the best harbors in the world. These are often completely landlocked, and so sheltered that even when the sea, on exposed coasts, is raging and perilous, they are as quiet and safe as some inland American lake. There are nearly one hundred other islands in the group, large and small : the principal being Yell, some sixteen miles long by eight broad, and Unst, twelve in length and eleven in breadth ; besides which may be mentioned Papa-Stour, Mickle Roe, Whalsey, Bigga, Burra, and the Skerries. Many of the islands are scarcely more than mere rocks in the ocean, while others are sufficiently extensive to afford grazing for a few cattle and sheep.

The country throughout Shetland is level and low. One elevation, in the north part of Mainland, might deserve the name of a mountain, being 1,476 feet above the level of the sea. Most of the cultivated lands lie along those arms of the sea just described ; the centre of the principal islands, especially of the "mainland," being of peaty, mossy nature, and covered mostly with heather. The soil is chiefly held by a few aristocratic landlords, some of whom own as much as twelve miles of country side, and live in palatial residences ;