

to eight shillings and eightpence, to assist those who went there first. Jonsson, however, was not of the number.

“Early in the month of May we could distinctly hear the incessant claps and thunder-like noise from a volcano, on the south-land, but could not know whether it came from Hecla or Katla, till the rumour spread out that Katla was active, throwing immense rocks and pieces of glacial ice to a far distant round her, and was wrapped in a large and dense column of smoke, but as the wind was northerly about these days, the smoke and ashes were directed to the sea, so the land became saved from this unwholesome and dangerous ashes and smoke, and the volcano ceased totally last in same month. The people had been much frightened during the eruption.

“No man of art can be prosperous in Iceland, as the most of the peasantry hate this inutile and trifling business, as they call drawing and music, but they like better the poetical art.”

We regret that Jonsson did not adhere to his “entire temperance.” He candidly records that, after playing at a nuptial feast, he was not able to walk home, “having drunk rather too much quantum of punch and brandy.” At another time he felt a strong “declination” to slumber, and fell asleep against a wall.

“Early in January, 1862, I borrowed the ‘Wandering Jew,’ and perused this amusing romance in the evenings, and after I had read this romance, I began the reading of Walter Scott’s romances, and found them very good also. . . .

“The 9 of July I heard that some Englishmen were arrived and made haste to go and visit them, and offered them my servitude, as they were seeking after birds and eggs. Mr. Shepherd remembered his promise to me last summer, viz., to send me a book as a friendly present. He was, therefore, so amiable as to give me his pocket-Bible, and wrote this sentence on it from the Proverbs: ‘Better is little with the fear of the Lord, than great treasures and trouble therewith;’ and, ‘the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.’

“My family had now increased to 9½ men [perhaps the odd half was a boy], and all unable to work save I and my manservant when he was in my house. My wife had enough to take care of the children and dress the meat for us all. However, the time