

visit Iceland; wherefore the wealth and possession of sheep gradually diminish among the inhabitants of our starving country. It is now a custom that some farmers compare the number of sheep and quantum [quantum] of hay in the autumn in every farmhouse, in order that they do not risk to keep more sheep or cows than they have enough food for.

"Early in the spring of 1855 I began to work at a hedge round a little potato garden. . . It has never been tried before to cultivate this useful plant at my home, Vogum. This time I sowed but a $\frac{1}{4}$ bushel of potatoes. My crop became about $3\frac{1}{2}$ bushel, and I kept some of it for seed.

"A German traveller came to Myvatn and staid in Reikjahlid some weeks. He collected eggs and young birds, likewise a great variety of butterflies and midges. I guided him on his excursions, as I understood him a little, and helped him in the collection of eggs and certain birds. . . .

"This autumn my crop of potatoes became 18 bushels. At this time no peasant round Myvatn had so much of them, or even had a gard to cultivate this useful plant, save Petur in Reikjahlid, so they entreated me to sell them of my great crop, which they called so, and some of them had a mind to try to cultivate them on their farm.

"As usual, I held the Christmas and New Year with our rural festivity and joyfulness, and regaled my family with coffee and fine bread, besides smoke-dried mutton, which is only given on feast days at Myvatn, and is very nutritive food. I played on these holy evenings on the fiddle perpetually for some young girls from the nearest farms, that had no pleasures at their homes, but were fond of music. They entreated me to sing and play for them. However, I did not omit to hold prayers in my house, and visit our little church at Reikjahlid in the daytime, and thank the Lord for His mercy over the inhabitants of North Iceland, which were saved from the great loss of sheep by the pest which raged over the south part of our island at this time. Many of the farms lost almost all their animals." . . .

In 1860 "several of the peasants had a mind to do an emigration to Amerika, either to Canada or Brasil." They founded a fund for this purpose, to which each paid four "rix-doler," equal