

the narrative says, to the volcano for the very materials of their buildings; for by throwing water on the burning stones while still hot, they converted them into a tenacious and indestructible substance, which they used as mortar.

"They have not much rain, as there is a settled frost all through their nine months' winter. They live on wild fowl and fish, which are attracted by the warmth of that part of the sea into which the hot water falls, and which forms a commodious harbour.

"The houses are built all round the hill, and are circular in form and tapering to the top, where there is a little hole for light and air; the ground below supplying all necessary heat. In summer time they are visited by ships from neighbouring islands, and from Trondheim, which bring them corn, cloth and other necessities, in exchange for fish and skins. Some of the monks are from Norway, Sweden and elsewhere, but most of them from Shetland. The harbour is generally full of vessels detained by the freezing of the sea, and waiting for the spring to melt the ice.

"The fishermen's boats are like a weaver's shuttle; they are made of the skins of fish, and sewn together in such a manner that in bad weather the fisherman can fasten himself up in his boat and expose himself to the wind and sea without fear, for they can stand a good many bumps without receiving any