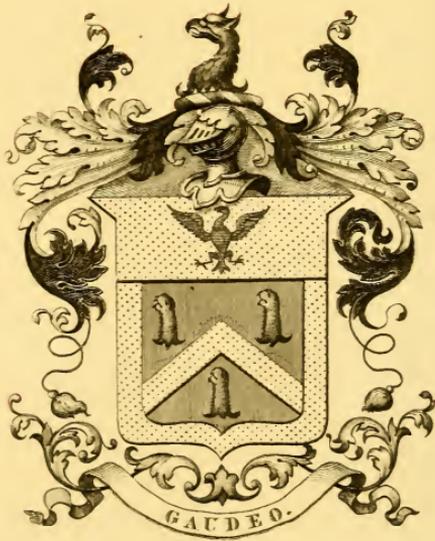
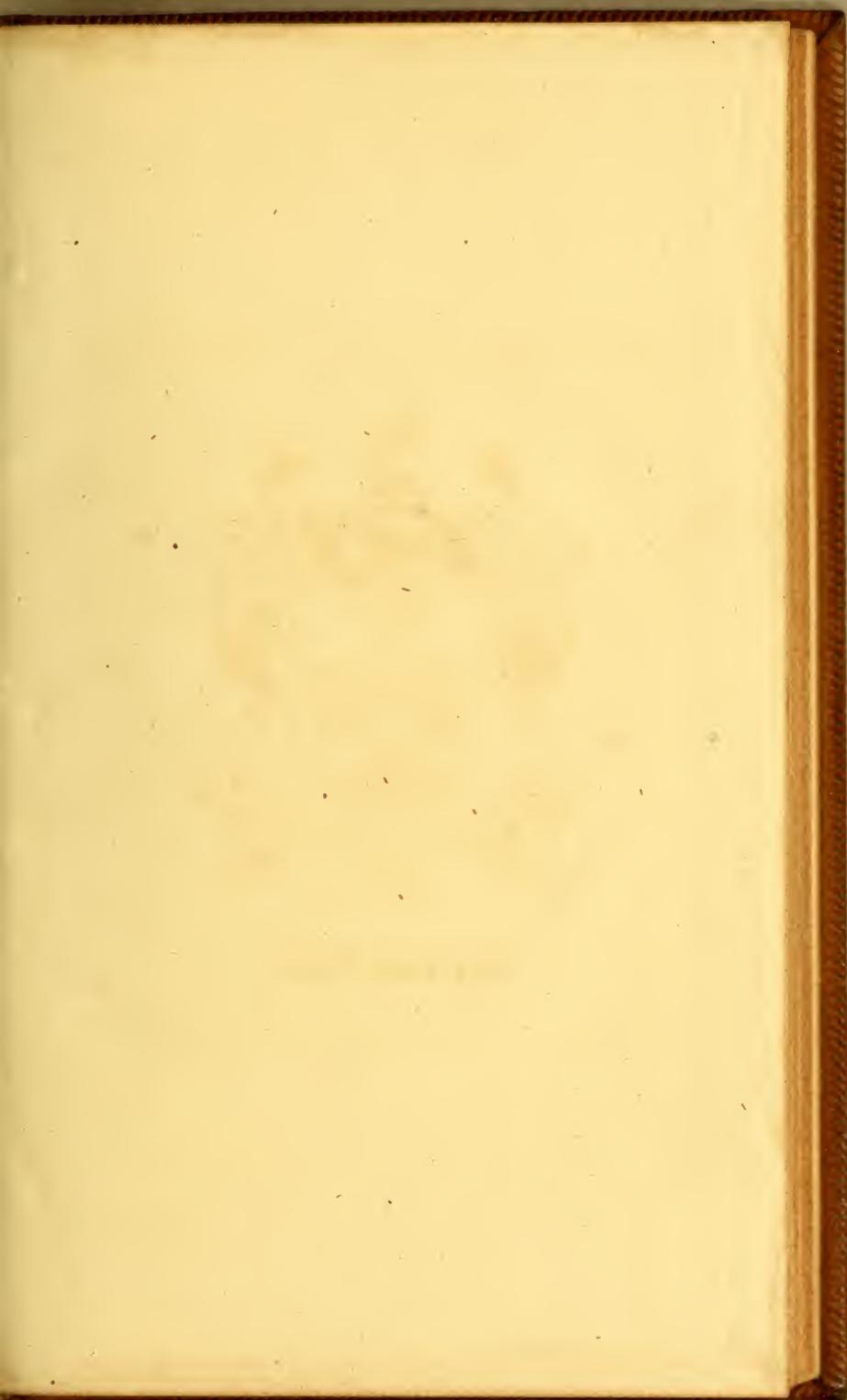


Alba



John Carter Brown.



Not on Fish

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Cat. p. 108. U

15

A  
DESCRIPTION  
OF  
GREENLAND.

SHEWING

The Natural History, Situation, Boundaries, and Face of the Country; the Nature of the Soil; the Rise and Progress of the old *Norwegian* Colonies; the ancient and modern Inhabitants; their Genius and Way of Life, and Produce of the Soil; their Plants, Beasts, Fishes, &c.

WITH

A new Map of *GREENLAND*.

AND

Several Copper Plates representing different Animals, Birds and Fishes, the *Greenlanders* Way of Hunting and Fishing; their Habitations, Dress, Sports and Diversions, &c.

---

By Mr. HANS EGEDE,  
Missionary in that Country for twenty five Years.

---

Translated from the DANISH.

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LONDON:

Printed for C. HITCH in *Pater-noster Row*; S. AUSTEN in *Newgate-Street*; and J. JACKSON near *St. James's Gate*.

MDCCLV.

D I S T I N G U I S H E D  
O F  
G R E E N I S L A N D  
F R I O E R I C K

The Island of Greenland is situated  
between the North Pole and the  
Arctic Circle, and is bounded  
by the Atlantic Ocean to the west  
and the Arctic Ocean to the north.

It is a large island, and is  
the largest in the world.

A well known fact is that  
the King of Denmark is the  
sovereign of the island.

100

To His Most Serene

ROYAL HIGHNESS

FRIDERICK,

Hereditary PRINCE, Successor to the  
CROWN of

DENMARK and NORWAY.

*May it please your most Serene  
Royal Highness,*

**A**S I took the Freedom  
most humbly to ad-  
dress to the King Your Royal

A 2

Fa-

JOHN CARTER BROWN

## DEDICATION.

Father an Account of the  
*Greenland* Mission's Begin-  
ning and Propagation, which  
his Majesty with so glori-  
ous a Zeal protects and en-  
courages ; so likewise, with  
the same most humble Sub-  
mission, I presume to offer  
to Your most Serene Royal  
Highness this present Sur-  
vey, or Natural History of  
*Greenland* ; endeavouring by  
this means to insinuate and  
recommend to Your Royal  
Highness's Favour and Pro-  
tection, so pious an Under-  
taking ;

## DEDICATION.

taking; because the poor *Greenlanders* have a Right to claim your Protection, as well as the Kingdoms of *Denmark* and *Norway*; and are in Hopes of enjoying, one Day, the greatest Blessings under Your happy Reign.

This little Work cannot fail of a gracious Reception from Your Royal Highness, as it aims only at, and is calculated for, the Honour of God, and Your Royal Family's Exaltation. The last of which

A 3 wholly

## DEDICATION.

wholly depends on, and necessarily follows the first ; for when the poor *Greenlanders* shall have learned to know and worship God, as their Creator and Redeemer, then they will likewise learn to acknowledge and honour a Christian Sovereign as their King and Ruler, through whose most Christian Care and Beneficence they have been brought to the Knowledge of Salvation.

May the Kingdom of God  
daily

## DEDICATION.

daily encrease, and be spread far and wide, under the Government of Your Royal House! May the Word of God run swiftly, under the Sway of its Scepter, as it doth in the *East*, so also now in the coldest *North*. That it may please Almighty God to make Your Royal Highness's Name as the Name of the great and mighty Ones upon Earth; that he may establish, and powerfully support the Royal Hereditary Throne, and place You as a Blessing before

**DEDICATION.**

his Face to all Eternity,  
are the hearty Wishe and  
Prayers of,

*Your Serene ROYAL HIGHNESS'S*

*most Obedient,*

*most Humble,*

*and most Devoted*

*Subject and Servant,*

Copenhagen,  
July 20,  
1741.

**HANS EGEDE.**

---

THE  
AUTHOR'S PREFACE  
TO THE  
READER.

**A** *Friend of mine, who lived  
some Time in Greenland,  
published (unknown to me)  
some Years ago, a Description  
of Greenland, under the Title of,  
A New Survey of Old Greenland,  
which, not long after my Arrival  
in those Parts, I had sketched, to sa-  
tisfy some of my Favourers, accord-  
ing to the Knowledge I then had ac-  
quired :*

*quired: But having since that Time got a fuller Light in these Matters, partly by my own Observations, and partly by those of my Son Paul Egede, who has been four Years Missionary in the North-West Colony of Greenland, I have found it necessary to perfect and enlarge this little Work in Embryo, under the same Title that it made its first Appearance, with some useful Additions, and with the Ornaments of diverse Figures and Cuts of certain Animals, Fishes, Birds, Plants, and other natural Products of the Country, together with a new-contrived Map of the same, that so the Reader may the better comprehend what he finds in this Sketch. Though Greenland be a Country of a vast Extent, yet it affords but a narrow Field for any Observation or Remarks of Consequence; there being no strong or well-built Towns to meet with; no well-ordered Polity or Civil Govern-  
ment;*

*ment; no fine Arts and Sciences, or the like; but only a Number of mean, wretched, and ignorant Gentiles, who live and improve the Land according to their low Capacity. I must own that Greenland, in its present State and Condition, compared with other Countries, is but very mean and poor, though not yet so despicable and wretched, but it may, using Care and Industry, not only richly maintain its own Inhabitants, but also communicate to others out of the Remainder of its Products. As for the Land in itself, it yields little or nothing, not being manured or cultivated, but lies altogether waste and untilled; nevertheless the Ancient Histories and Accounts, yet extant, of the Land, make it appear, that it is not unfit for several Products; and therefore I don't question, but it might retrieve the Loss of its former Plenty and Fruitfulness, should it come to be*

*well settled again, and cultivated. But as to the Seas, they yield more Plenty and Wealth of all sorts of Animals and Fishes, than in most other Parts of the World, which may turn to very great Profit; witness the exceeding great Riches many Nations have gathered, and are still gathering from the Whale Fishery, and the Capture of Seals and Morses or Sea Horses. Thus it is confessed, that Greenland is a Country not unworthy of keeping and improving. And this has been the well-grounded Opinion of our late Monarchs of Denmark, and many of their chief Counsellors, who have made so much of Greenland, that they have spared no Costs in fitting out several Ships for its Discovery, of which hereafter farther Notice shall be taken. This Discovery has been chiefly undertaken, to the end, that the Christian Religion, which has been unfortunately worn out in these*  
Parts

## P R E F A C E.

xiii

*Parts of the World, might again be re-established, and the poor Inhabitants, viz. the Off-spring of the Old Northern Christians, if through God's Mercy any such may yet be found there, as true Subjects to Denmark and Norway, might be assisted and comforted both as to Body and Soul. And although these most laudable Endeavours of those glorious Monarchs, of pious and blessed Memory, have not had all the Success, one could desire; yet they have opened the Way for fresh Attempts of the same nature, which (God be thanked) have not been lost, in as much as the Western Coast of Greenland (by the Danes called Westerbygd) not only has been fully discovered, but also several new Lodges have been there erected, and the holy Word of God has been preached, with God's Blessing, to these ignorant Heathens that dwell in these Places, where Christianity has*

*has been quite extinct and forgot: All this ought to encourage us to continue our Endeavours to discover the Eastern Shore, where it is confessed, the chief Colony has been seated; and perhaps the Off-spring of the old Norwegians and Islanders may be recovered; which I don't think impossible, provided we go on in the right Way, as I hope to shew in the following Treatise.*

*How praise-worthy and glorious an Enterprize would it be, to undertake so great and wholesom a Work, chiefly in regard to these unhappy People, who, by a just Judgment of God, now for upwards of three hundred Years, have been debarred all Communication with Christians; which to remedy, not only our Civil, but Christian Duty obliges us. It becomes us therefore heartily to pray God Almighty, that he will be pleased*

*to*

*to appease his Wrath kindled against these poor Wretches, and to disclose to our most gracious Sovereign, and to other well-intentioned Christians, the best Way and Means to this Country's Discovery and happy Restitution. And though we should fail of Success, in still meeting with the aforesaid Off-spring of the old Norwegian and Island Christians, who, for ought we know, may be all extinct and destroyed, as we found it on the West Coast; yet, for all that, I should not think all our Labour lost, nor our Costs made to no Purpose, as long as it may be for the Good and Advantage of those ignorant Heathens, that live there; to whom we have Reason to hope, our most gracious Sovereign will also extend his fatherly Clemency, and Christian Zeal, to provide for their eternal Happiness, as he so graciously has done for those on the Western Shore;*  
*seeing*

*seeing that by these Means the old ruined Places might anew be provided with Colonies and Inhabitants; which would prove no small Advantage to the King and his Dominions. This my well-meant Project, that God in his Mercy will advance and promote, to the Honour of his most holy Name, and the enlightning and saving of these poor Souls, is the sincere Desire of,*

HANS EGEDE.

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Church  
Gard  
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THE  
NATURAL HISTORY  
OF  
*GREENLAND.*

---

## C H A P. I.

*Treats of the Situation and Extent  
of Greenland.*

**G**REENLAND lies but 40  
Miles to the West off of *Iceland*;  
beginning from the 59th Degree  
50 Minutes. The Eastern Coast extends  
itself in the North as far as *Spitz-Berg*,  
between 78 and 80 Degrees; which is  
thought to be an Island, separated from  
B the

*Greenland* probably is contiguous to *America* on the West-Side. the Continent of *Greenland*. The Western Shore is discover'd as far as 70 odd Degrees. Whether it be a large Island, or borders upon Countries to the North, is not yet found out; there seems great Reason to believe, it is contiguous to *America* on the North-West Side; because there we meet with the Bay or Inlet, which in the Sea-Carts is called *Davis's Strait*, from an *Englishman*, who in the Year 1585 was the first Discoverer of it; and is yearly frequented by Ships of different Nations, on account of the Whale-Fishery: But no Body as yet has been able to find out the Bottom of it. And according to the Notice we have endeavour'd to gather from those *Greenlanders* who live farthest to the North, there is either but a very narrow Passage between *America* and *Greenland*; or, as is most likely, they are quite contiguous <sup>a</sup>: and I am the more inclined to believe

<sup>a</sup> According to the Relation and Opinion of those *Greenlanders*, that inhabit the Gulf of *Disco*, in 69 Degrees *Greenland* is an Island, which they infer from the strong Current that runs from the North, and keeps the Ice open even into the midst of the Sea.  
They

believe this, because the farther you go Northwards in the said Strait, the lower is the Land; contrary to what we observe, where it borders on the Seas or main Ocean, it never wants lofty Promontories. It has been the commonly received Opinion, of a long standing, that *Greenland* borders upon the *Asiatic Tartary*, and *Moscovia* on the North-East; what confirms them in this Notion is an old Story they give Credit to, that a certain *Harrald* Goat did travel by Land, over Mountains and Rocks, from *Greenland* to *Norway*, bringing along with him a She-Goat, of whose Milk he lived on the Journey; by which he got the Surname of *Harrald* Goat. Furthermore, the ancient *Greenland* Christians in their Chro-

'Tis uncertain, whether it borders upon *Asiatic Tartary*, on the North-East Side.

B 2

nicles

They will also tell you, they have spoken with People different from themselves on the other Side of the Ice, and hail'd them: Their Language (they say) is the same, but the Persons different, so that a small Strait only divides *Greenland* from *America*. The said Straights are so narrow, that Men on both Sides can shoot at once one and the same Fish. The Continent farthest to the North is all covered with Ice: The Islands only uncovered, where Rain-Deer, Geese, and other wild Birds are found in great Numbers.

*The Natural History*

nicles relate, that there were come to them from the Northern Parts, foreign Rain-Deer and Sheep, marked upon the Ears, and with some Marks tied to their Horns; from which they concluded, that the Northern Parts of *Greenland* were also inhabited. *Vid. Theodore Torlaccius*. But the contrary is proved by later Experiments made

Is contradicted by the Navigation of *Dutchmen* and others to the North. See *Zordrager's Greenland-Fisbery*, Part II. Ch. 10.

*Greenland* is a high, mountainous Country, continually covered with Snow and Ice.

*Greenland* is a high and rocky Country, always covered with Ice and Snow (except on the Sea-Side, and in the Bays or Inlets) which never thaws nor melts away. You may judge of the Height by the Prospect they yield at more than 20 *Norway* Miles Distance from the Shore. The whole Coast is surrounded with a vast Number of large and small Islands. There are a great many Inlets and large Rivers to be met with, among which the Principal is called *Baal's* River in 64 Degrees, and has been navigated 18 or 20 *Norway* Miles up the Country;

Country; where the first *Danish* Lodge was settled in the Year 1721. In all Sea-Carts you will find laid down *Forbisher's Strait* and *Baer-Sound*, which, they pretend, form two large Islands, adjacent to the Main-Land; which, I think, are not to be found, at least, not upon the Coast of *Greenland*; for I cou'd not meet with any thing like it, in the Voyage I undertook in the Year 1723 Southward, going upon Discoveries; though I went as far as to 60 Degrees that Way: But at present the newer Carts lay them down, the Northern Strait in 63, and the Southern in 62 Degrees. Some of the Ancients, which *Thor-moder* follows in his *Greenland* History, place them between 61 and 60 Degrees. So that the Carts differ mightily in this Particular. Besides this, there is not a Word or a Syllable mention'd in our ancient Records of *Greenland* of the aforesaid two Straits and large Islands: They only inform us, that after the old *Norwegians* and *Icelanders* had began to settle Colonies on the East Side of *Greenland*, over against

*Forbisher's Straits and Baer-Sound not to be found.*

No Notice is taken of any such Straits or Islands in the ancient Records of *Greenland*.

*The Natural History*

*Iceland*, they continued to spread themselves all along the Shore and in the Bays; as far as *Baal's River*, where they did stop; and where we find many Ruins of the old *Norwegian* Edifices. And whereas I myself have lately met with so many Stone Buildings, so far to the South, I think my Conclusion is good, that the Land upon which these Houses stand, is no particular Island, but contiguous to the Main. It is therefore very reasonable to believe, that whereas the Ancients took Notice of, and so accurately described, all those Bays and Islands that were inhabited; they would not have passed by in Silence these two large Islands, whereupon such stately Buildings were erected. And for this Reason I have hereto joined a new Map or Delineation of *Greenland*, to shew the Contiguousness of the East and West *Greenland*, agreeably to other new Carts of *Thermoder* and others; which I follow as far as I find them not contradictory to the Description of the Ancients, and to my own Experience.

C H A P.

## C H A P. II.

*First Settlement of Greenland, with some Thoughts on the Norwegian Colonies Extinction; and whether on the East Side no Remainers may be found of the old Norwegians: also, whether the same Tract of Land cannot be recovered.*

'TIS undoubted, that the Ancients, not so much driven by any Necessity or Compulsion, as led by a natural and inbred Curiosity are fallen upon many strange Ventures; as for instance, to discover and settle Colonies in so many formerly quite unknown and uninhabited Countries; to whose Discovery what particular Accidents have most contributed, we learn by the several Histories and Descriptions thereof. For the Almighty and good God, who has not in vain created the vast Globe of the Earth, has also not intended, that any

*The Natural History*

Part or Province of it should lie buried in eternal Oblivion, uselefs to Mankind. And that *Greenland* by such means has been discovered and inhabited by our old *Norwegians* and *Icelanders*, we are fully informed of, by the Annals of *Iceland*; where we read, that the brave and valiant *Erick Raude* (or *Red*) who was the first Discoverer of this Country, after he in Company with several other *Icelanders*, in the Year of our Lord 982. by meer Casualty fell in with the Land, and had taken a Survey of its present State, he returned to *Iceland* the next Year 983; spoke much in Commendation of the Land, calling it the *Greenland*, by which he persuaded many of his Countrymen to follow him thither, in order to find out Places fit for dwelling, and to settle there<sup>b</sup>. They no  
sooner

*Erick Raude*  
first discovers  
*Greenland*, and  
settles there  
983.

<sup>b</sup> Historians disagree about the Time of the first Settlement of *Greenland*. The *Icelanders* (as we have mentioned) will have it to be done in the Year 982-3. But *Pontanus*, in his *Danish* History, refers it to the Year 770; making his Assertion good by a Bull of Pop *Gregory* the IVth, who in the Year 835 sent to *Bisho Ansgarius*,

fooner were arrived and settled here, but they found God was come along with them; I mean the saving Knowledge of his most holy Word. For the said *Erick Raude* his Son, called *Leif*, after he had been instructed in the Gospel Truths by King *Olaf* (who was the first Christian King of *Norway*) brought along with him from *Norway* to *Greenland* a Priest, who taught and christned all the Inhabitants of the Country. Thus this Country has first been settled by *Norway* and *Iceland* Colonies, which in after-times have increased and been provided with many Churches and Convents, Bishops and Teachers; which lasted as long as the Correspondence and Navigation continued between them and *Norway*, until the Year 1406, when the last Bishop was sent over to *Greenland*. Yet the *Norwegians* were not the original Natives of the Land; for, not long after their Arrival, they met with the old Inhabitants, a savage People dwelling

The Christian Religion planted in Greenland.

Flourished till the Year 1405.

There were Natives living in the Country before the Norwegians.

*Ansgarius*, wherein the Propagation of the Gospel is recommended to him, as Archbishop of the Northern Countries, and especially of *Iceland* and *Greenland*.

ing on the Western Shore, originally descended from the *Americans*; as may with great Probability be gathered from the Agreement of their Persons, Customs and Habits with those who dwell to the North of *Hudson's Bay*; as likewise while those, that inhabited the Northern Parts (now going by the Name of *Davis's Straits*) advanced nearer and nearer to the South, and often made War upon the *Norwegians*. Concerning the Cause of the Ruin and total Destruction of that so well established *Norwegian* Colony, there is nothing found upon Record; the Reason of which I think to be, that after all Correspondence and Navigation ceased between *Greenland* and *Norway*, partly by the Change and Translation of the Government in *Queen Margaret's* Reign; and partly by the next following continual Wars between the *Danes* and *Swedes*, which caused the Navigation to those Parts to be laid aside, and chiefly by the great Difficulty and innumerable Dangers of such Navigation, which several Causes cut off all Intelligences, that might  
be

Causes why  
all Correspondence and  
Navigation  
ceased between  
*Norway*  
and *Greenland*.

## Of Greenland.

11

be had of that Country's State, as may be seen in *Pontanus* and *Claudius Lycander*.

The ancient Historians divide *Greenland* Greenland is divided into two Districts, called *Bygdes*. into two Parts or Districts, called *West Bygd*, and *East Bygd*. As to the West District, which is said to have contained The Western District destroyed by the *Schrellingers*. four Parishes, and 100 Villages, all we find in the ancient Histories, amounts to this, *viz.* That in the 14th Century it was forely infested by a wild Nation called *Schrellings*, and laid so waste, that when the Inhabitants of the Eastern District came to the Assistance of the Christians, and to expel the barbarous Nation of the *Schrellings*, who were fallen upon the Christians, they found to their great Astonishment the Province quite emptied of its Inhabitants, and nothing remaining but some Cattle and Flocks of Sheep, straying wild and unguarded round about the Fields and Meadows; whereof they killed a good Number, which they brought home with them in their Ships. By which it appears, that the *Norway* Christians in the Western District were

The modern  
Inhabitants  
have some  
Knowledge  
hereof.

were destroyed, and Christianity rooted out by the Savage Heathens. The modern Inhabitants of West *Greenland*, being (no doubt) the Offspring of the afore-mentioned wild and barbarous *Schrellings*, have no certain Account to give us of this Matter; though they will tell you, that the old decayed dwelling Places and Villages, whose Ruins are yet seen, were inhabited formerly by a Nation quite different from theirs; and they also affirm, what the ancient Histories tell us, that their Ancestors made War with them, and destroyed them<sup>c</sup>.

Now

A ridiculous  
Tale of the  
modern *Green-*  
*landers* con-  
cerning the  
Origin and  
Destruction of  
our Nation in  
those Parts.

<sup>c</sup> The *Greenlanders* relate a very ridiculous Story, as well concerning the Origin of our Colonies (whom they stile with the Name of *Kablunæt*) as also of their total Overthrow, as follows: A *Greenland* Woman in her Child-bearing, was once delivered of *Kablunæt* and Dogs Whelps, of which the Parents were highly ashamed; and for that Reason withdrew from their Neighbours and Countrymen. This monstrous Breed, being grown up, became so troublesome to their Father, that he was not able to endure them; wherefore he retired yet further to some distant Place. Mean while this inhuman Race came to this horrible Agreement amongst themselves, to devour their own Father, whenever he should happen to come among them; which a little after came to pass, when he visited them with a Present of some Part of a Seal, which he had taken,  
accord-

Now as to the Eastern District, its present State is intirely unknown to us; as there is no coming at it with any Shipping, upon the Account of the vast Quantity of Ice, driven from *Spitzbergen* and other Northern Coasts upon this Shore, which adhering to the Shore barricades the Land, and renders it wholly inaccessible. We may nevertheless gather from the above-mentioned

Eastern District hitherto unknown to us.  
East District flourished after the Destruction of the Western.

Expe-

according to Custom. *Kablunæt* immediately went down to him, to whom the Father delivered the Piece of Seal-Flesh he had brought them. But he was no sooner got a-shore, before the Doggish Race seized and devoured him, and then fell a eating the Seal-Flesh, given them. Whilst the *Kablunæt* dwelled there, one of the *Innuits*, (or Mankind) for so they call themselves, came rowing along the Shore, and throwing his Dart at some Sea-Fowl, missed what he aimed at; which one of the *Kablunæt*, who stood upon a Point of Land running out into the Sea, observing, mocked and ridiculed him, and laying himself down upon the Ground, told him, that as he saw he was so dexterous in shooting, he would be the Bird, he might throw the Dart at him, and take Care not to miss him. Whereupon *Innuit* shot and killed him. This Death caused continual Strifes and Wars between the *Kablunæts* and *Innuits*, which last at length became Masters, and overthrew the former.

*The Natural History*

Expedition of the East *Greenlanders* against the *Schrellingers*, that after the Destruction and total Overthrow of the Western District and its Colonies, the Eastern were yet standing and flourishing. But in what Year this happened, no Notice is taken by the old Historians. Nevertheless from many Tokens and Remainers of probable Evidence it may be inferred, that the old Colony of the Eastern District is not yet quite extinct. To the Confirmation of which, *Thormoder* in his History of *Greenland* alledges the following Passage.

Some Remnant of the *Norwegian Colonies* is supposed to be there still.

*Amand* Bishop of *Iceland* was in the 16th Century driven under *Greenland*, where he saw the People feed their Herds and Flocks.

Bishop *Amand* of *Shalbolt* in *Iceland* (who *Anno* 1522 had been consecrated, but *Anno* 1540 again resigned) once returning from *Norway* to *Iceland*, was by a Storm driven Westward upon the Coast of *Greenland*, which he coasted for some time Northwards, made Land towards the Evening, finding themselves off of *Herjolsness*; they came so near to the Shore, that they could descry the Inhabitants driving their Flocks in the Pasture Grounds: But, as the

the Wind soon after proved fair, they made all the Sails they could, steering for *Iceland*, which they reach'd the Day following, and enter'd the Bay of *St. Patrick*, which lies on the West Coast of the Island, in the Morning early when they were a milking their Cows. *Birn* of *Skarsaa* (as we learn by the aforefaid *Tbormoder Torfager*) gives the following Relation: In our Time (says he) one named *John Greenland*, who for a considerable Time had been employed in the Service of the *Hamburg* Merchants, in a Voyage from thence to *Iceland*, met with contrary Winds and stormy Weather, in which he narrowly escaped being cast away, and lost with Ship and Crew upon the dreadful Rocks of *Greenland*, by getting in at last to a fine Bay, which contained many Islands, where he happily came to an Anchor under a desert Island; and it was not long before he spied several other Islands not far off, that were inhabited; which for fear of the Inhabitants, he for a while did not dare to approach; till at last he pluck'd up a good Heart,

A *Hamburg* Captain by Storm driven on the same Shore, found Relicks of the ancient Inhabitants.

Heart, and sending his Boat on Shore, went to the next House, which seem'd but very small and mean. Here he found all the Accoutrements, necessary to fit out a Fishing-Boat; he saw also a Fishing-Booth, or small Hut, made up of Stones, to dry Fish therein, as it is customary in *Iceland*. There laid a dead Body of a Man, extended upon the Ground, with his Face downwards; a Cap sewed together on his Head; the rest of his Cloathing was made partly of coarse Cloth, and partly of Seal-Skin; an old rusty Knife was found at his Side, which the Captain took, in order to shew it to his Friends at his Return home to *Iceland*, to serve for a Token of what he had seen. 'Tis further said, that this Commander was three times by Strefs of Weather driven upon the Coasts of *Greenland*, by which he obtained the Surname of *Greenlander*.

This Relation can be no more than of a Hundred Years standing, as *Theodore Torlack* affirms; because the abovementioned Annals, in which we read it, were composed

posed by *Biorno* of *Skarsaa* within these 30 Years.

The same Author furthermore informs us, that in *Iceland* there has often been found scattered here and there on the Sea Shore, old broken Pieces of Deal-Boards, which were parts of the Ribs of Boats, which on the Side they were tack'd together, were pasted with a Sort of Pitch or Glue made of the Blubber of Seals; now it stands confess'd, that this kind of Glue is no where made Use of, but only in *Greenland*. And a Boat of this Make was in the Year 1625 found thrown up, upon a Point of Land near *Reiche-Strand*, the Structure of which was very artificial, joined together with wooden Nails, not unlike that in which *Asmund Kastenrazius*, in the Year 1189, in Company with 12 Men cross'd over from *Greenland* to *Iceland*; which Boat was likewise tack'd together with wooden Nails, and the Sinews of Animals.

There is often found on the Shore of *Iceland* Wrecks of Boats of *Greenland*, consisting of broken Pieces of Deal-Boards.

The same Historian in his Book *de Novitiis Groenlandorum Indiciis* tells us, that some

Years ago, they found an Oar upon the Eastern Shore of *Iceland*, whereon these Words were carved in *Runick* Characters: *Oft var ek dascedar ek dro dik*, which signifies, *often was I tired, when I carried thee*. Besides this, I find a Relation in a

*Blefkenius's*  
Story of a  
Monk, Native  
of *Greenland*.

*German* Writer, whose Name is *Ditbmarus Blefkenius*, concerning a certain Monk, born in *Greenland*, who, as Companion to the Bishop of the Place, in the Year 1546 made a Voyage into *Norway*, where he lived until the Year 1564, and where, the Author says, he got acquainted and personally conversed with him. This Monk told him many strange and surprizing Things of a Dominican Convent in *Greenland*, called *St. Thomas's* Convent; to which his Parents sent him in his Youth to become a Monk of that Order. But the Truth of this Relation is very much questioned, being together with several others of *Blefkenius's*

Is refuted by  
*Arngrim*, an  
Author of  
Credit.

Relations refuted and gainsaid by *Arngrim* in his Treatise intituled *Anatome Blefkeniana*. *Blefkenius's* Relation is nevertheless confirmed by several other Authors. *Erasmus*

*Fran-*

*Franciscus*, in his Book called *East and West India State Garden*, in a Place, where he treats of *Greenland*, tells us, that a Captain of a *Danish* Ship, by Name *Jacob Hall*, being ordered by the King his Master to undertake a Voyage to *Greenland*, he touched first at *Iceland*, where he from the King's Lieutenant got Intelligence of *Greenland*, which before was unknown to him. And that he might the more fully be informed of every thing relating to this Matter, a certain Monk was sent for, to instruct him herein, who was said to be a Native of *Greenland*; of whom the said *Jacob Hall*, in his short Description, gives the following Account, according to our above-mentioned Author *Erasmus Franciscus*. “ There has formerly been a Con-  
 “ vent (says he) in *Iceland*, call'd *Helga-*  
 “ *field*, or *Holy Mountain*, in which, though  
 “ it was decay'd, lived a certain Friar,  
 “ Native of *Greenland*, with a broad and  
 “ tawny Face. This Friar was sent for by  
 “ the King's Lieutenant in the Presence of  
 “ *Jacob Hall*, who wanted to be informed

*Jacob Hall's*  
 Relation of  
 the said  
 Monk, with  
 many re-  
 markable  
 Things.

*The Natural History*

“ of the State of *Greenland*. The Friar ac-  
 “ cordingly told him, that being very young,  
 “ he was enter’d into this Convent by his  
 “ Parents ; and that he afterwards was  
 “ commanded by the same Bishop, of whom  
 “ he had received the holy Orders, to go  
 “ along with him from thence to *Norway*,  
 “ where he submitted himself to the Bi-  
 “ shop of *Drontheim*, to whose Authority  
 “ and Jurisdiction all the Priests of *Iceland*  
 “ were subject ; and being returned to his  
 “ native home, he again retired and shut  
 “ himself up in his former Convent. This  
 “ is said to have happened in the Year  
 “ 1546. He said moreover, that in  
 “ the Convent of *St. Thomas*, where he  
 “ also had pass’d some time, there was a  
 “ Well of burning-hot Water, which,  
 “ through Pipes, was convey’d into all the  
 “ Rooms and Cells of the Convent, for  
 “ to warm them.” But I think there is  
 “ as much Reason to question the Authen-  
 “ tickness of this Relation, as of the former,  
 “ in as much as there is no such thing to  
 “ be found in our *Danish* Archives or Annals.

This Rela-  
 tion not to be  
 credited.

Notwithstanding which, what concerns St. Thomas's Convent in particular, is confess'd, and confirm'd by the old Histories of *Greenland*. *Nicolas Zenetur*, a *Venetian* by Birth, who served the King of *Denmark* in the Quality of a Sea Captain, is said by chance to have been driven upon the Coast of *Greenland* in the Year 1380; and to have seen that same Dominican Convent. His Relation is alledged by *Kircherus* in the following Words: " Here is also a Dominican

" Convent to be seen, dedicated to St. *Thomas*, in whose Neighbourhood there is a Vulcano of a Mountain that spews Fire, and at the Foot thereof a Well of burning-hot Water. This hot Water is not only conveyed by Pipes into the Convent, and through all the Cells of the Friars, to keep them warm, as with us the Rooms are heated by Stoves of Wood-Fire or other Fuel; but here they also boil and bake their Meat and Bread with the same. This Vulcano, or fiery Mountain, throws out such a Quantity of Pumice-Stone, that it hath furnished

In the Convent of St. *Thomas* there is a Hot Well, whose Water conveyed by Pipes warms the whole Convent.

*The Natural History*

“ Materials for the Construction of the  
 “ whole Convent: There are also fine  
 “ Gardens, which reap great Benefit from  
 “ this hot Water, adorn'd with all Sorts of  
 “ Flowers, and full of Fruit. And after  
 “ the River has watered these Gardens, it  
 “ empties itself into the adjoining Bay,  
 “ which causes it never to freeze; and  
 “ great Numbers of Fish and Sea-Fowl  
 “ flock thither, which yields plentiful  
 “ Provision for the Nourishment of the  
 “ Inhabitants.

*Biorno of Skarsaa's Relation of Bishop Amund is more to be believed than others.*

Of all the attested Relations that of *Biorno of Skarsaa*, concerning Bishop *Amund of Skalbolt*, who was driven upon the Coast of *Greenland*, deserves most to be credited: By which we learn, that the Colony of the Eastern District did flourish about 150 Years after the Commerce and Navigation ceased between *Norway* and *Greenland*; and for aught we know, is not yet wholly destitute of its old *Norwegian* Inhabitants. We have not been able to get any Account of this Matter from the modern *Greenlanders* know nothing of this.

dern

dern *Greenlanders*, as they entertain no Correspondence with those Parts; either being hindered by the Ice, which renders them altogether inaccessible; or else for fear the Inhabitants of that Country might kill and devour them; for they represent them as a cruel, barbarous and inhuman Nation, that destroy and eat all Foreigners that fall into their Hands. Yet this notwithstanding, if we may believe the Relation of those Adventurers, who have coasted a great Part of the Eastern Shore; there is no other sort of Inhabitants found on this, than on the Western Side. But how it comes to pass, that the Eastern District, which was so well settled with *Norway* and *Iceland* Colonies, that it contained 12 large Parishes, and 190 Villages, besides one Bishop's See and two Convents, and flourished till the Year 1540; at last has been destroyed and laid waste, is what I can't conceive. That some are of Opinion, that the black Plague, so call'd, which ravaged the Northern Countries in the Year 1348, also reach'd *Greenland*; and made its Havock among its

If the Christian Colonies of the East District are destroyed, 'tis likely it was done in the same manner as those on the West Side. Eastern Colonies, is without any Ground or Reason; because the Commerce was carried into *Greenland* until the Year 1406; and in 1540 that Colony was still subsisting. If therefore this District be destitute or bereft of its old Inhabitants: 'tis not unlike, they have undergone the same Fatality as the Western ones, being destroyed by the Barbarity of the Savage *Schrellingers*.

*Erick Walkendorff* Arch-Bishop of *Drontheim*, his Design to send Ships upon this Discovery.

After him *Frederick* the Ist attempted the same, but did not succeed.

A whole Century passed from the Cessation of all Commerce and Navigation between *Norway* and *Greenland*, till new Adventurers began to apply themselves to the Discovery of the Eastern District. The first of those who took this Affair to Heart was *Erick Walkendorff*, Arch-Bishop of *Drontheim*, who was resolved, at his own Charge, to fit out Ships for this Purpose; but was stopt in this pious Design by King *Christian* the Second, whose Disgrace he had incur'd. The next was King *Frederick* the First, whose Mind (as it is reported, was bent upon the said Expedition, but was never

never put in Execution. *Christian* the Third, *Christian* the III<sup>d</sup>, had no better Success. (as *Lyscander* relates) sent several Ships with the same Design, but without making any Discovery. *Frederick* the II<sup>d</sup> succeeded his Royal Father as well in the Government, as in his good Design about *Greenland*; on which Errand he sent *Mogens Heinson*, a renowned Seaman in those Days. This Adventurer, after he had gone through many Difficulties and Dangers of Storms and Ice, got Sight of the Land, but could not approach it; whereupon he returned home again, and pretended, that he might have got on Shore, if his Ship had not been stop'd in the midst of its Course by some Loadstone Rocks hidden in the Sea, that he could not proceed, though he had a very favourable and strong Gale of Wind, and no Ice to hinder him; which frightned him and made him sail back again to *Denmark*. But the true Loadstone Rocks, in my Opinion, was the terrible Fright he was in of not getting safe through the dreadful Ice Mountains, which threatned him, or else the strong Current, which always runs along the States

*Mogens Heinson*, sent by *Frederick* II<sup>d</sup>, had Sight of the Land, without approaching it.

Pretended that he was stop't under full Sail by some hidden magnetic Rocks.

States Promontory, with such Violence and Rapidity, that it often stops a Ship under full Sail, so that the Ship can make but little or no Way at all against it. The Cause by others assigned for this strange Effect is the Fish *Remora*, which the *Northlanders* call *Kracken* is nothing but a fabulous Story of the too credulous Antients, and labours under no less Absurdities than the former Opinion, that Rocks of Loadstone, laying on the Bottom of the Sea, can stay the Course of a Ship that sails on the Surface of it.

Or stay'd by  
the Fish *Re-*  
*mora.*

Sir *Martin For-*  
*bisher* is by  
Queen *Eliza-*  
*beth* sent to  
discover  
*Greenland.*

In the same Year that *Mogens Heinson* went upon the *Greenland* Discovery, the *English* Histories inform us, that Captain *Martin Forbisher*, an *Englishman*, was by the glorious Queen *Elizabeth* sent upon the same Errand. This Adventurer got Sight of the Land, but being partly hindred by the Ice, which adhered to it, and partly by the Shortness of the Winter Days (for it was late in the Year) he could not approach it, and so returned to *England* again. Next  
Year

Year in the Spring he went upon the same Expedition with three Ships. After having gone through many great Dangers of the Ice and Storms, he at length reached the Shore, where he found a wild and savage Nation; who, when they saw the *English* coming to them, being frightned, left their Huts, and run away to hide themselves. Some from the highest Rocks, threw themselves into the Sea; whereupon the *English* entered their Huts, where they met with no body but an old Woman, and a young one big with Child, those they carried away with them. 'Tis also reported, that they here found some Sand, which contained Particles of Gold and Silver, of which they filled 300 Tuns, and brought it home with them to *England*. As to this Gold and Silver Sand, I can't help questioning whether they found any such on the *Greenland* Shore, in as much as Sir *Martin* in the same Strain relates wonderful Things of the Politeness and Civility of a Nation that dwelt in those Parts; of which he says, they were governed by a Prince, whom

they

Went ashore  
and found a  
wild Nation  
inhabiting it.

He is said to  
have brought  
from thence  
300 Tuns of  
Gold and Sil-  
ver Sand.

There are  
many Things  
to be question-  
ed in the said  
Relation.

they called *Kakiunge*; and carried him in State on their Shoulders, clothed in rich Stuffs, and adorned with Gold and precious Stones, which does not at all agree with the Meanneſs and Coarſeneſs of *Greenland* and its Inhabitants; but rather ſeems to belong to the rich Kingdoms of *Peru* and *Mexico*, where Gold and Silver abounds; and from whence he may have brought the above-mentioned Gold and Silver Sand.

But I think it high time to leave ſuch uncertain Relations to their Worth; and turn our Thoughts towards the pious Endeavours of our moſt gracious Sovereigns the Kings of *Denmark*, to diſcover and recover *Greenland* again. And we find, that after the Expeditions of *Frederick* the II, King *Chriſtian* the IVth his Succeſſor, with great Coſts ordered four different Expeditions for this Diſcovery. The firſt was undertaken, under the Command of *Godſke Lindenow*, with three Ships. And, as the Hiſtory tells, *Lindenow* with his Ship arrived upon the East Coaſt of *Greenland*,  
(which

King *Chriſtian*  
the IVth  
ſends four  
times Ships to  
diſcover  
*Greenland*.

which I hardly can believe) and found none but wild uncivilised People there, like those *Forbisher* is said first to have met with. He staid there three Days, during which Time the wild *Greenlanders* came to trade with him; changing all Sorts of Furs and Skins with Pieces of precious Horns, against all Kinds of small trifling Iron-Ware; as Knives, Sciffars, Needles, common Looking-Glasses, and other such Trifles. When he set Sail from thence, there were two *Greenlanders* remaining in the Ship, whom he carried off, and brought them home along with him: these, as they made all their Endeavour to get away from him, and sometimes would have jumped into the Sea, they were obliged to tie and secure them; which when their Countrymen observed, who flocked together upon the Shore, they made a hideous Outcry and Howling, flung Stones, and shot their Arrows at the Sailors, upon which they from the Ship fired a Gun, which frightened and dispersed them; and so the Ship left them. The two other Ships, that set Sail in Company, and under

the

M. de Lindenow by Force carries away two Savages.

The other two Ships brought some Metal which contained Silver-Ore, and four *Savages*. the Command of *Lindenow*, after they had doubled *Cape Farewell*, steered directly for the *Strait of Davis*; in which Navigation they discovered many fine Harbours, delightful green Meadow-lands, but all the Inhabitants along the Coasts wild and savage, as before. 'Tis pretended also, that they in some Places found Stones, which contained some Silver Ore, which they took along with them; of which 100 Pound yielded 26 Ounces of Silver. (Here again I cannot forbear questioning, whether this Silver-Ore has been found on the *Greenland* Shore, or rather over against it, on the *American* Coast.) These two Ships also brought four *Savages* home with them to *Copenhagen*.

In the second Voyage the four *Savages* were sent back again, but one died at Sea.

The second Expedition was made by Order of the same King in the Year 1606, with five Ships, under the Conduct of the aforementioned Admiral *Lindenow*; bringing along with them three of the *Savages* (one of them dying in the Voyage) which they had carried off, the Year before, from

*Greenland.* But this time he directed his Course to the Westward of *Cape Farewell*, standing for the *Strait of Davis*; where he coasting along took the Survey of several Places, and then returned home again.

The third and last Expedition of this glorious King was only of two Ships, commanded by Captain *Carsten Richards*, a *Holstenian* by Birth; he spied the Land and its high and craggy Rocks afar off, but could not come near it, on Account of the Ice; and so, after he had lost his Labour, he returned home.

The fourth Expedition of King *Christi-* Captain *Munck's* Navigation, 1616.  
*an* the IVth, under the Conduct of Captain *Jens Munck* in the Year 1616, was not made for the Discovering of *Greenland*, but to find out a Passage between *Greenland* and *America* to *China*; the Misfortunes of which Expedition are related by the said Commander.

There

The fifth Expedition by a Company of Merchants at *Copenhagen*.

Brought from thence a yellow Sand, said to contain Gold.

There was besides these four Expeditions, at the King's Cost, a fifth undertaken, in the same King's Reign, by a Company settled in *Copenhagen* in the Year 1636; of which Company the President was the Lord High Chancellor, *Christian Friis*, as *Lyscander* informs us. Two Ships, fitted out by this Company, directing their Course to the Westward of *Greenland*, fell in with the *Strait of Davis*, where they traded, for a while, with the *Savages*: But this was not the main Concern of the Commander, who was acquainted with a Coast, whose Sand had the Colour and Weight of Gold, which he accordingly did not miss; and filled both their Ships with the same. After their Return to *Copenhagen*, the Goldsmiths were ordered to make a Trial, whether this Sand would yield any Gold, or no; who not being skilful enough to make such a Trial, condemned it to be all thrown over Board; which was done by Order of the High Chancellor, President of the Company. Some Part of the said Sand was yet kept, out of Curiosity; out of which  
an

Artificer, who afterwards came to *Copenhagen*, did extract a good deal of pure Gold. The honest and well-meaning Commander, who went upon this Adventure, was turned out of Favour, and out of Grief died soon after: whereby not only the Treasure they had brought home, but also the Knowledge of the Place, where it was to be found, was intirely lost, as he kept this a Secret to himself.

In the Year 1654. during the Reign of King *Frederick* the III<sup>d</sup>, a noble and wealthy Adventurer, by name *Henry Muller*, fitted out a Ship for *Greenland*, under the Command of *David de Nelles*; who arrived safe in *Greenland*, and brought from thence three Women, whose Names were *Kunelik*, *Kabelau* and *Sigokou*; who, according to the Opinion of Bishop *Torlais*, (who had perused the said Captain's Journal) were taken in the Neighbourhood of *Herjolsness*, on the Eastern Shore, as *Thormoder Torfæus* pretends; but which I can't be made to believe: My Opinion is,

D they

1654. A Ship  
was sent by  
one *Muller*,  
which  
brought home  
three Wo-  
men.

they were brought from the Western Shore, near *Baal's* River, as some of the Inhabitants, who are still living, had in fresh Remembrance, telling me their Names, as they are laid down in the forementioned Journal.

1670. Another Ship was sent by the Order of *Christian* the Vth. By whose Encouragement also one Mr. *Tormühlen* of *Bergen* fitted out a Ship and Colony for those Parts provided with all Necessaries.

The last Adventurer, that was sent upon the Discovery of *Greenland*, according to *Torfæus* in his History of *Greenland*, was Captain *Otto Axelson* in the Year 1670, in the Reign of *Christian* the Vth of glorious Memory. But what Success this Adventurer met with, he leaves us to guess. Nevertheless we find in a Manuscript Description of *Greenland*, written by *Arngrim Vidalin*, Part III. Chap. 1, that his said Majesty did invite, and with great Privileges encourage Mr. *George Tormühlen* Counsellor of Commerce at *Bergen*, to fit out Ships for the said Discovery; whereupon the said Counsellor not only got ready Shipping well stored for such an Expedition; but also got together a Number of Passengers, who resolved to go and settle in those Parts, whom he provided with all things necessary

necessary for that Purpose; both Provision and Ammunition, as well as Houses made of Timber, ready to be erected in that Country. But this great Design miscarried, the Ship being taken by the *French* and brought into *Dunkirk*.

This Ship was taken by the *French*, and brought into *Dunkirk*.

Thus, for a long while it seemed, that all Thought of *Greenland* was laid aside, until the Year 1721; when after many well-meant Invitations, and Projects proposed by me to the *Greenland* Company at *Bergen* in *Norway*, approved and authorised by his late Majesty *Frederick* the IVth of glorious Memory, the Company thereupon resolved not only to send Ships, but also to settle a Colony in *Greenland* in the 64th Degree, when I went over with my whole Family, and remained there 15 Years. During my Stay I endeavoured to get all the Intelligence that could be procured both by Sea and Land of the present State of the Country, and did not lose my Labour; for I found some Places that formerly were inhabited by the old *Norwegians*.

1721. The *Greenland* Company at *Bergen* transported a Colony to *Greenland*, which the Author accompanied.

*gians*, on the western Shore. Which Expedition I have lately treated of in another Treatise, and set out in all its Circumstances, and with all the Difficulties it has laboured under : Wherefore I think it needs not to be here repeated.

But, whereas my main Drift and Endeavour has been all along chiefly to discover the Eastern District of *Greenland*, which always was reckoned the best of our ancient Colonies ; accordingly I received from the above mentioned *Greenland* Company at *Bergen* a Letter in the Year 1723, in which I was told, that it was his Majesty's Pleasure, that the East District might likewise be visited and discovered. Which the better to effectuate, I took the Resolution to make this Voyage in Person : And accordingly I coasted it Southwards, as far as to the *States Promontory*, looking out for the *Strait* of *Forbisber*, which would have been my shortest way, according to those Carts, which lay the said *Strait* down in this Place ; but such

1723. The Author went to take a Survey of the present State of the East Side.

such a Strait I could not find. Now as it grew too late in the Year, for me to proceed further, the Month of *September* being near at an End, when the Winter-Season begins in those Parts, accompanied by dreadful Storms, I was obliged to return.

But the approaching Winter obliged him to return.

In the Year 1724. the Directors of the said *Bergen* Company, according to his Majesty's Good Will and Pleasure, fitted out a Ship to attempt a Landing on the Eastern Shore, as had been formerly practised on that Coast, which lies opposite to *Iceland*.

1724. A Ship was fitted out by the said Company for the Discovery of the East District;

But the surprizing Quantity of Ice, which barricadoed the Coast, made that Enterprize prove abortive and quite to miscarry, as many others had done. As there was no

But could not approach it for the Flakes of Ice.

Appearance for Ships to approach this Shore, the same King in the Year 1728. resolved, besides other very considerable Expences, to have Horses transported to this Colony, in Hopes, that with their Help they might travel by Land to this Eastern District: But nothing was more impossible than this Project, on Account of the impracticable, high

1728. King Frederick the IVth sends Horses to try to get thither over Land.

and craggy Mountains perpetually covered with Ice and Snow, which never thaws.

An Attempt  
made again  
by Lieutenant  
*Richard*, 1729.

Another new Attempt by Sea was by Order of the said King made in the Year 1729. by Lieutenant *Richard*; who with his Ship passed the Winter near the new *Danish* Colony, in *Greenland*, and in his Voyage back to *Denmark* made all the Endeavours he could to come at the aforesaid Shore, opposite to *Iceland*; but all to no Purpose, being herein disappointed, like the Rest before him.

A new Project  
for to penetrate to the  
East Side.

All these Difficulties and continual Disappointments, have made most People lose all Hopes of succeeding in this Attempt: Nevertheless, I flatter my self to have hit luckily on an Expedient, which to me seems not unpracticable, though hitherto not tried, or at least but lightly executed: *viz.* to endeavour to coast the Land from the *States Promontory*, or (as we call it) *Cape Prince Christian*, Northwards. The Information I have had of some *Greenlanders*, who in their Boats have coasted a great Part of the  
East-

East-Side, confirms me in my Opinion ; for although an incredible Quantity of driven Ice yearly comes from *Spitzbergen* or *New Greenland*, along this Coast, and passes by the *States Promontory* ; which hinders the approaching of Ships, as far as the Ice stretches, where about the best Part of the *Norwegian* Colonies were settled ; yet there have been found Breaks and open Sea near the Shore, through which Boats and smaller Vessels may pass : And according to the Relation of the *Greenlanders*, as well as agreeably to my own Experience, the Current, that comes out of the Bays and Inlets, always running along the Shore, South-West-wards, hinders the Ice from adhering to the Land, and keeps it at a Distance from the Shore : By which means the *Greenlanders* at certain times, without any Hindrance, have past and repassed part of this Coast in their Kone-Boats ; ( so they call their large Boats ) though they have not been so far as where the old *Norway-Colonies* had their Settlement ; of which no Doubt there are still some Ruins to be

I am of Opinion, at certain Times one may pass near the Shore in Boats.

Because this Coast has at Times been found clear of Ice.

seen on this Eastern Shore. Furthermore I have been credibly informed by *Dutch* Seamen that frequent these Seas, that several of their Ships have at Times found the East-Side of *Greenland* cleared of the Ice, as far as the 62d Degree; and they had tarried some time among the out Rocks on that Coast, where they carried on a profitable Trade with the *Savages*. And I my self in my Return from *Greenland* homewards in the Year 1736. found it to be so, when we passed the *States Promontory* and *Cape Farewell*; and stood in near the Shore, where at that Time there was no Ice to be seen, which otherwise is very uncommon. But as this happens so seldom, it is very uncertain and unsafe for any Ship, to venture so far up under the Eastern Shore. But, as I observed a little before, it is more safe and practicable to coast it from the *Promontory*

The surest way to get to the East Side; is to make a Lodge on the Southermost Point of the Land.

along the Shore in small Vessels; especially if there be a Lodge erected in the Latitude of between 60 and 61 Degrees: and it would be still more convenient, if there

there could be a Way and Means found likewise to place a Lodge on the Eastern Shore in the same Latitude. For according to the Account the Ancients have left us of *Greenland*, the Distance of Ground that lies uncultivated between the West and East Side is but 12 *Norway* Miles by Water. See *Ivarus Beri's* Relation ; or according to a later Computation, it is a Journey of six Days in a Boat. And as the Ruins of old Habitations, which I have discovered between 60 and 61 Degrees, are without doubt in the most Southerly Part of the West Side ; it of Necessity follows, that the Distance cannot be very great from thence to the most Southern Parts of the Eastern Side. Now, if it should be found practicable, at certain Times, to pass along the Shore with Boats or small Ships to the East Side, to the Latitude of 63. and 64 Degrees, little Lodges might be settled here and there with Colonies ; by which Means a constant Correspondence might be kept, and mutual Assistance given to one another, though larger Ships could not yearly visit every

Small Lodges  
to be erected  
here and  
there.

one

one of them, but only touch at the most Southerly ones. I am also persuaded, that the thing is feasible, and if it should please God in his Mercy to forward this Affair, Colonies might be established here, which, without great Trouble, might be supplied yearly with all Necessaries.

By such means  
a Correspondence  
may be  
entertained.

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C H A P. III.

*Treats of the Nature of the Soil,  
Plants and Minerals of Green-  
land.*

**A**S to the Nature of the Soil, we are informed by ancient Histories, that the *Greenland* Colonies bred a Number of Cattle which afforded them Milk, Butter and Cheese in such abundance, that a great Quantity thereof was brought over to *Norway*, and for its prime and particular Goodness was set apart for the King's Kitchin, which was practised until

The Products  
of *Greenland*  
for their  
Goodness ap-  
propriated to  
the King's Ser-  
vice.



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until the Reign of *Queen Margaret*. We also read in these Histories, that some Parts of the Country yielded the choicest Wheat-Corn, and in the Dales or Valleys the Oak-Trees brought forth Acorns, of the Bigness of an Apple, very good to eat <sup>d</sup>. The Woods afforded Plenty of Game of Rein Deer, Hares, &c. for the Sport of Huntsmen. The Rivers, Bays, and the Seas furnished an infinite Number of Fishes, Seals, Morfes and Whales; of which all the Inhabitants made a considerable Trade and Commerce. And, though the Country at present cannot boast of the same Plenty and Richness, as it lies destitute of Colonies, Cattle, and uncultivated; yet I do not doubt, but the old dwelling Places, formerly inhabited and manured by the ancient *Norway* Colonies, May be again restored to its former Fruitfulness. might

<sup>d</sup> A *Greenlander*, who came from the most Southern Part of the Country near the *States Promontory*, told my Son, when he saw some Lemons in his Room, that he had seen Fruits much like those growing upon Trees in his Country, though they were four times less; which I take to have been some of those Acorns, which I above took Notice of, treating of the Nature of the Soil.

From 60 to  
65 Degrees  
there is fine  
Meadow-  
Ground.

But no Trees  
or Woods, on-  
ly some Un-  
derwood.

might recover their former Fertility, if they were again peopled with Men and Cattle; in as much as about those Places there grows fine Grass, especially from 60 to 65 Degrees. In the great Bay, which in the Sea Carls goes under the Name of *Baal's* River, and at present is called the Bay of *Good Hope* (from the *Danish* Colony settled near the Entrance of this Inlet) there are on both Sides of the Colony many good Pieces of Meadow-Ground, for the grazing and pasturing Numbers of Cattle, besides Plenty of Provision, which the Sea as well as the Land yields. Trees or Woods of any Consideration are rarely met with; yet I have found in most of the Bays Underwoods and Shrubs in great Quantity, especially of Birch, Elm, and Willows, which afford sufficient Fuel for the Use of the Inhabitants. The largest Wood I have seen is in the Latitude of 60 and 61 Degrees; where I found Birch-Trees two or three Fathom high, somewhat thicker than a Man's Leg or Arm: small Juniper-Trees grow also here in abundance, the Berries of which

which are of the Bigness of Grey-peafe.

The Herb called *Quaun*, which is our An-<sup>There grow  
several Kinds  
of Herbs and  
Plants.</sup>gelica, is very obvious and common, as well

as wild Rosemary, which has the Taste and Smell of Turpentine; of which by Distillation is extracted a fine Oil and Spirit, of great Use in Medicine. That precious Herb Scurvy-Grass, the most excellent Remedy for the Cure of the Distemper, which gives it Name, grows every where on the Sea-Side; and has not so bitter a Taste as that of softer Climates; I have seen wonderful Effects of its Cure. The Country also pro-

duces a Grass with yellow Flowers, whose <sup>An Herb,  
whose Root  
smells of  
Roses.</sup>Root smells in the Spring like Roses: the Inhabitants feed thereupon, and find Bene-

fit by it. In the Bays and Inlets you have wild Thyme at the Side of the Mountains, which after Sun-set yield a fragrant Smell. Here also you meet with the Herb *Tormen-*  
*til*, or Set-foil, and a great many other Herbs, Plants and Vegetables, which I can't call to Mind, and whose Names indeed are altogether unknown to me. Some of them are represented in the following Cuts. Their

most

most common Berries are those called Blew-Berries, Tittle-Berries, and Bramble-Berries. Multe-Berries, which are common in *Norway*, do not arrive here to any Perfection, on account of the thick Fogs that hang upon the Islands, when these Plants bud. This Country affords the most pleasant Prospect about the Latitude of 60 to 64 Degrees; and seems fit to be manured for the Produce of all Sorts of Grain; and there is to this Day, Marks of Acres and arable Land to be observed. I myself once made a Trial of sowing Barley in the Bay joining to our new Colony, which sprung up so fast, that it stood in its full Ears towards the latter End of *July*; but did not come to Ripeness, on account of the Night-Frost, which nip'd it, and hindered its Growth. But as this Grain was brought over from *Bergen* in *Norway*, no Doubt it wanted a longer Summer and more Heat for to ripen. But I am of Opinion that Corn which grows in the more Northern Parts of *Norway* would thrive better in *Greenland*, in as much as those Climates agree

The Soil seems fit to produce all Sorts of Grain.

There has been a Trial made to sow Barley, which did not come to Maturity.

agree better together. Turnips and Cole are very good here, and of a sweet Taste, especially the Turnips, which are pretty large. I must observe to you, that all that has been said of the Fruitfulness of the *Greenland* Soil, is to be understood of the Latitude of 60 to 65; and differs according to the different Degrees of Latitude. For in the most Northern Parts you find neither Herbs nor Plants; so that the Inhabitants cannot gather Grass enough to put in their Shoes, to keep their Feet warm, but are obliged to buy it from the Southern Parts.

Of *Greenland* Metals or Minerals I have little or nothing to say. 'Tis true, that about two *Norway* Miles to the South of the Colony of *Good Hope*, on a Promontory, there are here and there green Spots to be seen, like Verdigrease, which shews there must be some Copper-Ore. And a certain *Greenlander*, once brought me some Pieces not unlike Lead-Ore. There is likewise a sort of Calamine, which has the Colour

In the Northern Parts they have no Grass.

Minerals and Metals are rare in *Greenland*.

There are  
Quantities of  
yellow and  
red Paint.

lour of yellow Brass. In my Expedition upon Discoveries I found on a little Island, where we touched, some yellow Sand, mixed with Sinople red, or Vermilion Strokes, of which I sent a Quantity over to the Directors of the *Greenland* Company at *Bergen*, to make a Trial of it; upon which they wrote me an Answer, that I should endeavour to get as much as I could of the same Sand; but to theirs, as well as my own Disappointment, I never was able to find the said Island again, where I had got this Sand, as it was but a very small and insignificant one, situated among a great many others; and the Mark I had taken Care to put up, was by the Wind blown down. Nevertheless there has been enough of the same Stuff found up and down in the Country, which when it is burnt, changes its former Colour for a reddish Hue, which it likewise does, if you keep it a while shut

Whether this  
be of the same  
Sand that  
formerly was  
brought from  
thence, is un-  
certain.

up close. Whether or no this be of the same sort of Sand, as that which Sir *Martin Forbisher* is said to have brought some Hundred Tuns to *England*, and was

pre-



Marble.

Which abides  
the Fire.

oily Moisture, it will burn, without being consumed to Ashes. Round about our Colony of *Good Hope* there is a Sort of coarse bastard Marble of different Colours, blue, green, red, and some quite white, and again some white with black Spots, which the Natives form into all Sorts of Vessels and Utensils; as Lamps, Pots to boil in, and even Crucibles to melt Metals in, this Marble standing Proof against the Fire<sup>e</sup>. Of this Marble there was brought a Quantity over to *Drontheim* in *Norway*, which they made Use of. in the adorning of the Cathedral of that City, as we have it from *Peter Claudius Undalin*<sup>f</sup>.

Amongst

<sup>e</sup> The Lamps and Pots, which the Southern *Greenlanders* make of this Marble, are sold at a very high Price; so that the Natives of the Northern Parts, where such Marble is not to be had, buy them at the Rate of eight or ten Rain-Deer Skins a large Pot, and a Lamp at two or three Skins.

<sup>f</sup> According to what the Natives tell, there is in the Southern Parts a Hot-Well, of a Mineral Quality; which, if you wash therein, cures the Itch: they wash their Skins in them, and it takes away all Dirt and Foulness, and makes them look like new.

Amongst the Produce of the Sea, besides different Shells, Muscles, and Periwinkles, there are also Coral Trees, of which I have seen one, of a fine Form and Size.

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C H A P. IV.

*Of the Nature of the Climate, and the Temperament of the Air.*

THE Natives of *Greenland* have no Reason to complain of Rains and Stormy Weather; which seldom trouble them; especially in the Bay of *Disco*, in the 68th Degree of Latitude, where they commonly have clear and settled Weather during the whole Summer Season: but again, when foul and stormy Weather falls in, it rages with an incredible Fierceness and Violence, chiefly when the Wind comes about Southerly, or South West; and the Storm is laid and succeeded by fair Weather as soon as the Wind shifts about to the

The Weather is settled and most commonly serene.

*The Natural History*

West and North. The Country would be exceeding pleasant and healthful in Summer-Time, if it was not for the heavy Fogs that annoy it, especially near the Sea-Coast. For it is as warm here as any where, when the Air is serene and clear, which happens when the Wind blows Easterly; and sometimes it is so hot, that the Sea-Water, which after the Ebbing of the Sea has remained in the hollow Places of the Rocks, has often; before Night, by the Heat of the Sun, been found coagulated into a fine white Salt. I can remember, that once, for three Months together, we had as fair settled Weather, and warm Sun-shine Days, as one could wish, without any Rain. The length of the Summer is from the latter End of *May* to the midst of *September*; all the remaining Part of the Year is Winter, which is tolerable in the Latitude of 64 Degrees, but to the Northward in 68 Degrees and above, the Cold is so excessive, that even the most spirituous Liquors, as *French Brandy*, will freeze near the Fire-Side. At the End of *August* the Sea is all covered with

Salt made of  
Sea-Water by  
the Heat of  
the Sun.

The Cold ex-  
cessive to the  
North in 68  
Degrees.

with Ice, which does not thaw before *April* or *May*, and sometimes not till the latter End of *June*. 'Tis remarkable, that on the Western Coasts of different Countries, lying in one and the same Latitude, it is much colder than on the Eastern, as some Parts of *Greenland* and *Norway*. And though *Greenland* is much colder than *Norway*, yet the Snow never lies so high, especially in the Bays and Inlets, where it is seldom above half a Yard higher than the Ground; whereas the Inland Parts and the Mountains are perpetually covered with Ice and Snow, which never melts; and not a Spot of the Ground is bare, but near the Shore and in the Bays; where in the Summer you are delighted with a charming Verdure, caused by the Heat of the Sun, reverberated from Side to Side, and concentrated in these lower Parts of the Valleys, surrounded by high Rocks and Mountains, for many Hours together without Intermiffion; but as soon as the Sun is set, the Air is changed at once, and the cold Ice-Mountains make you soon feel the Nearness

'Tis colder on the West than on the East-Coast.

The Snow lies not so high in *Greenland* as in *Norway*.

of their Neighbourhood, and oblige you to put on your Furs. Besides the frightful Ice that covers the whole Face of the Land, the Sea is almost choak'd with it, some flat

From whence  
come the Ice-  
Mountains in  
the Sea.

and large Fields of Ice, or Bay-Ice, as they call it, and some huge and prodigious Mountains, of an astonishing Bigness, lying as deep under Water as they soar high in the Air. These are Pieces of the Ice-Mountains of the Land, which lie near the Sea, and bursting, tumble down into the Sea,

They repre-  
sent many  
odd Figures.

and are carried off. They represent to the Beholders, afar off, many odd and strange Figures; some of Churches, Castles with Spires and Turrets; others you would take to be Ships under Sail; and many have been deluded by them, thinking they were real Ships, and going to board them. Nor does their Figure and Shape alone surprize,

Their differ-  
ent Colours.

but also their Diversity of Colours pleases the Sight: for some are like white Crystal, others blue as Sapphires; and others again green as Emeralds. One would attribute the Cause of these Colours to Metals or Minerals of the Places, where this Ice was formed;

formed; or of Waters, of which it was coagulated: but Experience teaches me, that the blue Ice is the Concretion of fresh Water, which at first is white, and at length hardens and turns blue; but the greenish Colour comes from Salt Water. 'Tis <sup>Blue Ice,</sup> observed, that if you put the blue Ice near <sup>when melted,</sup> the Fire and let it melt, and afterwards re- <sup>and again fro-</sup> move it to a colder Place, to freeze again, <sup>zen, turns</sup> it does not recover its former blue, but be- <sup>white, not</sup> comes white. From whence I infer, that <sup>blue.</sup> the volatile Sulphur, which the Ice had attracted from the Air, by its Resolution into Water, exhales and vanishes. Though the Summer Season is very hot in *Greenland*, it seldom causes any Thunder and Light- <sup>It seldom</sup> ning; the Reason of which I take to be <sup>thunders and</sup> the Coolness of the Night, which allays <sup>lightens in</sup> the Heat of the Day, and causes the sul- <sup>*Greenland.*</sup> phureous Exhalations to fall again with the heavy Dew to the Ground. As for the ordinary Meteors, commonly seen in other Countries, they are visible in *Greenland*; as the Rainbow, flying or shooting Stars, and the like. But what is more peculiar

The quick  
and surpris-  
ing Motion  
of the North-  
Light.

to the Climate, is the Northern Light, or *Aurora Borealis*, which in the Spring of the Year, about the New Moon, darts Streams of Light all over the Sky, as quick as Lightning, especially if it be a clear Night, with such a Brightness, that you may read by it, as by Day-light.

In the midst  
of Summer the  
Sun does not  
set.

At the Summer Solstice there is no Night, and you have the Pleasure to see the Sun turn round about the Horizon all the 24 Hours; and in the Depth of Winter they have but little Comfort in that Planet, and the Nights are proportionably long; yet it never is so dark, but you can see to travel up and down the Country, though sometimes it be neither Moonshine nor Starlight: but the Snow and Ice, with which both Land and Sea is covered, enlightens the Air; or the Reason may be fetch'd from the Nearness of the Horizon to the *Æquator*.

The Air is  
wholsome in  
*Greenland*.

The Temperament of the Air is not unhealthful; for, if you except the Scurvy and

and Distempers of the Breast, they know nothing here of the many other Diseases with which other Countries are plagued; and these Pectoral Infirmities are not so much the Effects of the excessive Cold, as of that nasty foggish Weather, which this Country is very much subject to; which I impute to the vast Quantity of Ice that covers the Land, and drives in the Sea. From the Beginning of *April* to the End of *July* is the foggish Season, and from that time the Fog daily decreases. But as in the Summer Time they are troubled with the Fog, so in the Winter Season they are likewise plagued with the Vapour called Frost-Smoak, which when the Cold is excessive, rises out of the Sea as the Smoak out of a Chimney, and is as thick as the thickest Mist, especially in the Bays, where there is any Opening in the Ice. 'Tis very remarkable, that this Frost, Damp, or Smoak, if you come near it, will singe the very Skin of your Face and Hands; but when you are in it, you find no such piercing or singeing Sharpness, but warm and soft; only

it

Thick Mists  
the cause of  
Breast Dis-  
eases.

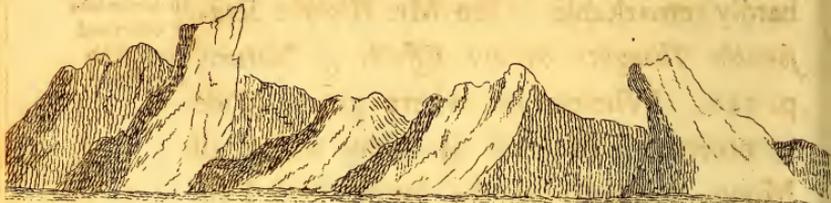
Frost-Smoak  
and Vapours  
in the Winter.

it leaves a white Frost upon your Hair and Clothes.

I must not forget here to mention the wonderful Harmony and Correspondence, which is observed in *Greenland* between Fountains and the main Sea, viz. that at Spring-Tides, in New and Full Moon, when the strongest Ebbing is at Sea, the hidden Fountains or Springs of fresh Water break out on Shore and discover themselves, often in Places, where you never would expect to meet with any such; especially in Winter, when the Ground is covered with Ice and Snow; yet at other Times there is no Water Springs in those Places. The Cause of this wonderful Harmony I leave to the learned Enquiry of Natural Philosophers; how Springs and Fountains follow the Motion of the main Sea, as the Sea does that of the Moon. Yet this I must observe to you, that some great Men have been greatly mistaken, in that they have taken for granted and asserted, that in *Norway* and *Greenland* the Tide was hardly

A wonderful  
Harmony be-  
tween the  
Fountains and  
the Sea.





*Spotted Seal*



*Blackside Seal*



*Seal with a Cawl*



hardly remarkable. See Mr. *Wolff's Reasonable Thoughts on the Effects of Nature*, In Greenland is observed great Ebb and Flow.

p. 541. Whereas no where greater Tide is observed; the Sea at New and Full Moon, especially in the Spring and Fall, rises and falls about three Fathoms.

## C H A P. V.

*Of the Land Animals, and Land Fowls or Birds of Greenland; and how they hunt and kill them.*

**T**HERE are no venomous Serpents Greenland has no poisonous or ravenous Animals. or Insects, no ravenous wild Beasts to be seen in *Greenland*, if you except the Bear, which some will have to be an Amphibious Animal, as he lives chiefly upon the Ice in the most northern Parts, and feeds upon Seals and Fish. He very seldom appears near the Colony, in which I had taken up my Quarters. He is of a very large Size, and of a hideous and frightful Aspect,

pect, with white long Hairs ; he is greedy of human Blood <sup>g</sup>. The Natives tell us moreover of another kind of ravenous Beasts, which they call *Amarok*, which eagerly pursue other Beasts as well as Men ; yet none of them could say, they ever had seen them, but only had it from others by hearsay ; and whereas none of our own People, who have travelled up and down the Country, ever met with any such Beast, therefore I take it to be a mere Fable. Rain-Deer are in some Places in so great Numbers, that you will see whole Herds of them <sup>h</sup> ; and when they

The Bears here pursue Men, and other Beasts.

<sup>g</sup> In the 76th Degree of Latitude the Number of Bears is so great, that they in Drovers surround the Natives Habitations, who then, with their Dogs, fall upon them, and with their Spears and Lances kill them. In Winter, instead of Dens or Caves under the Earth, as in *Norway* and other Places, here the Bears make theirs under the Snow ; which, according to the Information the Natives have given me, are made with Pillars, like stately Buildings.

<sup>h</sup> The farther you go Northwards, the seldomer you meet with Rain-Deer, except in the 3d or 4th Degree to the North of *Disco*, where they are in great Numbers ; perhaps by reason either of its joining to *America*, or else because the Deer pass over to the Islands upon the Ice,





they go and feed in Herds, they are dangerous to come at. The Natives spend the whole Summer Season in hunting of Rain-Deer, going up to the innermost Parts of the Bays, and carrying, for the most part, their Wives and Children along with them, where they remain till the Harvest Season comes on. In the mean while they with so much Eagerness hunt, pursue and destroy these poor Deer, that they have no Place of Safety, but what the *Greenlanders* know; and

The whole Summer is spent in Rain-Deer hunting.

Ice, in quest of Food, which the main Land, covered with Ice and Snow, does not afford them. The Natives, instead of Reason, give us a very childish Tale for the vast Number of Rain-Deer being found upon *Disco-Island*, as follows: A mighty *Greenlander* (one *Torngarsuk*, as they call him, who is Father to an ugly frightful Woman, who resides in the lowermost Region of the Earth, and has Command over all the Animals of the Sea, as we shall see hereafter) did, with his Kajar, tow this Island to the Place where it now lies, from the South where it was before. Now, as the Face of this Island resembles, very much, the Southern Coasts, and the Root Angelica is likewise found upon it, which grows no where else in the neighbouring Parts, this confirms them in their Credulity. And furthermore, they will assure, that a Hole is seen to this Day in the Island, through which the Towing-Rope had been fastened by *Torngarsuk*.

A *Greenland* Tale of *Disco-Island's* being towed from South to North.

and where they are in any Number, there they chase them by Clap-hunting, setting up on them on all Sides, and surrounding them with all their Women and Children, to force them into Defiles and narrow Passages, where the Men armed lay in wait for them and kill them. And when they have not People enough to surround them, then they put up white Poles (to make up the Number that is wanted) with Pieces of Turf to head them, which frightens the Deer, and hinders it from escaping. There are also vast Numbers of Hares, which are white Summer and Winter, very fat and of a good Taste. There are Foxes of different Colours, white, grey and blueish; they are of a lesser Size than those of *Denmark* and *Norway*, and not so hairy, but more like Martens. The Natives commonly catch them alive in Traps, built of Stones like little Huts. The rest of fourfooted Animals, which ancient Historians tell us are found in *Greenland*, are Sobles, Marterns, Wolves, Losses, Ermins, and several others; I have met with none of them on the Western Side. See

*Arn-*

*Greenland*  
Hares very  
good.

Great Num-  
ber of Foxes,  
white and  
grey.

*Arngrim Jonas's History of Greenland*; as also *Ivarus Beni's Relation* mentioned by *Undalinus*. Tame or domestick Animals there are none, but Dogs in great Numbers, and of a large Size, with white Hairs, or white and black, and standing Ears. They are, in their kind, as timorous and stupid as their Masters, for they never bay or bark, but howl only. In the northern Parts they use them instead of Horses, to drag their Sledges, tying four or six, and sometimes eight or ten to a Sledge, loaden with five or six of the largest Seals, with the Master setting up himself, who drives as fast with them, as we can do with good Horses, for they often make 15 *German Miles* with them, in a Winter Day, upon the Ice: And though the poor Dogs are of so great Service to them, yet they don't use them well, for they are left to provide for, and subsist themselves, as wild Beasts, feeding upon Muscles thrown up on the Sea-side, or upon Berries in the Summer Season; and when there has been a great Capture of Seals, they give them their Blood boild and their Entrails.

Tame Animals none, but Dogs.

Are used instead of Horses.

Are left to provide for themselves.

As

As for Land Fowls or Birds, *Greenland* knows of none but Rypper, which is a sort of large Partridges, white in Winter, and grey in Summer-time, and these they have in great Numbers. Ravens seem to be domestick Birds with them, for they are always seen about their Huts, hovering about the Carcasses of Seals, that lie upon the Ground. There are likewise very large Eagles, their Wings spread out being a Fathom wide, but they are seldom seen in the Northern Parts of the Country. You find here Falcons or Hawks, some grey, some of a whitish Plumage, and some speckled; as also great speckled Owls. There are different sorts of little Sparrows, Snow Birds, and Ice Birds, and a little Bird not unlike a Linnet, which has a very melodious Tune.

Here are large white Partridges in abundance.

As likewise Eagles and Falcons.

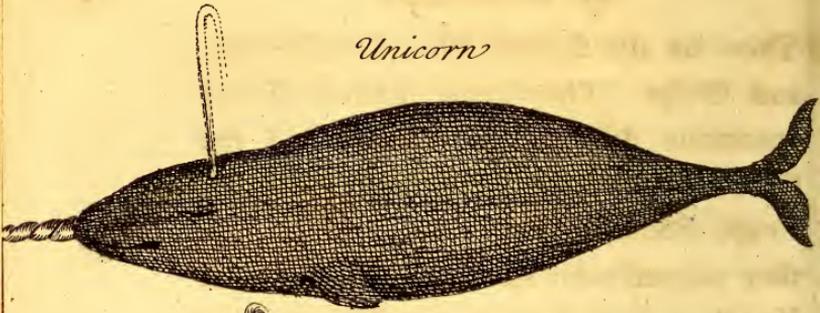
Singing Birds.

The Gnats are here very troublesome.

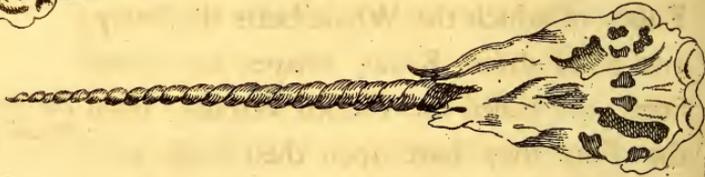
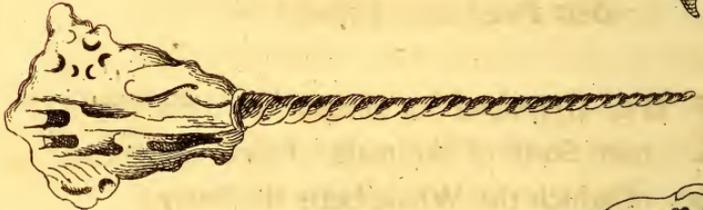
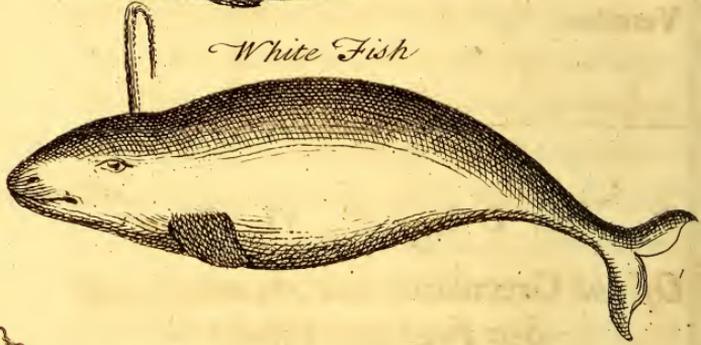
Amongst the Insects of *Greenland*, the Midge or Gnats are the most troublesome, whose Sting leaves a swelling and burning Pain behind it; and this Trouble they are most exposed to in the hot Season, against which there is no Shelter to be found.



Unicorn



White Fish





Shape, very dangerous to meddle with, for they rage and lay about them most furiously with their Tail, so that no body cares to come at them, or catch them. The *Greenlanders* make much of them, on account of their Flesh, which, with them, passes for dainty Cheer. The other sort of Whales are reckoned the best for their Fat, and Fins or Whale-Bones. These differ from the first sort, in that they have no Fin on the Back towards the Tail, but two lesser ones near the Eyes, and are covered with a thick black Skin, marbled with white Strokes. With these Side Fins they swim with an incredible Swiftnes. The Tail is commonly three or four Fathom broad. The Head makes up one third of the whole Fish. The Jaws are covered, both above and beneath, with a kind of short Hair. At the Bottom of the Jaws are placed the so called Barders, or Whale-Bones, which serve him instead of Teeth, of which he has none. They are of different Colours, some brown, some black, and others yellow with white Streaks. Within the Mouth the Barders, or Whale-Bones

Whales that  
yield the best  
Bones, or  
Barders.  
Their De-  
scription.

The Seat of  
Whale-Bones.

Bones are covered with Hair like Horfe-hair, chiefly those that inclose the Tongue. Some of them are bent like a Scymitar, or Sable. The smallest are ranged the foremost in the Mouth, and the hindermost near the Throat; the broadest and largest are in the middle, some of them two Fathom long, by which we may judge of the vast Bigness of this Animal. On each Side there are commonly two hundred and fifty, in all five hundred Pieces. They are set in a broad Row, as in a Sheaf, one close to the other, bent like a Crescent or half Moon, broadest at the Root, which is of a tough and grisly Matter, of a whitish Colour, fastened to the upper Part of the Jaws, near the Throat, and they grow smaller towards the End, which is pointed; they are also covered with Hair, that they may not hurt the Tongue. The undermost Jaw is commonly white, to which the Tongue is fastened, inclosed in the Barders, or long Whale-Bones; it is very large, sometimes about eighteen Feet, and sometimes more, of a white Colour, with black Spots, of a soft, fat, and

F 2

spungious

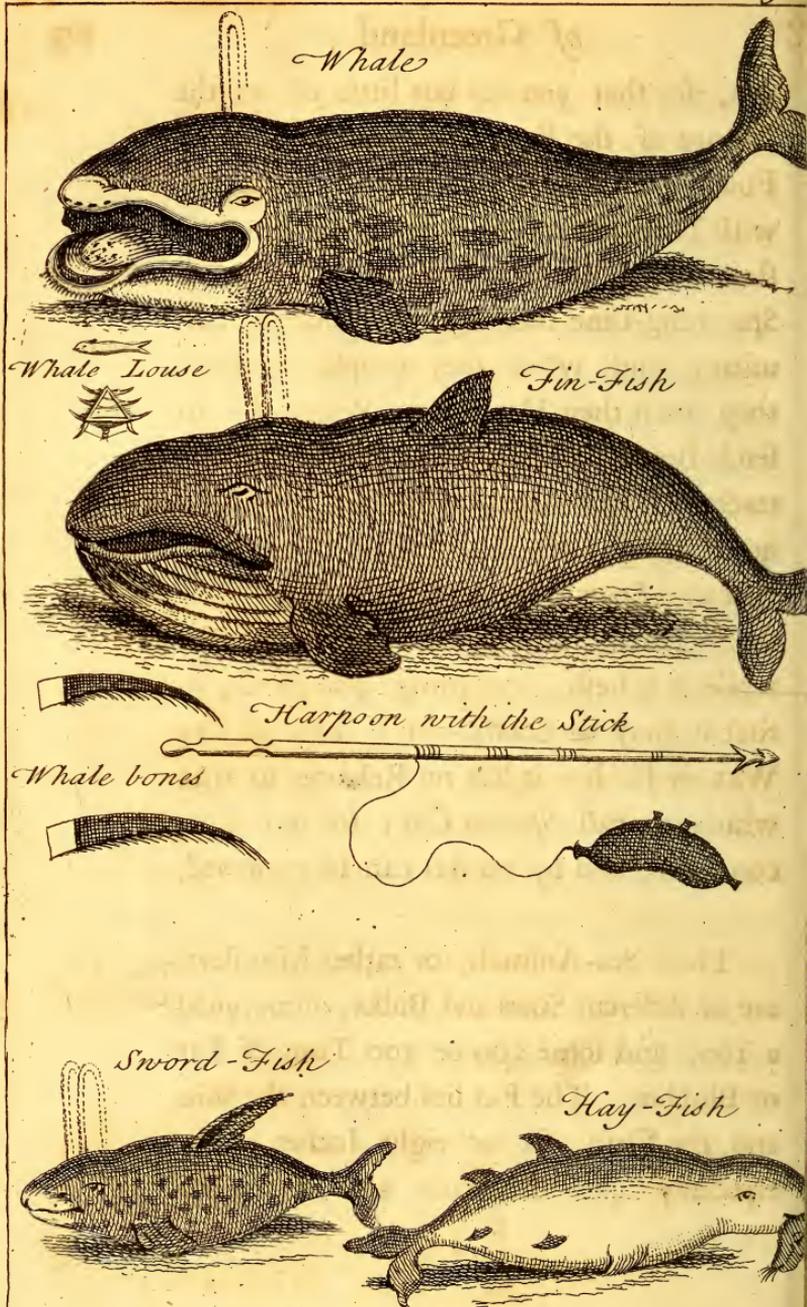
The Spouts on  
the Top of  
the Head.

spungious Matter. The Whale has a Bunch on the Top of his Head, in which are two Spouts or Pipes, parallel one to the other, and somewhat bent, like the Holes upon a Fiddle. Through these he receives the Air, and spouts out the Water, which he takes in at his Mouth, and is forced upwards through these Holes in very large Quantities, and with such Violence and Noise, that it is heard at a great Distance, by which, in hazy Weather, he is known to be near; especially when he finds himself wounded, for then he rages most furiously, and the Noise of his spouting is so loud, that some have resembled it to the roaring of the Sea in a Storm, or the firing of great Guns. His Eyes are placed between the Bunch and the Side Fins; they are not larger than those of an Ox, and are armed with Eyebrows.

The Penis of a  
Whale.

The *Penis* of a Whale is a strong Sinew, seven or eight, and sometimes 14 Foot long, in Proportion to his Bulk; it is covered with a Sheath, in which it lies hidden,





den, so that you see but little of it: the Nature of the Female is like that of the Four-footed Animals; she has two Breasts with Teats like a Cow's; some white, others stain'd with black or blue Spots. In their Spawning-time their Breasts are larger than usual; and when they couple together, they reach their Head above Water, for to fetch Breath, and to cool the Heat contracted by that Action. 'Tis said, that they never bring forth more than two young ones at a Spawning, which they suck with their Teats. Has but two Spawns at a Time. The Spawn of the Whale, while it is fresh, is clammy, and gluish, so that it may be drawn out in Threads like Wax or Pitch: it has no Relation to that which we call *Sperma Ceti*; for it is soon corrupted, and by no Art can be preserved,

These Sea-Animals, or rather Monsters, Their Size and Bigness. are of different Sizes and Bulks; some yield a 100, and some 200 or 300 Tuns of Fat or Blubber. The Fat lies between the Skin and the Flesh, six or eight Inches thick, especially upon the Back and under the

Belly. The thickest and strongest Sinews are in the Tail, which serves him for a Rudder, as his Fins do for Oars, wherewith he swims with an astonishing Swiftnes, proportioned to his Bulk, leaving a Track in the Sea, like a great Ship; and this is called his Wake, by which he is often followed.

They are very shy.

These Sea-Monsters are as shy and timorous as they are huge and bulky; for as soon as they hear a Boat rowing, and perceive any Body's Approach, they immediately shoot under Water and plunge into the Deep; but when they find themselves in Danger, then they shew their great and surprizing Strength; for then they break to Pieces whatever comes in their Way; and if they should hit a Boat, they would beat it in a thousand Pieces. According to the Relation of the Whale-Catchers, the Whale being struck, will run away with the Line some Hundreds of Fathoms long, faster than a Ship under full Sail. Now one would think, that such a vast Body should need many

many smaller Fishes and Sea Animals to feed upon; but on the contrary, his Food Their Food. is nothing but a Sort of Blubber, called *Pulmo marinus*, or Whale Food, which is of Shape and Bigness, as represented in the Cuts; it is of a dark brown-Colour, with two Brims of Flaps, with which it moves in the Water, with such Slowness, that one may easily lay hold on it, and get it out of the Water. It is like a Jelly, soft In which the Sea abounds every where. and slippery; so that if you crush it between your Fingers, you find it fat and greasy like Train-Oil. The *Greenland Seas* abound in it, which allures and draws this kind of Whales thither, in Search of it; for as their Swallow or Throat is very narrow, (being but four Inches in Diameter) and the smaller Whale-Bones reaching down his Throat, they cannot swallow any hard or large Piece of other Food, having no Teeth to chew it with; so that this sort of Nourishment fits them best, their Mouth being large and wide for to receive a great Quantity, by opening it and shutting it again, that Nature has provided them with the Barders

or Whale-Bones, which by their Closeness only give Passage to the Water, like a Sieve, keeping back the Aliment. Here we ought to praise the wise and kind Providence of an Almighty Creator, who has made such mean Things suffice for the Maintenance of so vast an Animal.

The Whale  
called *North-  
Cape* Whale.

Next to this there is another sort of Whales, called the *North-Capers*, from the Place of their Abode, which is about the North Cape of *Norway*; though they also frequent the Coasts of *Iceland*, *Greenland*, and sundry other Seas, going in Search of their Prey; which is Herring and other small Fishes, that resort in abundance to those Coasts. It has been observed, that some of these North-Cape Whales have had more than a Tun of Herrings in their Belly. This kind of Whales has this common with the former called Fin-Whale, in that it is very swift and quick in its Motion, and keeps off from the Shore in the main Sea, as fearing to become a Prey to its Enemies, if it should venture too near the

the Shore. His Fat is tougher and harder than that of the great Bay-Whale; neither are his Bardsers or Bones so long and valuable, for which Reason he is neglected.

The fourth sort is the Sword-Fish, <sup>so</sup> The Sword-Fish. called from a long and broad Bone, which grows out of the End of his Snout on both Sides, indented like a Saw. He has got two Fins upon his Back, and four under the Belly, on each Side two; those on the Back are the largest; those under the Belly are placed just under the first of the Back. His Tail is broad and flat underneath, and above pointed, but not split or cloven. From the hindermost Fin of the Back he grows smaller. His Nostrils are of an oblong Shape: the Eyes are placed on the Top of his Head, just above his Mouth. There are different Sizes of Sword-Fishes; some of 20 Foot, some more some less. This is the greatest The greatest Enemy of the Whale. Enemy the true Whale has to deal with, who gives him fierce Battels; and, having vanquished and killed him, he contents himself with eating the Tongue of the Whale,

Whale, leaving the rest of the huge Carcase for the Prey and Spoils of the Morfes, and Sea-Birds.

Cachelot.

The Cachelot or Pot-Fish is a fifth Species of Whales, whose Shape is somewhat different from that of other Whales, in that the upper Part of his Head or Skull is much bigger and stronger built; his Spouts or Pipes are placed on the Forehead; whereas other Whales have them on the hinderpart of the Head. His under Jaw is armed with a Row of Teeth which are but short. His Tongue is thin and pointed, and of a yellowish Colour. He has but one Eye on the Side of the Head, which makes him of easy Access to the *Greenlanders*, who attack him on his blind Side.

*Sperma Ceti* is prepared of the Skull of Cachelots.

Of his Skull that wrongly so called *Sperma Ceti* is prepared, one yielding 20 to 24 Tuns thereof. The rest of the Body and the Tail are like unto those of other Whales. He is of a brownish Colour on the Back, and white under the Belly. He is of different Sizes, from 50 to 70 Foot long.

Then

Then comes the White Fish, whose <sup>The White</sup> Shape is not unlike that of the great Bay-<sub>Fish.</sub> Whale; having no Fins upon the Back, but underneath two large ones; the Tail like a Whale; his Spouts, through which he breathes and throws out the Water, are the same; he has likewise the Bunch on the Head. His Colour is of a fading yellow; he is commonly from 12 to 16 Foot in Length, and is exceeding fat. The Train of his Blubber is as clear as the clearest Oil. His <sup>His Flesh and</sup> Flesh as well as the Fat has no bad Taste,<sub>Fat is well tasted.</sub> and when it is marinated with Vinegar and Salt, it is as well tasted as any Pork whatsoever. The Fins also and the Tail, pickled or fauced, are good eating. This Fish is so far from being shy, that whole Doves are seen about the Ships at Sea. The *Greenlanders* catch Numbers of them, of which they make grand Cheer.

There is yet another smaller sort of <sup>But or Blunt-</sup> Whales, called But-Heads, from the Form <sub>Heads.</sub> of its Head, which at the Snout is flat, like a But's End. He has a Fin upon his Back towards

towards the Tail; and two Side-Fins. His Tail is like to that of a Whale. In the hinder Part of the Head he has a Pipe to fetch Air, and spout the Water through; which he does not spout out with that Force the Whale does. His Size is from 14 to 20 Foot. He follows Ships under Sail with a fair Wind, and seems to run for a Wager with them; whereas, on the contrary, other Whales avoid and fly from them. Their jumping, as well as that of Fishes and Sea-Animals, forebodes boisterous and stormy Weather.

Runs as fast as  
a Ship under  
full Sails.

Unicorn.

Among the different Kinds of Whales, some reckon the Unicorn, as they commonly call him, from a long, small Horn, that grows out of his Snout; but his right Name is *Nar-Whale*. It is a pretty large Fish, 18 or 20 Foot long, and yields good Fat. His Skin is black and smooth, without Hair. He has one Fin on each Side, at the Beginning of his Belly. His Head is pointed, and out of his Snout on the left Side proceeds the Horn, which is round,

His Horn.

round, turned, with a sharp taper Point; the greatest Length of it is 14 or 15 Foot, and thick as your Arm. The Root of it goes very deep into the Head, to strengthen it for the supporting of so heavy a Burthen. The Horn is of a fine white and compact Matter, wherefore it weighs much. The third Part of it, beginning from the Root, is commonly hollow; and there are some very solid at the Root, and above it grows more and more hollow. On the right Side of the Head there lies another shorter Horn hidden, which does not grow out of the Skin, and it cannot be conceived for what End the All-wise Creator has ordained it. He has, like other Whales, two Pipes or Spouts, which terminate in one, through which he breathes and fetches Air, when he comes up out of the Sea with his Head. Here I must observe to you, that when the Whale comes up to fetch Air, 'tis not Water he throws out at the Spouts, as the common Notion runs; but his Breath, which resembles Water forced out of a great Spout. As for the rest of the Uni-

Has a little  
short Horn  
formed within  
the Skull.

corn or *Nar-Whale's* Body, it is perfectly of the same Shape as that of other Whales.

Mistake of the Authors, who will have it to be a Tooth.

Concerning this Animal's Horn, which has given Occasion to so many Disputes, whether it be a Horn properly so called, or a Tooth, my Reader must allow me a little Digression, for to make these Gentlemen Disputants aware of their Mistake, who pretend it to be a Tooth and not a Horn; being placed on one Side of the Snout, and not on the Top of the Fore-Head, where other Animals wear their Horns. See *Wormius's Museum*, L. III. Ch. 14. But it appears clearly to all Beholders, that it neither has the Shape of a Tooth such as other Sea-Animals are endowed with; nor has its Root in the Jaws, the ordinary Place of Teeth, but grows out of the Snout, as may be seen in the Cut hereto joined. And besides, the Absurdity is much greater to hold, and maintain, that Animals wear Teeth on the Snout or Head, like Horns: or dare any Body deny, that the Whale's Spouts are his Nostrils, through which he fetches  
Breath,

Its Root is not fixt in the Jaw but in the Snout.

Breath, because they are on the Top of his Head; or question, that the Clap-Myffes (a large Kind of Seal) his Eyes are such, because they are placed in the hindermost part of the Head? Ought we not rather to think, that an all-wise Creator has placed this Horn horizontally, to the End, that it may not be of any Hindrance to the Course and Swimming of this Animal in the Water, which would happen, if it did rise vertically? Furthermore this Horn serves many other Ends, as to stir up his Food from the Bottom of the Sea, as he is said to feed upon small Sea-Weeds, and likewise therewith to bore Holes in the Ice, in order to fetch fresh Air. The Inference these Gentlemen are pleased to draw from the Generality of Fishes and Sea-Animals having no such Paws or Claws as Land-Animals have, is as lame, and of as little Force. And it is much less absurd to hold, that Sea-Animals have something common with those of the Land, as it is confess'd, that many of them have a great Resemblance together in Figure and Shape, *viz.* Sea-Calves, Sea-Dogs,

With this  
Horn he bores  
Holes in the  
Ice and keeps  
it open.

Many Sea-Animals resemble those upon the Land.

The vast Disagreement of Authors, who describe the Land-unicorn, makes it doubtful, whether there be any such.

Dogs, Sea-Wolves, and Sea-Horses; together with Mer-Men and Mer-Maids, as it is pretended. Who is ignorant of the winged or flying Fishes; and of others with long Nebs or Bills like Birds; also of Birds with four Feet, like Beasts? And why then may there not be Sea-Unicorns, as well as Land-Unicorns; if any such there be in *rerum natura*? for it is a difficult Matter to determine, what Kind of Animal the Scripture understands, when it speaks of the Unicorn; as in *Psalms xxix. ver. 6.* and in other Places: whether it be such a one as *Plinius* and other Writers describe, giving him the Body of a Horse, with a Stag's Head, and a Horn on his Snout; or whether it ought not with better Reason be applied to a certain Animal in *Africa*, called *Rhinoceros*; whose Snout is horned in that Fashion. If one had Patience to consider the vast Disagreement, that reigns between these Writers, one would conclude that this Animal is peculiar to the Climate, where the fabulous Bird *Phenix* builds its Nest; that is to say, in *Utopia*, or no where. For some describe  
this

this Animal, as an amphibious one, that lives by Turns upon Land and in the Water. Some will have him to be in the Likeness of an Ore white spotted, with Horse Feet. Others make a three Years Colt of him, with a Stag's Head, and a Horn in the Front one Ell long. And others again tell you it is like a Morfe or Sea Horse, with divided or cloven Feet, and a Horn in the Front. There are Authors, who attribute to him a Horn 10 Foot long, others six, and others again but the length of three Inches. See *Pliny*, *Munsterus*, *Marc. Paulus*, *Philostratus*, *Heliodorus*, and several others, whose Relations are of the same Authority with mine, as that of the *Greenlanders*, concerning a fierce, ravenous wild Beast, which they call *Amavok*; which all pretend to know, but no Person ever yet was found, that could say, he had seen it.

Nises or Porpoises, otherwise Sea Hogs, Nises or Porpoises. are also placed in the Class of Whales, though of a much smaller Size, and are

met with in all Seas. His Head resembles that of a Butts-Head-Whale. His Mouth is armed with sharp Teeth. He has Spouts or Pipes like a Whale. He has a Fin upon the middle of his Back, which towards the Tail is bended like a Half-Moon. Under the Belly there are two Side Fins, overgrown with Flesh and covered with a black Skin. His Tail is broad like that of a Whale. He has small round Eyes, his Skin is of a shining black, and the Belly white. His Length is five to eight Foot, at most. His Fat makes fine Oil, and the Flesh is by the *Greenlander* reckoned a great Dainty.

*Of other Sea Animals.*

Morfe or Sea  
Horfes.

The Sea Horfe or Morfe has the Shape of a Seal, though much larger and stronger. He has five Claws on each of his Feet, as the Seal. His Head rounder and larger. His Skin is an Inch thick, especially about the Neck, very rough, rugged and wrinkled, covered with a short, brown, and sometimes reddish, or Mouse-coloured Hair. Out of

Has two long  
Teeth or  
Tusks.

his upper Jaw there grow two large Teeth  
or

or Tusks, bended downwards over the under Jaw, of the length of half a Yard, and sometimes of a whole Yard and more. These Tusks are esteemed as much as Elephants Teeth; they are compact and solid, but hollow towards the Root. His Mouth is not unlike that of a Bull, covered above and beneath with strong Bristles as big as a Straw. His Nostrils are placed above his Mouth, as those of the Seal. His Eyes are fiery red, which he can turn on all Sides, not being able to turn his Head, by Reason of the Shortness and Thickness of his Neck. The Tail resembles a Seal's Tail, being thick and short. His Fat is like Hogs Lard. He lies commonly upon the Ice Shoals, and can live a good while on Shore, till Hunger drives him back into the Seas; his Nourishment being both Herbs and Fishes. He snores very loud, when he sleeps; and when he is provoked to Anger, he roars like a mad Bull. 'Tis a very bold and fierce Creature, and they assist each other, when attack'd, to the last. He is continually at War with the White Bear,

Is an amphibious Animal.

Fights the White Bear.

to whom he often proves too hard with his mighty Tusks, and often kills him, or at least, does not give over till they both expire.

Different  
Kinds of  
Seals.

Their Skin of  
divers Colours.

The Seals are of different Sorts and Sizes, though in their Shape they all agree, excepting the Clap-Myfs, so called from a Sort of a Cap he has on his Head, with which he covers it when he fears a Stroke. The Paws of a Seal have five Claws, joined together with a thick Skin, like that of a Goose or a Water Fowl. His Head resembles a Dog's with cropped Ears, from whence he has got the Name of Sea Dog. His Snout is bearded like that of a Cat. His Eyes are large and clear with Hair about them. The Skin is covered with a short Hair of divers Colours, and spotted; some white and black, others yellowish, others again reddish, and some of a Mouse Colour. His Teeth are very sharp and pointed. Although he seems lamish behind, yet he makes nothing of getting up upon the Ice-Hills, where he loves to sleep and to bask himself

himself in the Sun. The largest Seals are from five to eight Foot in Length, their Fat yields better Train-Oil than that of any other Fish. This is the most common of all the Sea Animals in *Greenland*; and contributes the most to the subsisting and maintaining of the Inhabitants, who feed upon the Flesh of it, and cloath themselves with the Skin, which likewise serves them for the covering of their Boats and Tents: The Fat is their Fuel, which they burn in their Lamps, and also boil their Victuals with.

Contribute the most to the Subsistence of Greenlanders.

As for other Sea Monsters and wonderful Animals, we find in *Tormoder's History of Greenland*, mention made of three Sorts of Monsters, where he quotes a Book, called *Speculum Regale Islandicum*, or the Royal-Island Looking-Glass, from whence he borrows what he relates<sup>1</sup>. But none of

Sundry Sea-Monsters.

G 3

them

<sup>1</sup> The abovementioned Author calls the first of these Monsters Haveframb, (or Mer-Man) and describes it to have the Likeness of a Man, as to the Head, Face, Nose and Mouth; save that its Head was oblong and pointed

The Mer-Man.

them have been seen by us, or any of our Time, that ever I could hear, save that most dreadful Monster, that shewed itself upon

pointed like a Sugar-Loaf. It has broad Shoulders, and two Arms without Hands. The Body downwards is slanting and thin. The rest below the Middle, being hid in the Water, could not be observed. The second Monster he calls Margya (or Mer-Woman, or Mermaid) had from the Middle upwards the Shape and Countenance of a Woman: A terrible broad Face, a pointed Forehead, wrinkled Cheeks, a wide Mouth, large Eyes, black untrimmed Hair, two great Breasts, which shewed her Sex: She had two long Arms, with Hands and Fingers join'd together with a Skin, like the Feet of a Goose. Below the Middle she is like a Fish, with a Tail and Fins. The Fishermen pretend, that when these Sea Monsters appear, it forebodes stormy Weather. The third Monster, named *Hafgufa*, is so terrible and frightful, that the Author does not well know how to describe it; and no wonder, because he never had any true Relation of it. Its Shape, Length and Bulk seems to exceed all Size and Measure. They that pretend to have seen it, say, it appeared to them more like a Land than a Fish, or Sea Animal. And as there never has been seen above two of them in the wide open Sea, they conclude, that there can be no Breed of them; for if they should breed and multiply, all the rest of Fishes must be destroyed at last, their vast Body wanting such large Quantity of Nourishment. When this Monster is hungry, it is said to void through the

The Mermaid  
or Mer-Woman.

*Hafgufa*, a  
fabulous  
dreadful Sea  
Monster.

upon the Surface of the Water in the Year 1734, off our New Colony in 64 Degrees.

A surprizing Sea Monster, seen in the 64th Degree.

This Monster was of so huge a Size, that

G 4 coming

the Mouth some Matter of a sweet Scent, which perfumes the whole Sea; and by this Means it allures and draws all Sorts of Fishes and Animals, even the Whales to it, who in whole Drowes flock thither, and run into the wide opened Swallow of this hideous Monster, as

It draws all the Sea Animals and Fishes together with its Vomit.

into a Whirl-Pool, till its Belly be well freighted with a copious Load of all Sorts of Fishes and Animals, and then it shuts the Swallow, and has for the whole Year enough to digest and live upon; for it is said to make but one large Meal a Year. This, though a very silly and absurd Tale, is nevertheless matched by another Story, every whit as ridiculous, told by my own

Countrymen, Fishermen in the Northern Part of Norway. They tell you, that a great gasty Sea-Monster now and then appears in the Main Sea, which they call *Kracken*, and is no doubt the same that the Islanders call *Hafgufa*, of which we have spoken above.

A Norway Tale of *Kracken*, a pretended Phantom.

They say, that its Body reaches several Miles in Length; and that it is most seen in a Calm; when it comes out of the Water, it seems to cover the whole Surface of the Sea, having many Heads and a Number of Claws, with which it seizes all that comes in its Way, as Fishing Boats with Men and all, Fishes and Animals, and lets nothing escape; all which it draws down to the

Bottom of the Sea. Moreover they tell you that all Sorts of Fishes flock together upon it, as upon a Bank of the Sea, and that many Fishing Boats come thither to ketch Fish, not suspecting that they lie upon such a

The Fishes flock about it as upon a Sand-Bank.

dreadful

coming out of the Water, its Head reached as high as the Mast-Head; its Body was as bulky as the Ship, and three or four Times

dreadful Monster, which they at last understand by the intangling of their Hooks and Angles in its Body; which the Monster feeling, rises softly from the Bottom to the Surface, and seizes them all; if in Time they do not perceive him and prevent their Destruction, which they may easily do, only calling it by its Name, which it no sooner hears, but it sinks down again as softly as it did rise. They tell you of another Sea Spectre, which they call the Draw, who keeps to no constant Shape or Figure, but now appears in one, now in another. It appears and is heard before any Misfortunes, as Shipwrecks and the like, happen at Sea, which it forbodes with a most frightful and gasty howling; and they say it sometimes utters Words like

The Draw  
another pre-  
tended Sea  
Spectre.

It haunts the a Man. It most commonly diverts itself, in putting Fishing Boats all Things out of Order, after the Fishermen are gone at Nights, at Nights to rest; and then he leaves behind him a putting all at nasty Stench. The Fishermen will not suffer the Things topsy turvy.

Truth of this Tale to be questioned, but pretend it is confessed. But the most superstitious among them go yet a Step further, and will make you believe, that there appears to them another kind of Sea Phantom, in the Shape of a Child in swadling Cloaths, which they call *Marmel*, and sometimes draw him out of the Sea with their Angling Hook, when he speaks to them with a human Voice. They carry him to their home, and at Night they put him into one of their Boots, there to rest. In the Morning, when they go a fishing again,

Times as long. It had a long pointed Snout, and spouted like a Whale-Fish; great broad Paws, and the Body seemed covered with Shell-Work, its Skin very rugged and uneven. The under Part of its Body was shaped like an enormous huge Serpent, and when it dived again under Water, it plunged backwards into the Sea, and so raised its Tail aloft, which seemed a whole Ship's Length distant from the bulkiest Part of the Body.

*Of other Fishes.*

Of Fishes properly so called, the *Greenland* Sea has abundance and of great Diversity, of which the largest is called *Hay*, The Fish called *Hay*. whose Flesh is much like that of the Holy-Butt, and is cured in the same Manner; being cut into long Slices, and hung up to be dried in the Sun and in the Air, as they cure them in the Northern Parts of *Norway*; but the *Greenlanders* do not much care again, they take him along with them in their Boats, and before they let him go, they set him a Task to inform them of all they want to know, upon which they dismiss him.

care for it; its Flesh being of a much coarser Grain than that of the Holy-Butt. This Fish has two Fins on the Back, and six under the Belly, the two foremost are the longest, and have the Shape of a Tongue. The other two middlemost are somewhat broader than the rest, and the hindermost Couple near the Tail, are alike broad before and behind, but shorter than the middlemost. His Tail resembles that of the Sword-Fish. There are no Bones in him, but Gristles only. He has a long Snout, under which the Mouth is placed like that of the Sword-Fish; he has three Rows of sharp pointed Teeth, his Skin is hard and prickly, of a greyish Hue; his Length is two or three Fathom; he has a great Liver, of which they make Train-Oil, the biggest of which makes two or three Lafts. 'Tis a Fish of Prey, bites large Pieces out of the Whale's Body, and is very greedy after Man's Flesh. He cannot be caught with Lines made of Hemp, for with his sharp Teeth he snaps it off; but with Iron Chains. And the larger sort are taken with

Har-

His Liver  
makes out two  
or three Lafts.

poons, as we do the Whales. The rest of Fishes that haunt the *Greenland* Seas, are the Holybut, Torbut, Codfish, Haddock, Scate, small Salmon or Sea-Trout of different Kinds and Sizes (the large Salmon not being so frequent in *Greenland*) and these are very fat and good. They are found in all Inlets, and Mouths of Rivers. Cat-fish is the most common Food of *Greenlanders*, insomuch, that when all other Things fail, the Cat-fish must hold out, of which there are abundance, both Winter and Summer. In the Spring, towards the Month of *April*, they catch a sort of Fish called *Rognals*, or Stone-biter; and in *May* another Fish, called Lyds or Stints, both Sorts very savoury; they frequent the Bays and Inlets in great Shoals. There are also Whitings in abundance, but Herrings are not to be seen. Moreover there is a kind of Fish, which neither I myself nor any of my Company had ever seen before; this Fish is not unlike a Bream, only it is prickly with sharp Points all over, with a small Tail. There are of

diffe-

Other Fishes  
in these Seas.

The Fish  
Rognal, or  
Roc Fish.

different Sizes. The *Greenlanders* say they are well tasted.

Testaceous  
Fishes.

Among the testaceous Animals in *Greenland* the chief are the Muscles, of which there are great Quantities; they are large and delicate. In some Waters I have found of those larger Sorts, in which the *Norwegians* find Pearls. These have also Pearls, but very small ones, not bigger than the Head of a Pin. I shall say nothing of the other Sea Insects, as Crabs, Shrimps, &c. though they be not rare here; yet Lobsters, Crawfish and Oysters I never met with. According to Information had of *Greenlanders*, on the Southern Coasts they sometimes catch Tortoises in their Nets; for they tell you, that they are covered with a thick Shell, have Claws and a short Tail; and moreover that they find Eggs in them, like Birds Eggs.

Tortoises.

*Of Greenland Sea Birds.*

Great Diver-  
sity of Sea  
Fowls.

Amongst the Sea Fowls the Principal are those they call Edder-Fowl, and Ducks; of which

which there are such Numbers, that some-<sup>Vast Numbers</sup> times sailing along, you find the whole Sea<sup>of Edder or</sup> covered with them; and when they take<sup>Down-Fowls</sup> their Flight, you would think there was no<sup>and Ducks.</sup> End of them, especially in Winter-Time, when in large Flocks, to the Number of many Thousands, they hover about our Colony, Morning and Evening; in the Evening standing in for the Bay, and in the Morning turning out to Sea again. They fly so near the Shore, that you may from thence shoot them at Pleasure. In the Spring they retire towards the Sea; for upon the Island that lies adjacent to the Coast, they lay their Eggs, and hatch their young ones, which arrive in *June* and *July*.

The Natives watch them in this Season to rob them of their Eggs and their young ones. The fine down Feathers, which is the best Part of this Bird, so much valued by others, the Natives make nothing of, leaving them in the Nests.

There are three Sorts of Ducks. The<sup>Three Sorts of</sup> first have a broad Bill, like our tame Duck,<sup>Ducks.</sup>

with a fine speckled Plumage. These build their Nests upon the Islands as the Edder Fowls do. The second sort is of a lesser Size, their Bills long and pointed; keep most in the Bays and in fresh Waters, where they

Wood-Ducks are not engendered the ordinary way from Eggs, but from Muscle-Shells.

nest among the Reeds. The third sort are called Wood-Ducks, resemble very much those of the first sort, though somewhat larger of Size; its Breast is black, the rest of the Body is gray. These do not propagate in the common Way of Generation by coupling like other Birds; but (which is very surprizing) from a slimy Matter in the Sea, which adheres to old Pieces of Wood driving in the Sea, of which first is generated a kind of Muscles, and again in these is bred a little Worm, which in Length of Time is formed into a Bird, that comes out of the Muscle-Shell, as other Birds come out of Egg-Shells<sup>k</sup>. Besides these there is another Sea

Bird,

<sup>k</sup> What so many Authors of great Note relate of the Wood-Ducks, and affirm to be an unquestionable Truth, is by as many learned Writers treated as an old Woman's Tale, pretending that such an heterogeneal Generation passes the ordinary Bounds of Nature. Others

Bird, which the *Norway-men* call *Alkes*, *Alkes* of different Sizes.  
 which in the Winter Season contributes much to the Maintenance of the *Greenlanders*.

thers (in Consideration of so many Authors of Credit, who affirm that they have been Eye-witnesses to this strange and wonderful Generation) have taken great Pains to demonstrate the Causes and Probability of it physically and philosophically, amongst whom is the learned Father *Kirkerus* in his *Mundus Subterraneus*; Father *Kirker's* Opinion where he maintains, that the Semen of this extraordinary Generation is neither contained in those old Pieces of Wood, that drive in the Sea, nor in the Muscles originally; for a Piece of Wood cannot produce a living Animal, this exceeding the Virtue Nature has endowed it with; much less the Summer Froth of the Sea, which adheres to the rotten Piece of Wood, and may produce Shells or Muscles. Then he forms the Question, from whence comes this Semen or Seed, which produces such a strange Fruit, as a living Bird? Which Question he strives thus to resolve; that, whereas he has been informed by certain *Dutchmen's* Journals or Voyages into the Northern Seas, that this sort of Birds, peculiar to that Climate, make their Nest and lay their Eggs upon the Ice; when the Ice by the Heat of the Sun thaws and breaks asunder, this innumerable Quantity of Eggs are likewise mash'd and crush'd to Pieces, and beaten about the Waves; and that if that Part of the Egg which contains the Seed, encounters any subject Matter proper to foment and brood it, and is received in it *loco matricis*, assisted by the Temperament of the Air, the

H's Reasoning concerning the Seed of these Fowls.

landers. Sometimes there are such Numbers of them, that they drive them in large Flocks to the Shore, where they catch them with

His Notions  
false and ab-  
surd.

Wood Ducks  
do not couple  
nor lay Eggs  
for their  
Breed.

the Earth, or the Sea, it becomes in due Time a perfect Bird. This is the renowned Father *Kirkerus's* Notion concerning the Generation of these Birds. But if one examines his Reasoning, it is found altogether incoherent: for it was never known, that Sea Fowls lay their Eggs upon the naked Ice, but commonly upon the Islands and Rocks in the Sea, which are surrounded and sometimes covered with Ice; and consequently when the Ice breaks, and drives away from the Islands, the Eggs remain still in their Nest, without receiving any Hurt. And thus the *Dutch* found it at *Nova Zembla*, in the Year 1569; but what they saw, was not the right sort of Wood-Ducks, but what they in *Norway* call Gield-Ducks; for Wood-Ducks never are seen to couple, nor to lay or hatch their Eggs. Secondly it seems no less absurd to maintain, that Eggs, after they are mash'd in Pieces, and beaten about the Waves, retain as much seminal Virtue, as will serve to procreate a Bird. From whence I infer, that either the Information, the good Father had got from the *Dutch* Voyages, was intirely groundless; or this pretended Generation goes beyond the Bounds of Nature. As to the first Inference, it is not impossible that the Authors who relates this Story, may have been imposed upon by a common though false Report of vulgar and ignorant People; as any one may, that takes a thing for granted upon a bare hear-say, without the Attestation

with their Hands. They are not so large as a Duck; nor is their Flesh so well tasted, being more trainy or oily. The lesser sort

H of

tion of Eye Witnesses in such a Matter. For my Part I do not at all doubt of this wonderful Generation; for Experience though I have not beheld it with my own Eyes, yet I confirm this have met with many honest and reasonable Men in strange Generation. my Native Country,\* who have assured me, that they have found Pieces of old, rotten, driven Wood in the Sea, upon which there hang Muscles, in some of which they saw young Birds, some half-formed, others in full Perfection and Shape. From whence I conclude, that those Fowls spring from no other Seed, than some Produced clammy and viscous Matter floating in the Sea, precipi- from no other tated upon Pieces of old rotten Wood, as aforesaid; of Seed, than a Worm in the Muscle Shell; from whence at last a Bird of the Sea ad- proceeds. And although this may seem to exceed the hering to old ordinary Bounds set by Nature in the Procreation of rotten Wood other Birds; yet it is observed and confessed, that the tossed up and Sea produces many strange and surprizing Things, and down in the even living Animals, which we cannot affirm to have Seas. had being from the first Creation; but that by vertue of the primitive Blessing God gave the Sea to produce: it may yet bring forth many uncommon and wonderful Things, as for Example, many Sorts of Sea Insects, viz. Crabs and the like. And thus the Sea or Water in general may with Reason be stiled *Pater & Mater rerum*, i. e. the common Parent of Things. Nature seems to delight sometimes in forming out of the Way Things: Thus we see divers Insects formed out of the very

of Alkes, which also abound here, are more eatable than the large ones. Besides this vast Number of Sea Fowls, there is yet one of a smaller Size, by the Natives called *Tungoviarseck*, which for its beautiful Feathers Sake, ought not to be forgot: It has the Size and Shape of a Lark.

The Wild Geese, after they have laid their Eggs, and hatched them, return with their young ones Southwards.

Wild Geese or grey Geese keep to the Northward of *Greenland*; they are of Shape like other Geese, somewhat smaller, with grey Feathers. They take their Flight from other Southern Climates, over to *Greenland* every Spring, for to breed their young ones; which when grown and able to fly, they carry along with them and return to the more Southern and milder Climates, where they pass the Winter-Season.

In short, I have myself found in *Greenland* all the several Sorts of Sea-Fowls which  
we

very Dung of Animals; some of which Insects often change their Kind and Shape, *viz.* from a small Worm into a flying Animal; as Flies, Beetles, Butterflies and so forth.

we have in *Norway*; as all Kinds of Mews All Sorts of  
Sea Mews. big and small, which build their Nest in the Clifts of the highest Rocks, beyond the Reach of any one; and some upon the little Islands, as the Bird called *Terne* and the like; whose Eggs they gather in great abundance among the Stones: The *Lundes* or *Greenland* Parrot, so called on account of its beautiful Plumage, and broad speckled Bill: The *Lumbs*, the *Sea-Emms*, a Fowl And other  
Sea Birds. of a large Size, and very small Wings; for which reason he cannot fly. Besides *Snipes*, and a great Number of others; some too common to be enumerated and described here, and others, of which I know not the Name, but whose Figure and Shape you will see in the Cuts.

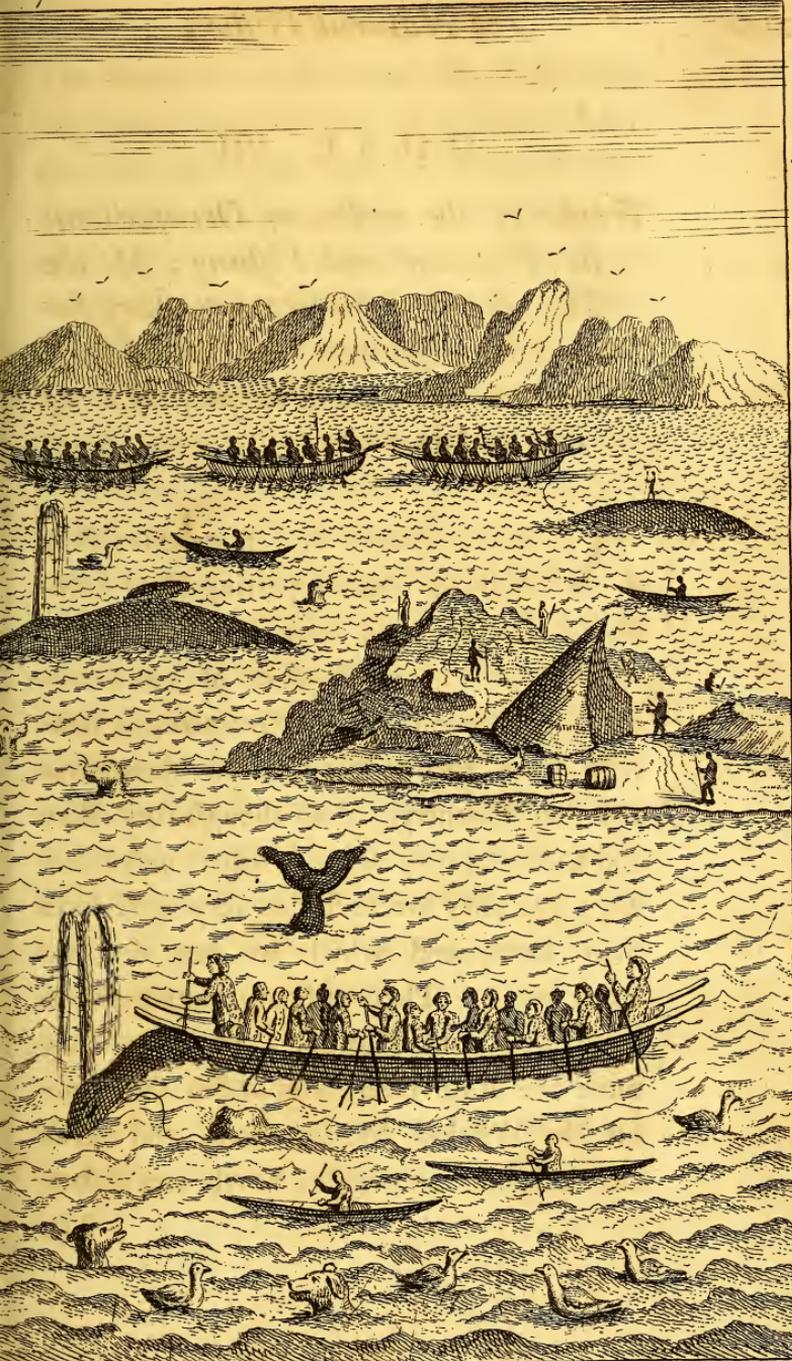
## C H A P. VII.

*Treats of the ordinary Occupations, as Hunting and Fishing; of the Tools and Instruments necessary for these Employments: Of the House Implements and Utensils, &c. of the Greenlanders.*

The *Greenlanders* Way of getting their Livelihood; their Tools and Instruments are very plain and ordinary, but convenient and well contrived for the Use.

AS every Nation has its peculiar Way of living and of getting their Livelihood, suiting their Genius and Temper to the Nature and Produce of the Country they inhabit; so the *Greenlanders* likewise have theirs, peculiar to themselves and their Country. And though their Way and Customs may seem to others mean and silly, yet they are such, as very well serve their Turn, and which we can find no Fault with. Their ordinary Employments are Fishing and Hunting; on Shore they hunt the Rain-Deer, and at Sea they pursue the Whales, Morfes, Seals, and other Sea Animals, as also Sea Fowls and Fishes.

The





The Manner of Hunting the Rain-Deer has been treated of above in the fifth Chapter; but there we took no Notice of their Bows and Arrows, which they make Use of in the killing those Deer. Their Bow is of an ordinary Make, commonly made of Fir Tree, which in *Norway* is called *Tenal*, and on the Back strengthened with Strings made of Sinews of Animals, twisted like Thread: The Bow String is made of a good strong Strap of Seal Skin, or of several Sinews twisted together; the Bow is a good Fathom long. The Head of the Arrow is armed with Iron, or a sharp pointed Bone, with one or more Hooks, that it may keep Hold, when shot into a Deer's Body. The Arrows they shoot Birds with are at the Head covered with one or more Pieces of Bone blunt at the End, that they may kill the Fowl, without tearing the Flesh. The Sea Fowls are not shot with Arrows, but with Darts, headed with Bones or Iron, which they throw very dexterously, and with so steady a Hand at a great Distance, that no Body can hit surer with a Gun.

The Bows and Arrows which they use in Hunting on Shore.

Sea Fowls not shot with Arrows, but with Darts.

They are more frequently employed at Sea than on Shore; and I confess, they surpass therein most other Nations; for their Way of taking Whales, Seals and other Sea Animals is by far the most skilfull and most easy and handy.

How they  
drefs for  
Whale-catch-  
ing.

When they go a Whale catching, they put on their best Gear or Apparel, as if they were going to a Wedding-Feast, fancying that if they did not come cleanly and neatly dressed, the Whale, who can't bear sloven and dirty Habits, would shun them and fly from them. This is the Manner of their Expedition: About 50 Persons, Men and Women, set out together in one of the large Boats, called Kone Boat; the Women carry along with them their sewing Tackles, consisting of Needles and Thread, for to sew and mend their Husbands Spring Coats, or Jackets, if they should be torn or pierced through, as also to mend the Boat, in case it should receive any Damage; the Men go in search of the Whale, and when they have found him, they strike him with their

Har-

Harpoons, to which are fastened Lines or Straps two or three Fathom long, made of Seal Skin, at the End of which they tie a Bag of a whole Seal Skin, fill'd with Air, like a Bladder; to the End, that the Whale, when he finds himself wounded, and runs away with the Harpoon, may the sooner be tired, the Air-Bag hindering him from keeping long under Water. When he grows tired, and loses Strength, they attack him again with their Spears and Lances, till he is killed, and then they put on their Spring Coats, made of dressed Seal Skin, all of one Piece, with Boots, Gloves, and Caps, sewed and laced so tight together that no Water can penetrate them. In this Garb they jump into the Sea, and begin to slice the Fat of him all round the Body, even under the Water: For in these Coats they cannot sink, as they are always full of Air; so that they can, like the Seal, stand upright in the Sea: Nay they are sometimes so daring, that they will get upon the Whale's Back, while there is yet Life in him, to make an End of him, and cut away his Fat.

They put on their Spring Coats, when they go under Water to cut the Fat of the Whale's Belly.

Their Man-  
ner of taking  
Seals.

They go much the same Way to work in killing of Seals, except that the Harpoön is lesser, to which is fastened a Line of Seal-Skin six or seven Fathom long, at the End of which is a Bladder or Bag made of a small Seal-Skin filled with Air, to keep the Seal, when he is wounded, from diving under the Water, and being lost again. In the Northern Parts, where the Sea is all frozen over in the Winter, they use other Means in catching of Seals. They first look out for Holes, which the Seals themselves make with their Claws about the Bigness of a Halfpeny, that they may fetch their Breath; after they have found any Hole, they seat themselves near it upon a Chair, made for this Purpose; and as soon as they perceive the Seal coming up to the Hole and put his Snout into it for some Air, they immediately strike him with a small Harpoon, which they have ready in their Hand, to which Harpoon is fastened a Strap a Fathom long, which they hold with the other Hand. After he is struck, and cannot escape, they cut the Hole

Another  
Manner.

so large, that they may get him up through it, and as soon as they have got his Head above the Ice, they can kill him with one Blow of the Fist.

A third Way of catching Seals is this. A third Way of catching Seals. They make a great Hole in the Ice, or, in the Spring, they find out Holes made by the Seals, through which they get upon the Ice to lie and bask themselves in the Sun. Near to these Holes they place a low Bench, upon which they lie down upon their Belly, having first made a small Hole near the large one, through which they let softly down a Perch, 16 or 20 Yards long, headed with a Harpoon, a Strap being fastened to it, which one holds in his Hand, while another (for there must be two employed in this Sort of Capture) who lies upon the Bench with his Face downwards, watches the coming of the Seal, which when he perceives, he cries *Kæ*; whereupon he, who holds the Pole, pushes and strikes the Seal.

The

A fourth  
Way.

The fourth Way is this: In the Spring, when the Seals lie upon the Ice near Holes, which they themselves make, for to get up and down; the *Greenlanders* cloathed with Seal-Skins, and a long Perch in their Hand, creep along upon the Ice, moving their Head forwards and backwards, and snoring like a Seal, till they come so near him, that they can reach him with the Perch and

The fifth  
Way.

strike him. A fifth Manner of catching Seals is, when in the Spring the Current makes large Holes in the Ice, the Seals flock thither in great Shoals; there the Natives watch their Opportunity to strike them with their Harpoons, and haul them upon the Ice. There is yet a sixth Way of catching

The sixth  
Way.

Seals, when the Ice is not covered with Snow, but clear and transparent; then the Catchers lay under their Feet Foxes or Dogs Tails, or a Piece of a Bear's Hide, to stand upon and watch the Animal, and when by his blowing and snoring they find what Course he takes, they softly follow him and strike him.

In

In fishing they make Use of Hooks and Angles of Iron or Bones. Their Lines are made of Whale-Bones, cut very small and thin, and at the End tacked together; and with such Lines they will draw 100 Fishes to one, our People can catch with their Hemp-Lines. But to catch Holy-Buts they use strong Lines made of Seal-Skin, or thick Hemp-Lines.

The Lines they use are made of Whale-Bones split very small, and tack'd together at the End.

Their Way of fishing the small Salmon, or Sea Trout is this: At low Water they build small Enclosures with Stone, near the River's Mouth, or any other Place, where the Salmon runs along; and when it begins to flow, and the Tide comes in, the Salmon retreats to the River, and in high Water passes over the Enclosure, and remains in the River till the Water again falls; then the Salmon wants to go to Sea again; but then the Fishermen way-lay him at the Enclosure and stop his Passage. And soon after, when the Water is quite fallen, and it is low Ebb, the Salmon remains upon dry Land, and may be caught with Hands.

How they catch Salmon or Sea Trouts.

And

And where they are left in Holes, they take them with an Instrument made for this Purpose, *viz.* a Perch headed with two sharp hooked Bones, or with one or two Iron Hooks.

The Rogn or  
Roe-Fish.

The Rogn-Fish, or Roe-Fish, so named from the great Quantity of Roe that's found in it, as he is commonly found in shallow Water and upon the Sands, so he is caught like the Salmon with the aforementioned Instrument. There is such abundance of these Fishes, that, as they cannot consume them all being fresh, they are obliged to dry them on the Rocks, and keep them for Winter Provision. When Roe-Fish catching is over, which happens in the Month of *May*, then the *Greenlanders* retire into the Bays and Creeks, where the Lods

Lod or Stint-  
Fishing.

or Stint-Fishing then takes Place. There are such numberless Shoals of them near the Shore, that they catch them in a Kind of Sieves fastened upon long Poles, and throw them upon the Shore; they open and dry them upon the Rocks, keeping them for their

their Winter Stock. This Fish is not agreeable nor reckoned wholesome, when eaten fresh; besides they have a nauseous Smell, but when dried they may pass. The Natives eat them with a Bit of Fat, or souced in Train Oil. And so of all other Sorts of Fishes, what the *Greenlanders* cannot consume being fresh, they dry upon the Rocks in the Sun, or in the Wind, and lay them up for the Winter.

Now as to the *Greenland Boats*, there are two Sorts of them; the one, of which the Men alone make Use of, is a small Vessel sharp and pointed at both Ends, three Fathom in Length, and at most but three Quarters of a Yard Broad, with a round Hole in the midst, just large enough for a Man's Body to enter it, and sit down in it; the Inside of the Boat is made of thin Rafts tack'd together with the Sinews of Animals, and the Outside is covered with Seal Skins, dressed and without Hair; no more than one can sit in it, who fastens it so tight about his Waste, that no Water can

They have two Kinds of Boats, the one for the Men alone, and the other for Men and Women in common. The first Sort described.

can penetrate it. In these small Boats they go to Sea, managing them with one Oar of a Fathom in Length, broad at both Ends, with which they paddle sometimes on one Side, and sometimes on the other, with so much Swiftnes, that they are said to row 10 or 12 *Norway* Miles in a Day. They chiefly make Use of them in catching of Seals and Sea Fowls, which they can approach on a sudden and unawares; whereas we in our large Boats can very seldom come so near as to touch them. They do not fear venturing out to Sea in them, in the greatest Storms, because they swim as light upon the largest Waves as a Bird can fly; and when the Waves come upon them with all their Fury, they only turn the Side of the Boat towards them, to let them pass, without the least Danger of being sunk; though they may happen to be overset, yet they easily raise themselves again with their Paddle; but if they are overset unawares (as it often happens) and the Boat be not close and tight about their Waste, they are inevitably drowned.

The

The other kind of Boats are large and open, like our Boats, some of them 20 Yards long; and these are called Kone-Boats, that is, Women's Boats; because the Women commonly row them. For they think it unbecoming a Man to row such a Boat, unless great Necessity requires it: And when they first set out for the Whale-Fishing, the Men sit in a very negligent Posture, with their Faces turned towards the Prow, pulling with their little ordinary Paddle; but the Women sit in the ordinary Way, with their Faces toward the Stern, rowing with long Oars. The Inside of these Boats is composed of thin Rafts, and the Outside cloathed with thick Seal-Skins. In these Boats they transport their Baggage, as Tents and the like Household Furniture, when they go to settle in some distant Places, in quest of Provision. In these Boats they also carry Sails, made of the Bowels and Entrails of Seals. The Mast is placed foremost on the Prow, and as the Sail is broad at the upper End, where it is fastened

fastened to the Yard, and narrow at the lower End, so they neither want Braces nor Bowlins and Sheet-Ropes, and with these Sails they sail well enough with the Wind, not otherwise. These Boats, as they are flat bottomed, can soon be overfet.

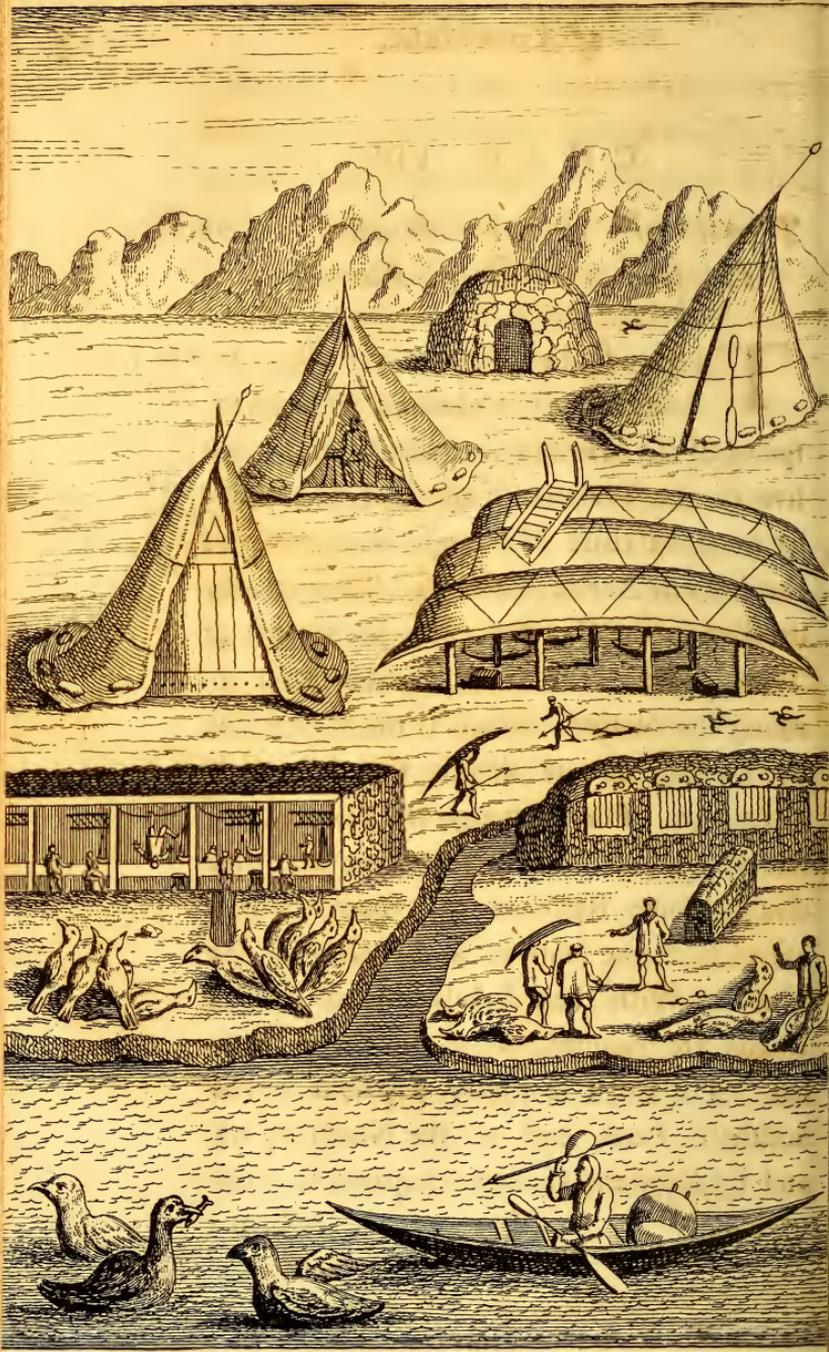
The Men do not work at home, but only in the making of their Tools. All the work about the House is the Women's Task.

The Men meddle with no Work at home but what concerns their Tools for Hunting and Fishing Tacklings, *viz.* their Boats, Bows, Arrows and the like. All other Work, even of building and repairing their Houses, belong to the Women. As dexterous and skilful as the Men are at their Work, so the Women are not behind Hand with them; but according to their Way, and Manner, deserve to be praised and admired.

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## C H A P. VIII.

*Treats of the Inhabitants, their Houses, and House-Furniture.*

THIS undoubted that the modern Inhabitants of *Greenland* are the Offspring of the *Schrellings*, especially those that live on the Western Coast, and there may be some Mixture (for ought we know) of the ancient *Norway* Colonies, that formerly dwelled in the Country, who in Length of Time were blended and naturalized among the Natives, which is made probable by several *Norway* Words found in their Language. For, although the *Norway* Colonies were destroyed, yet there was, no doubt, some Remains of them, which joined with the Natives, and became all one Nation. With these Inhabitants all the Sea Coasts are peopled, some more and some less. The Coast is pretty populous in the Southern Parts, and on the North in 68 and 69 Degrees; though compared to other

I Coun-

The modern  
Greenlanders  
descend from  
the ancient  
Schrellings.  
With some  
Mixture of the  
old Norway  
Colonies.

Countries, it is in the Main but thinly inhabited. In the inner Parts of the Country no body lives, but only at certain Times, in the Summer Season, when they go a Rain-Deer Hunting. The Reason of this is, that (as has been said above) the whole upland Country is perpetually covered with Ice and Snow.

Their Winter  
Mansions.

As to their Houses or dwelling Places, they have one for the Winter-Season, and another for the Summer. Their Winter Habitation is a low Hut built with Stone and Turf, two or three Yards high, with a flat Roof. In this Hut the Windows are

Windows  
made of the  
Guts of Seals.

on one Side, made of the Bowels of Seals, dressed and sewed together; or of the Maws of Holy-Buts, and are white and transpa-

Beds and Bed-  
Clothes.

rent. On the other Side their Beds are placed, which consist in Shelves or Benches made up of Deal-Boards, raised half a Yard from the Ground; their Bedding is made of Seals and Rain-Deer Skins.

Several

Several Families live together in one of these Houses or Huts; each Family occupying a Room by itself separated from the rest by a Wooden Post, by which also the Roof is supported; before which there is a Hearth or Fire-place, in which is placed a great Lamp in the Form of a Half Moon seated on a Trevet; over this are hung their Kettles of Brass, Copper, or Marble, in which they boil their Victuals: under the Roof, just above the Lamp, they have a sort of Rack or Shelf, to put their wet Clothes upon to dry. The Fore-Door or Entry of the House is very low, so that they must stoop, and must creep in upon all Fours, to get in at it; which is so contrived to keep the cold Air out, as much as possible. The Inside of the Houses is covered or lined with old Skins, which before have served for the Covering of their Boats. Some of these Houses are so large, that they can harbour seven or eight Families.

Seven or eight Families lodge in one of these Houses.

Upon the Benches or Shelves where their Beds are placed, is the ordinary Seat of the

Women, attending their Work of sewing and making up of the Cloathing. The Men with their Sons occupy the foremost Parts of the Benches, turning their Back to the Women : On the opposite Side, under the Windows, the Men belonging to the Family, or Strangers, take their Seats upon Benches there placed.

I cannot forbear taking Notice, that though in one of these Houses there be  
 Their Way of often or twenty Train-Lamps, one does not  
 making Fire, perceive the Steam or Smoak thereof to fill  
 or dressing their Lamps. these small Cottages : The Reason, I  
 imagine is, the Care they take in trimming  
 those Lamps, *viz.* they take dry Moss, rub-  
 bed very small, which they lay on one Side  
 of the Lamp, which, being lighted, burns  
 softly, and does not cause any Smoak, if  
 they do not lay it on too thick, or in  
 Give a great Heat. Lumps. This Fire gives such a Heat, that  
 it not only serves to boil their Victuals, but  
 also heats their Rooms to that Degree, that  
 it is as hot as a Bagnio. But for those  
 who are not used to this Way of firing, the  
 Smell

Smell is very difagreeable, as well by the Number of burning Lamps, all fed with Train-Oil, as on account of divers Sorts of raw Meat, Fishes and Fat, which they heap up in their Habitations; but especially their Urine-Tubs smell most insufferably, and strikes one, that is not accustomed to it, to the very Heart.

These Winter-Habitations they begin to dwell in immediately after *Michaelmas*, and leave them again at the Approach of the Spring, which commonly is at the latter End of *March*; and then for the Summer-Season lodge in Tents, which are their Summer Habitations. These Tents are made of Rafts or long Poles, set in a circular Form, bending at the Top, and resembling a Sugar-Loaf, and covered with a double Cover, of which the innermost is of Seal or Rain-Deer Skins with the Hairy-side inward, (if they be rich) and the outermost also of the same sort of Skins, without Hair, dressed with Fat, that the Rain may not pierce them: In these Tents they have

Their Summer Lodgings are Tents, made of Seal or Rain-Deer Skins.

At the Entry  
hangs a Cur-  
tain.

their Beds, and Lamps to dress their Meat with; also a Curtain made of the Guts or Bowels of Seals sewed together, through which they receive the Day-light instead of Windows. Every Master of a Family has got such a Tent, and a great Woman's Boat, to transport their Tents and Luggage from Place to Place, where their Business calls them.

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C H A P. IX.

*The Greenlanders Persons, Complexion  
and Temperament.*

Persons of the  
Greenlanders.

**T**HE *Greenlanders*, as well Man as Woman-kind, are well shaped and proportioned, rather short than tall, and strong built, inclined to be fat and corpulent; their Faces broad, thick Lips and flat-nosed; their Hair and Eyes black, their Complexion a very dark tawny; though I have seen some pretty fair, Their Bodies are

are of a vigorous Constitution. There are seldom found any sick or lame, and but few Distempers are known among them, besides Weakness of the Eye-Sight, which is caused by the sharp and piercing Spring-Winds, as well as the Snow and Ice, that hurt the Sight.

I have met with some that seemed infected with a kind of Leprosy; yet, (what is surprizing to me) though they converse with others, and lay with them in one Bed, it is not catching. They that dwell in the most Northern Parts are often miserably plagued with Dysenteries, or bloody Fluxes, Breast Diseases, Boils, and Epilepsy or Falling Sicknes, &c. There were no epidemical or contagious Diseases known amongst them, as Plague, Small-pox, and such like, till the Year 1734, when one of the Natives, who with several others were brought over to *Denmark*, and together with his Companions had the Small-pox at *Copenhagen*, coming home again to his native Country, brought the Infection amongst them; of

*Northern  
Greenlanders  
plagued with  
Dysentery,  
Breast Disease-  
es, &c.*

*No contagious  
Distempers.*

Many died of  
the Small-pox  
in 1734.

which there were swept away in and about the Colony above 2000 Persons. For as the Natives as well as the Animals of this Climate are of a hot Nature, they cannot bear the outward Heat, much less the inward, caused by this burning Distemper, which inflames the Mass of Blood to that degree, that it cannot by any Means be quenched. They are very full of Blood, which is observed by their frequent Bleeding at the Nose.

They have no  
Remedies for  
inward Di-  
stemper.

Few of them exceed the Age of 50 or 60 Years; many die in the Prime of their Years, and most part in their tender Infancy; which is not to be wondered at, considering they are quite destitute of all Sorts of Medicines, and ignorant of all that may strengthen and comfort sick Bodies. To supply which Defects, they know of nothing better, than to send for their Divines, which they name *Angekuts*, who mutter certain Spells over the Sick, by which they hope to recover.

For

For outward Hurts, as Wounds, Cuts of Knives, and the like, they sew or stitch them together. If any grow blind, as it often happens to them, the Eye being covered over with a white Skin; they make a small Hook with a Needle, which they fasten into this Skin, to loosen it from the Eye, and then with a Knife they pull it off. When Children are plagued with Worms, the Mother puts her Tongue (*Salvâ vericâ*) into the *Anus* of the Children, for to kill them. Burnt Moss with Train-Oil mixt together serves for Plaisters to fresh Wounds; or they cover the Wounds with a Piece of the innermost Rind of a Tree, and it will heal of itself.

The *Greenlanders* are commonly of a phlegmatick Temper, which is the Cause of a cold Nature and Stupidity: they seldom fly into a Passion, or are much affected or taken with any thing, but of an insensible, indolent Mind. Yet I am of Opinion, that what contributes most to this Coldness and Stupidity is Want of Education

I

and

Strange Cure  
of Blindness.

Are of an indolent and  
stupid Temper.

and proper Means to cultivate their Minds. In which Opinion I am confirmed by the Experience of some who had for some Time conversed with us, especially the young ones, who easily have taken all what they have seen or heard among us, whether it was good or bad. I have found some of them witty enough, and of good Capacity.

Would grow more witty if they had Means to improve by.

## C H A P. X.

*The Customs, Virtues and Vices, and the Manners or Way of Life of the Greenlanders.*

*Greenlanders* have no Magistrates or Laws, yet live very honestly.

**T**HOUGH the *Greenlanders* are as yet subject to no Government, nor know of any Magistrates, or Laws, or any sort of Discipline; yet they are so far from being lawless, or disorderly, that they are a Law to themselves; their even Temper, and Good Nature making them observe a regular and orderly Behaviour towards one another.

another. One cannot enough admire how Have a great  
Regard for one  
another. peaceably, lovingly and united they live to-

gether: Hatred and Envy, Strifes and Jars are never heard of among them<sup>1</sup>. And although it may happen, that one bears a Grudge to another, yet it never breaks out into any Scolding, or Fighting; neither have they any Words to express such Passions, or any injurious and provoking Terms of Quarrelling. It has happened once or twice, that a very wicked and malicious Fellow, out of a secret Grudge, has killed another; which none of the Neighbours have taken Notice of, but all let it pass with a surprizing Indolence; save the next Kindred to the Dead, if he finds himself strong enough, revenges his Relation's Death upon the Murderer.

They know of no other Punishment. But Of Murders,  
Vengeance is  
taken by the  
murdered Per-  
son's nearest  
Relation. those old Women called Witches, and such as pretend to kill or hurt by their conjuring;

<sup>1</sup> When they see our drunken Sailors quarrelling and fighting together, they say we are inhuman; that those Fighters do not look upon one another to be of the same kind. Likewise, if an Officer beats any of the Men, they say, such Officer treats his fellow Creatures like Dogs.

Witches are  
punished with  
Death.

ing; to such they shew great Rigour, making nothing of killing and destroying them without Mercy. And they pretend that it is very well done; those People not deserving to live, who by secret Arts can hurt and make away with others.

They never  
steal from one  
another,  
though they  
will some-  
times from  
Strangers.

They have as great an Abhorrency of Stealing or Thieving among themselves, as any Nation upon Earth; wherefore they keep nothing shut up under Lock and Key, but leave every thing unlock'd, that every body can come at it, without fear of losing it.

This Vice is so much detested by them, that if a Maiden should steal any thing, she would thereby forfeit a good Match. Yet if they can lay Hands upon any thing belonging to us Foreigners, they make no great Scruple of Conscience about it. But, as we now have lived some Time in the Country amongst them, and are look'd upon as true Inhabitants of the Land, they  
at

at last have forbore to molest us any more that Way.

As to the Transgressions of the seventh Commandment, we never have found them guilty in that Point, either in Words or Deeds, except what passes amongst the married People in their publick Diversions, as we shall see hereafter.

They live very soberly and in great Continency.

As for what we call Civility and Compliments, they do not much trouble themselves about them. They go and come, meet and pass one another, without making Use of any Greeting or Salutation. Yet they are far from being unmannerly or uncivil in their Conversation; for they make a Difference among Persons, and give more Honour to one than to another, according to their Merit and Deserts. They never enter any House, where they are Strangers, unless they are invited; and when they come in, the Master of the House, to whom they pay the Visit, shews them the Place where they are to take their Seat.

They give Honour and shew mutual Civility to one another.

As

*The Natural History*

As soon as a Visitor enters the House, he is desired forthwith to strip stark naked, and to sit down in this Guise like all the rest; for this is the grand Fashion with them, to dry the Clothes of their Guest. When Victuals are put before him, he takes Care not to fall a eating immediately, for fear of being look'd upon as starved, or of passing for a Glutton. He must stay till all the Family is gone to Bed, before he can lie down; for to them it seems unbecoming, that the Guest goes to Rest before the Landlord. Whenever a Stranger comes into a House, he never asks for Victuals, though never so hungry; nor is there any need he should; for they generally exercise great Hospitality, and are very free with what they have; and what is highly to be admired and praise-worthy, they have most Things in common. And, if there be any among them (as it will happen) who cannot work, nor get his Livelihood, they do not let him starve, but admit him freely to their Table, in which they confound us Christians, who suffer so many poor and distressed

Hospitality is well kept among them.

distressed Mortals to perish for Want of  
 Victuals.

Finally the *Greenlanders*, as to their  
 Manners and common Way of Life, are very  
 slovenly, nasty and filthy; they seldom wash  
 themselves <sup>m</sup>, will eat out of Plates and They are ex-  
 ceeding filthy  
 and slovenly.  
 Bowls after their Dogs, without cleansing  
 them; and (what is most nauseous to be-  
 hold) eat Lice and such like Vermin, which  
 they find upon themselves or others. Thus  
 they make good the old Proverb, What  
 drips from the Nose, falls into the Mouth;  
 that nothing may be lost. They will scrape  
 the Sweat from off their Faces with a Knife,  
 and lick it up. They do not blush to sit  
 down

<sup>m</sup> The Way the Men wash themselves, is to lick  
 their Fingers (as the Cat does his Paws) and rub their  
 Eyes with them to get the Salt off, which the Sea  
 throws into their Face. The Women wash them-  
 selves in their Urine, that their Hair may grow, and  
 to give it (according to their Fancy) a fine Smell. When  
 a Maiden has thus washed herself, their common Say-  
 ing is, *Niviarfiarfiuanerks*, that is, she smells like a  
 Virgin-Maid. Thus washed they go into the cold Air, and  
 let it freeze, which shews the Strength of their Heads,  
 and It well becomes Foreigners to do so.

down and ease themselves in the Presence of others. Every Family has a Urine Tub placed before the Entry, in which they make Water, and leave it so standing, till it smells most insufferably; for they put in it the Skins, which are to be dressed, for to soak or steep in it, which affords not the agreeablest Scent; to the encreasing of which the rotten Pieces of Flesh Meat and Fat, thrown under their Benches, contribute a great deal; so that delicate Noses do not find their Account among them. Yet through long Custom the most nauseous Things become more supportable.

Their Houses filled with a nasty Stench.

They are good natured and amiable.

Yet notwithstanding their nasty and most beastly Way of living, they are very good natur'd and friendly in Conversation. They can be merry and bear a Joke, provided it be within due Bounds. Never any of them has offered in the least Manner to hurt or do Harm to any of our People, unless provok'd to it. They fear and respect us as a Nation far superior to theirs in Valour and Strength.





## C H A P. XI.

*Of their Habits, and Way of Dressing.*

**T**HEIR Clothes are, for the most Men's Habits described. part, made of Rain-Deer and Seal Skin, as also of Birds Skin nicely dressed and prepared. The Men's Habits are a Coat or Jacket, with a Cap or Hood sewed to it, to cover the Head and Shoulders, in the Fashion of a Domino, or Monk's Hood. This Coat reaches down to the Knees. Their Breeches are very small, not coming above their Loins, that they may not hinder them in getting into their small Boats. And as they wear no Linen, the Hairs of the Skins the Coat is made of, is turned inward, to keep them warm. Over this Coat they put on a large Frock, made of Seal Skin dressed and tanned, without Hair, in order to keep the Water out; and thus they are dressed when they go to Sea.

K

Be-

Between the Leathern Frock and the under Coat, they wear a Linen Shirt, or for want of Linen, made of Seal Guts; which also helps to keep out the Water from the under Coat. Of late they appear sometimes in more gaudy Dresses, as Shirts made of striped Linen, and Coats and Breeches of red and blue Stuffs, or Cloth, (which they buy of ours, or the *Dutch* Merchants) but fashioned after their own Way; in these they make Parade and Feast, when they keep Holidays on Shore. The Stockings they wore formerly were made of Rain-Deer, or Seal Skin, but now they like better our sort of worsted Stockings, of different Colours, White, Blue and Red, which they buy of us. Their Shoes and Boots are made of Seal Skins, Red or Yellow, well dressed and tanned; they are nicely wrought, with Folds behind and before, without Heels, and fit well upon the Foot <sup>n</sup>.

The

<sup>n</sup> In the Summer they wear short Frocks, as also in Winter, when they work on the Ice in the Bays; but then they put a white Covering over it, that they may not frighten the Seals.

The only Difference between the Dress <sup>Women's Habits.</sup> of the Men and the Women is, that the Women's Coats are higher on the Shoulders, and wider than the Men's, with higher and larger Hoods. The married Women, that have got Children, wear much larger Coats than the rest, most like Gowns, because they must carry their Children in them upon their Backs, having got no other Cradle or Swadling-Clothes for them. They wear Drawers, which reach to the middle of the Thigh, and over them Breeches. The Drawers they always keep on, and sleep in them. Their Breeches come down to the Knee. These they do not wear in the Summer, nor in the Winter, but when they go abroad; and as soon as they come home they pull them off again. Next to their Body they wear a Waistcoat made of young Fawns Skins, with the hairy Side inward. The Coat, or upper Garment, is also made of fine coloured Swans Skins (or in Defect of that, of Seal Skins) trimmed and edged with White, and nicely wrought in the Seams, and about the Brim, which looks

very well. Their Shoes and Boots, with little Difference, are like those of the Men. Their Hair, which is very long and thick, is braided and tied up in a Knot, which becomes them well. They commonly go bare-headed, as well without as within Doors; nor are they covered with Hoods, but in case it rains or snows. Their chief Ornaments and Finery is to wear Glass Beads of diverse Colours, or Corals about the Neck and Arms, and Pendants in their Ears. They also wear Bracelets, made of black Skin, set with Pearls, with which they also trim their Clothes and Shoes.

The *Greenland* Sex have, besides this, another sort of Embellishment, *viz.* they make long black Strokes between the Eyes on the Forehead, upon the Chin, Arms, and Hands, and even upon the Thighs and Legs; these they make with a Needle and Thread made black. And though this to others seems a wrong way of embellishing, yet they think it very handsome and ornamental. And they say, that those who do not thus deform their Faces, their Heads shall

shall be turned into Train Tubs, which are placed under the Lamps in Heaven, or the Land of Souls.

They keep their Clothes pretty clean, though in other Things, especially in their Victuals, they are not so nice, chiefly the Women, who have got Children, are very dirty and slovenly, well knowing, that they cannot be repudiated, or sent a packing. But those Wretches that are barren, or whose Children are dead, and do not know the Moment they may be sent away, are obliged to take more Care of their Cleanness and Property, that they may please their Husbands.

They keep themselves clean in Clothing, but very nasty in Eating.

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C H A P. XII.

*Of their Diet, and manner of dressing their Victuals.*

**T**HE Greenlanders Provision and Victuals are Flesh and Fish Meat, (for the Country affords no other kind of Provision) Their Provision is Flesh Meat and Fish.

vision) as Rain-Deer, Whales, Seals, Hares, and Rypes, or white Partridges, and all sorts of Sea Fowls. They eat their Flesh Meat sometimes raw, sometimes boiled, or dried in the Sun or Wind; but their Fish Meat is always thoroughly done, or eat them dried in the Sun or Air, as Salmon, Roe-Fish, Holybut, or the small Stints, which, in the Months of *May* and *June*, they catch in great Abundance, and keep them cured and dried for Winter Provisions. And whereas, in the Winter Season, it is very rare to get Seals, except in the most northern Parts, where they take them upon the Ice; so they make all the Provision of them, they can get, in the Fall, and bury them under the Snow, until the Winter comes on, when they dig them up, and eat them raw and frozen as they are. Their Drink is nothing but Water, and not, as some Writers have wrongly pretended, Train Oil; for they do not so much as eat the Fat, but only in Sauces to their dried Fish.

They keep the Seals, which they kill in Autumn, buried under the Snow, for their Winter Stock.

Further-

Furthermore, they put great Lumps of <sup>Drink Water</sup> Ice and Snow into the Water they drink, <sup>cooled with</sup> to Ice.

make it the cooler for to quench their Thirst. They are, taking them in general, very hoggish and dirty in their eating and dressing of their Victuals ; they never wash, cleanse, or scour the Kettles, Pots, or Dishes, in which they dress, and out of which they eat their Victuals ; which, when dressed, they often lay down upon the dirty Ground, which they walk upon, instead of Tables.

They will, with so great an Appetite and <sup>Very hoggish</sup> Greediness, feed upon the rotten and stink- <sup>in their Eat-</sup> ing Seal Flesh, that it turns the Stomach

of any hungry Man, who looks upon them. They have no set Time for their Meals, but every one eats when he is hungry, except when they go to Sea, and then their chief Repast is a Supper, after they are come home in the Evening ; and he, whose Supper is first ready, calls his Neighbours <sup>They invite</sup> to come and partake of it, as he does a- <sup>one another.</sup> gain with them reciprocally ; and so it goes round from one to another.

The Women  
eat by them-  
selves.

Are able to  
endure Hun-  
ger for a  
while.

The Women do not eat in Company with the Men, but separately by themselves; and in the Absence of their Husbands, when gone a fishing, they, being left to themselves, invite one another, and make grand Chear. And as they eat heartily, when they can come at it; so they can as well endure Hunger, when Scarcity of Provision requires it. It has been observed, that in great Scarcity they can live upon Pieces of old Skins, upon Reets, or Sea Weeds, and other such Trash. But the Reason why they can endure Hunger better than we Foreigners, I take to be their Bodies being so squat and corpulent, their Fat yielding them Matter of Nourishment within themselves, for a while, till it be consumed.

*Greenland De-*  
*ferts, or last*  
*Courses of*  
*the Table.*

Besides the fore-mentioned Provisions, they also eat a sort of reddish Sea-Weed, and a kind of Root, which they call *Tugloronet*, both dressed with Fat, or Train Oil; the Dung of the Rain-Deer, taken out of the Guts, when they cleanse them; the Entrails of Partridges, and the like Out-Cast,

pass

pafs for Dainties with them. They make like-  
 wife Pancakes of what they scrape off the  
 Inſide of Seal Skins, when they dress them.  
 In the Summer they boil their Meat with  
 Wood, which they gather in the Field,  
 and in Winter Time over their Lamps  
 in little Kettles, of an oval Figure, made of  
 Brafs, Copper, or Marble, which they make  
 themſelves.

For to rekindle the Fire, when extin-  
 guished, they make uſe of this Expedient,  
 which ſhews their Ingenuity: They take  
 a ſhort Block of dry Firr Tree, upon which  
 they rub another Piece of hard Wood, till  
 by the continued Motion the Firr catches  
 Fire. When we firſt came among them,  
 they did not like to taſte any of our Viſtu-  
 als, but now they are glad to get ſome of it,  
 eſpecially Bread and Butter, which they like  
 mightily, but they do not much care for our  
 Liquors; yet, notwithstanding, ſome of  
 them, who have lived ſome Time among  
 us, have learnt to drink Wine and Brandy,  
 and never reſuſe it, when it is offered them.

Their manner  
 of kindling  
 Fires.

They like our  
 Viſtu-  
 als, but  
 diſlike our  
 Liquors.

But

But as for Tobacco, they do not at all like it, nor can they bear the Smell or Smoak of it.

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## C H A P. XIII.

*Of their Marriages, and Education of their Children.*

Polygamy  
reigns not  
among them.

THE most detestable Crime of Polygamy, which reigns so much among the Heathens, the *Greenlanders* are not so much addicted to; for commonly they are contented with one Wife. There are some, but very few, that keep two, three, or four Wives; but these pass for Heroes, or more than ordinary Men, in that, by their Industry, they are able to subsist so many Wives and Children. And what is remarkable, before our Arrival, there was never heard of such a Thing as Jealousy, among those Wives, but they agreed very well together, though the first Wife was reckoned  
the

the Mistrefs. Since our Arrival, as we have informed them of the Word and Will of God, importing, that in the Beginning the All-wise Creator made one Man and one Woman, to live in Matrimony as Husband and Wife, there has been some Repentment in the Wives, when their Husbands have had a Mind to take any other besides them; they have addrested themselves to me, and desired me to put a Stop to such a Proceeding. Also when I have instructed them in their Catechism, and the Christian Doctrine, they have always put me in mind, not to forget fully to instruct their Husbands in the Duties of the Seventh Commandment.

Since our Arrival the Wives are grown jealous of their Husbands taking Concubines.

Some Time passed, before we could learn, how the Men behaved themselves with Regard to other Men's Wives, or the Women *vice versa*, till at last we perceived them not to be over scrupulous in this Matter, of which we were more fully convinced, by hearing of a certain illegal Game, used among them; which is such. A

Their married Folks not chaste.  
The wanton Games.

Number

Number of married Men and Women meet together at an Assembly; where, after they have taken their fill of Feasting and Reveling, they fall a Singing and Dancing, according to their own Way; and in the mean while one after another take a Trip with each other's Wife, behind a Curtain or Hangings made of Skins at one End of the House, where their Beds are placed, and there divert themselves. Those are reputed the best and noblest tempered, who, without any Pain or Reluctancy, will lend their Friends their Wives.

Married Women think they are much honoured by the Careffes and carnal Conversation of an *Angekkok*.

But, as I observed above, none but married People frequent these sort of Games, which, they imagine, is not unbecoming. Especially the Women think themselves happy, if an *Angekkok*, or Prophet, will honour them with his Careffes: There are even some Men so generous, that they will pay the *Angekkok* for it; chiefly if they themselves can get no Children; for they fancy that an *Angekkok's* Child will be more happy and better qualified for Business than others.

Maidens

Maidens on the contrary, and unmarried Women observe much better the Rules of Modesty and Continency; for I never saw any of them entertain any loose or slippery Conversation with young Men; or shew the least Inclination to it either in Words or Deeds. During fifteen full Years that I lived in *Greenland*, I did not hear of more than two or three young Women, who were gotten with Child unmarried; because it is reckoned the greatest of Infamies. 'Tis remarkable, that natural Decency is observed by them; for they refrain from marrying their next Relations, even in the third Degree, taking such Matches to be unwarrantable and quite unnatural. It is likewise reckoned uncouth and blameable, if a Lad and a Girl, that have served and been educated in one Family, should desire to be married together; for they look upon them as Brother and Sister.

Their young Women very modest and bashful.

Kindred do not marry together.

The Ceremonies they use in their Marriages and Weddings are as follow: When a young Man likes a Maiden, he commonly

Wedding Ceremonies.

propofes it to their Parents and Relations on both Sides ; and after he has obtained their Conſent, he gets two or more old Women to fetch the Bride (and if he is a ſtout Fellow, he will fetch her himſelf :) They go to the Place where the young Woman is, and carry her away by Force ; for though ſhe ever ſo much approves of the Match, yet out of Modeſty ſhe muſt make as if it went againſt the Grain, and as if ſhe was much ruffled at it ; elſe ſhe will be blamed and get an ill Name, as if ſhe had been a Loveſick Wench. After ſhe is brought to the Houſe of the Bridegroom, ſhe keeps for ſome time at a Diſtance, and ſits retired in ſome Corner, upon the Bench with her Hair diſhevelled, and covering her Face, being baſhful and aſhamed. In the mean while the Bridegroom uſes all the Rhetorick he is Maſter of, and ſpares no Careſſes to bring her to a Compliance with his ardent Wiſhes ; and the good Girl being at length perſuaded and prevailed with, yields kindly to his raviſhing Embraces ; and then they lie down together, and ſo the Wedding is  
over.

over. But sometimes they take a shorter Way to go to Work, which is carnally to know one another, without the Advice or Consent of the Parents<sup>n</sup>. Nevertheless their Matrimony is not of so indissoluble a Nature, but that the Husbands often repudiate and put away their Wives, if either they do not suit their Humours, or else if they are barren and do not bring forth Children (which they hold to be very ignominious) and marry others. But if they have got Children by them, they bear a great deal with them, and keep them for Life. It is not rare to see that a Man beats his Wife, and gives her black Eyes, for her Obstinacy and Stubbornness sake; however they are soon reconciled and good Friends again,

*Greenlanders*  
repudiate  
their Wives,  
if they do not  
suit with their  
Humours.

<sup>n</sup> When a Man sends for his Son's Bride, to be conducted to his House, if he be in good Circumstances, he makes a great Feast; and throws out for Prizes several Presents of Poles, Rafts, Knives and other Toys. The same is practised the Day following after the Bedding of the new-married Couple. If they have Children before the Year is past, or if they often breed, they are blamed, and compared to Dogs. A new married Woman is ashamed for having changed her Maidenhead for a married State.

The wealthy  
*Greenlanders*  
shew their Li-  
berality at  
their Son's  
Weddings.

again, without bearing any Grudge. For, according to them, it signifies nothing, that a Man beats his Wife; but they do not like that a Master should drub a Servant Maid. Likewise they think it heinous that a Mother chastizes her Children; and if she falls foul of her Maid, it is with them unpardonable; and such a Woman gets an ill Name.

If one of the Party dies, the Relict, whether Husband or Wife, is at Liberty to marry again.

Women's  
Hardiness  
in their  
Child-Bed.

The Women are of a very hardy and strong Nature, which they chiefly shew in their Child-bearing; for as soon as it is over, they will go to work and do their ordinary Business without any ado. But sometimes they pay very dear for this Bravery, it costing them their Lives. The Day after their Delivery they go abroad to work, being girt with a Waist-Belt two or three Inches broad, which they also wore before their Delivery. As soon as the Child is born, the  
Mother

Mother dips her Finger into Water, and rubs the Child's Lips with it; or she puts a little Bit of Snow into its Mouth, saying, *Imekautit*, which signifies, thou hast drunk a good deal; and when she eats, she takes a Bit of Fish, and holds it to the Child's Mouth, and shakes her Hand, with this Word, *Aiparpotit*, that is to say, thou hast eat and kept me Company. They cut the Navel-String, not with a Knife, but with a Muscle-Shell, or they bite it off with their Teeth; and when the String is dry, they use it as an Amulet.

They hold a Chamber-Pot over the Head of the Woman in Labour, imagining that it helps to hasten her Delivery. The Child being a Year old, the Mother flabbers and licks it all over, from Head to Foot, that it may grow hale and strong. They seldom bear Twins, but Monsters are often brought forth. In the Year 1737 a Woman, in the Bay of *Disco*, was delivered of a hideous Monster; the Eyes were placed on the Side of the Nose; it had a pointed Snout and no

L

Ears.

Ceremonies  
observed at  
the Birth.

Strange Mon-  
sters brought  
forth in  
*Greenland.*

Ears. Instead of Hands and Feet, it had Paws, and very thick Thighs. Its Front was covered with Hair like those of a Rain-Deer, and the Sides were covered with something like a white Skin of a Fish. In the same Place another monstrous Birth was seen in the Year 1739, without a Head, four-footed, with long Nails, like Claws; it had a Mouth upon the Breast, and Claws upon the Back.

The Mothers carry the Infants about upon their Back.

They have a very tender Love for their Children, and the Mother always carries her Infant Child about with her, upon her Back, wrapt up in her Coat wherever she goes, or whatever Business she has in Hand, for they have no other Cradles for them. They suck them till they are three or four Years old or more; because in their tender Infancy they cannot digest the strong Victuals that the rest must live upon.

They do not much mind the Education of their Children.

The Education of their Children is what they seem little concerned about; for they never make Use of whipping or hard Words

to correct them, when they do any thing amiss, but leave them to their own Discretion. Notwithstanding which, when they are grown, they never seem inclined to Vice or Roguery, which is to be admired. 'Tis true, they shew no great Respect to their Parents in any outward Forms, but always are very willing to do what they order them; though sometimes they will bid their Parents do it themselves. They are under the Care of their Parents, Boys as well as Girls, till they are married; afterwards they shift for themselves, yet so, that they continue to dwell in the same House, or under the same Roof with their Fathers, together with other Kindred and Relations; and what they get, they all enjoy in common.

Children remain with their Parents till they are married.

## C H A P. XIV.

*How the Greenlanders mourn and bury their dead Friends.*

They throw  
all that be-  
longs to the  
Deceased out  
of the House.

WHEN any Person dies, they take what belongs to him, as House-Furniture, Utensils and Cloathing, and throw it all out into the Field; that by touching of them they may not become unclean; or any Misfortune befall them on that Account. And all that live in the same House, are obliged to carry out any thing of their Goods that is new, and has not been used: But in the Evening they bring all back again; for then they say the Stench of the dead Body is quite dissipated. Then they begin to lament and mourn for their dead Friend, with Tears and ghastly Howlings, which they continue for an Hour, and then the nearest Relations take the Body and carry it to the Grave, made up of Stones thrown together in a Heap; under which they bury him dressed in his  
best

best Clothes, and well wrapt up in Skins of Rain-Deer, or Seals, with his Legs bent under his Back. Near the Burying-Place they lay his Utenfils, viz. his Boat, Bows, Arrows and the like; and if it be a Woman, her Needles, Thimbles and the like; not that they believe they stand in Need of those Things, when they are come to the Land of Souls, or in the other World, whither they are retired, but for the Aversion they have for those Things; lest by refreshing the Memory of the deceased, they might renew their Grief and Sorrow for his Loss; for if they should bewail him and weep too much, they think he will endure the more cold where he is.

He is buried in his best Clothes in a Grave made up of Stones. Near which they lay his Utenfils.

They think themselves unclean, if they touch any thing belonging to the Deceased; as likewise he that has carried him to the Grave, and buried him, is reckoned unclean for some Time, and dares not do certain Things: Nay, not only the Kindred and Relations of the Deceased, but likewise every one that has lived in the same House

The Mourners are reputed unclean for a while, and must abstain from certain Things.

with him, are obliged to abstain from certain Viſtuals, and Work, for a while, according to the Direction of *Angekkuts* or Divines.

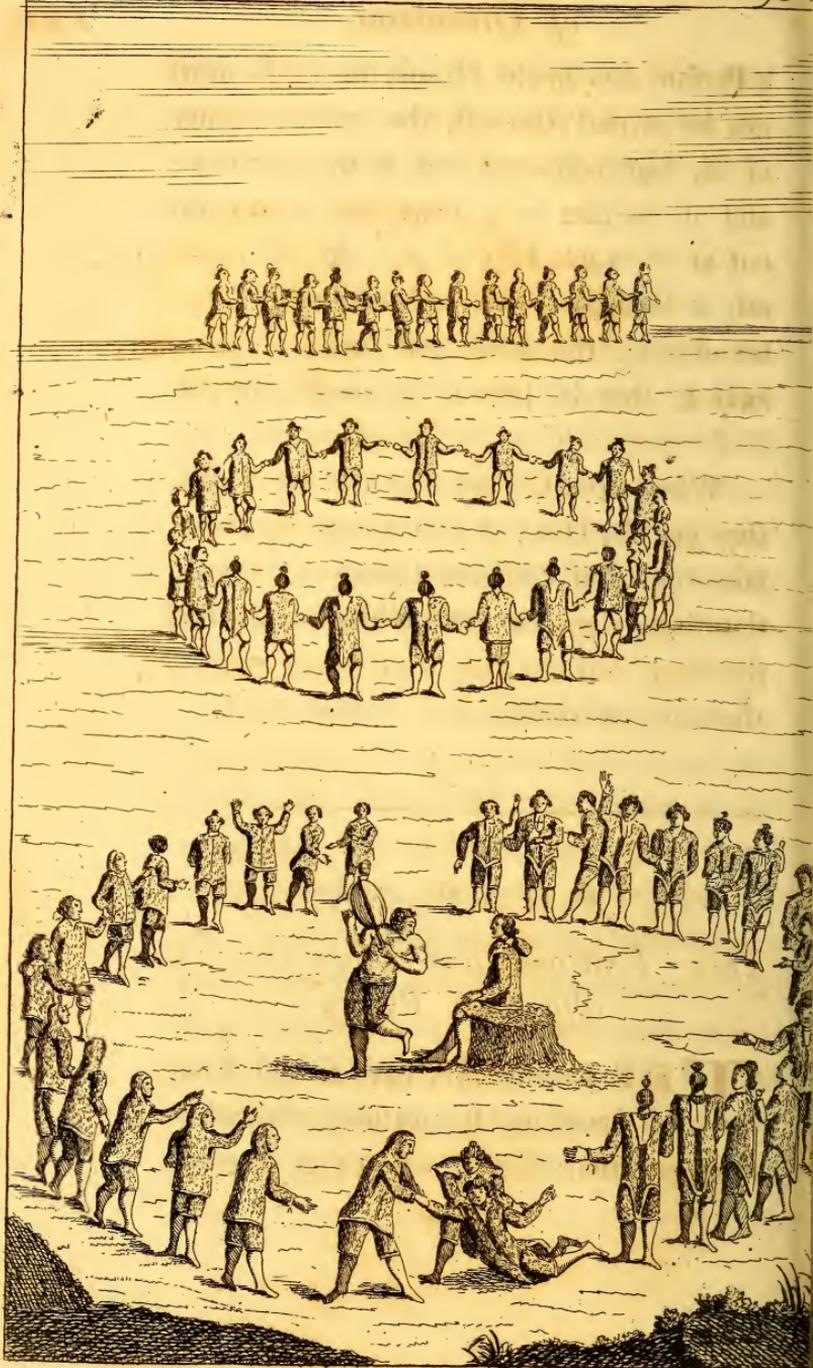
The Women never wash themselves during their Mourning-Time, nor appear well dressed, or with braided and tied up Hair, but dishevelled, and hanging about the Face. They must put on their Hood as often as they go out of Doors, which is not customary at other times; but they believe they otherwise should soon die.

They bewail their Dead long enough: For, as oft as any of their Friends and Acquaintance come from other Places to see them, the first thing they do is to sit down in great Sadness, and weep and bemoan the Loss of their deceased Friend; after which they are comforted with good Cheer. But if the Deceased has left no Friend or Relation behind him, he may lie long enough where he died, whether at home or abroad, before any body comes and buries him. If  
a Per-

General History

The first part of the book is devoted to a general history of the world from the beginning of time to the present day. It covers the various ages of the world, from the golden age to the present, and discusses the progress of civilization and the influence of the various nations and empires. The author also touches upon the religious and philosophical systems of the different ages, and the changes in the human mind and character. The second part of the book is a history of the various nations and empires, from the ancient to the modern. It gives a detailed account of the rise and fall of the various kingdoms, and the events that have shaped the world. The author also discusses the influence of the various nations and empires on the world, and the progress of civilization. The third part of the book is a history of the various religions and philosophical systems, from the ancient to the modern. It gives a detailed account of the rise and fall of the various religions, and the events that have shaped the world. The author also discusses the influence of the various religions and philosophical systems on the world, and the progress of civilization. The fourth part of the book is a history of the various sciences and arts, from the ancient to the modern. It gives a detailed account of the rise and fall of the various sciences and arts, and the events that have shaped the world. The author also discusses the influence of the various sciences and arts on the world, and the progress of civilization.





a Person dies in the House, his Body must not be carried through the ordinary Entry of it, but conveyed out at the Window ; and if he dies in a Tent, he is brought out at the back Part of it. At the Funer-  
Their Funeral Rite.  
 al, a Woman lights a Stick in the Fire, brandishing the same and saying, *Pikler-rukpok*, that is, here is no more to be got.

When little Children die and are buried, they put the Head of a Dog near the Grave, fancying, that Children having no Understanding, they cannot by themselves find the Way, but the Dog must guide them to the Land of the Souls.

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 C H A P. XV.

*Their Pastimes and Diversions, as also their Poetry.*

**T**HE *Greenlanders* have several Kinds of Sports and Recreations, with which they pass their Time, when they have no-

Their Assemblies of Revelling and Diversions.

thing else to do, or when they visit one another : Of which these are the most remarkable. When they meet together for Diversion's Sake ; the first Step made is always Banqueting and Revelling, where they stuff their Guts with all the dainty Bits and the best Cheer the Country affords ; as Raindeer and Seal Flesh dried or boiled ; and the Tail of a Whale, which they reckon among the greatest Delicacies. Of these Things they eat very greedily ; for it is a great Honour done to the Landlord, who treats, that his Guests, when come home, complain that their Belly was too small, and that it was ready to burst.

In which they beat the Drum.

After the Repast, they get up to divert themselves in this Manner : One of the Company takes a Drum, which is made of a broad wooden Hoop, or of the Rib of a Whale, covered with a thin Skin ; with a Handle to it ; which Drum he beats with a Stick, singing at the same time Songs, either concerning the common Affairs in general, or his own private ones, in particular.

cular. In which at the End of each Verse, the whole Chorus of Men and Women join with him.

He that can make the most odd and comical Gestures, and play the most ridiculous Tricks with his Face, Head and Limbs, turning them awry, passes for the most ingenious Fellow; as he by his aukward and out of the way Postures can make others laugh.

They shew their Wit chiefly in Satyrical Songs, which they compose against one another; and he that overcomes his Fellow in this Way of Debate, is admired and applauded by the rest of the Assembly. If any body conceives a Jealousy, or bears a Grudge to another upon any Account, he sends to him, and challenges him to a Duel in such or such Assembly; where he will fight it out with him in taunting Ditties. Whereupon the Defied, in Defence of his Honour, prepares his Weapons, and does not fail to appear at the Time and Place appointed;

They compose Satyrical Ditties upon one another, which they sing in their Assemblies.

The Champi-  
on or Chal-  
lenger begins,  
and when he  
has done the  
Challenged  
takes up the  
Cudgel and  
sings next.

appointed; if his Courage do not forsake him. When the Assembly is met, and the Combatants arrived, every body being silent and attentive to hear, what End the Combat will take; the Challenger first enters the Lists, and begins to sing, accompanying it with the Beat of his Drum. The Challenged rises also, and in Silence listens, until his Champion or Adversary has done singing. Then he likewise enters the Lists, armed with the same Weapons, and lays about his Party, the best he can. And thus they alternately sing as long as their Stock of Ditties lasts. He that first gives over, is reckoned overcome and conquered. In this sort of Taunting-Ditties they reproach and upbraid one another with their Failings. And this is their common Way of taking Vengeance.

There is not to be expected great Ingenuity, or Sallies and Points of Wit in their Poesies, yet there is some Cadence and Number in their Verses, and some kind of Rhime in them. For an Instance of which

I join hereto a *Greenland Song*, or Ode, com-<sup>Model of a</sup>posed by one of the Natives, who formerly <sup>Greenland</sup> lived in our Colony, by Name *Friderick* <sup>Song.</sup>  
*Christian*, upon the Birth-Day of his then  
Royal Highness, Prince *Christian*, on the  
30th of *November*, 1729, and is as fol-  
lows.

**A** MNA aja aja, aja aja, &c.] Entry.

*One Morning as I went out, and saw,*  
Annigamma irfigeik, amna aja aja, &c.]

*That Flags and Colours were flying ;*  
Arvallirfullitlarmeta : Amna aja, &c.

*And that they made ready,*  
Opellungarfullarmeta, amna aja, &c.

*To fire the Guns ;*  
Erkaifeigamig og, amna aja aja, &c.

*Then I demanded,*  
Tava orkarbigeik, amna aja aja, &c.

*Why do you fire ?*  
Saag erkaisovise ? Amna aja, &c.

*And they answered me, because the King's Son's*  
Tava akkyanga, affuog Nellermago,

*Birth-Day was celebrated,*  
Okuine annivine nellermago, amna aja, &c.

*Who*

*The Natural History*

*Who is to be King after his Father,*  
 Angune tokkopet kongingoromagame,  
 amna aja, &c.

*And succeed in the Kingdom.*

Kingoreis femmane ; Amna aja, &c.

*Thereupon I said to my Friend,*

Tava ikkinguntiga ; Amna aja aja, &c.

*Let us make a Song*

Pitfimik sennegiluk ; Amna aja, &c.

*To the King's Son ;*

Kongib imna niarnganut, amna aja, &c.

*For he shall be made King.*

Kongingoromamet : Amna aja, aja, &c.

*This my little Song shall praise him :*

Pifingvoara una : Amna aja, aja, &c.

*'Tis said, He is a brave Prince,*

Ostantigirfaræt fillakartok unnertlugo :

Amna aja, &c.

*Let us therefore rejoice ;*

Tipeitfutigeik : Amna aja aja, aja aja.

*For he shall be our King,*

Kongingoromamet : Amna aja aja, aja, &c.

*After his Father's Death.*

Angune-oy tokkoppet : Amna aja aja, &c.

*We rejoice also, because*

Tipeitsfokigogut : Amna aja aja, aja, &c.

*He loves us, as his Father does ;*

Attatatut affeigalloäpatit : Amna aja, &c.

*Who sent over Clergymen to us,*

Pellefille tamaunga innekaukit : Amna  
aja, &c.

*To teach us the Word of God ;*

Gudimik ajokarfokullugit : Amna aja, &c.

*Lest we should go to the Devil.*

Torngarsungmut makko inneille pekonna-  
git : Amna aja, &c.

*Be thou like him, so shall we love thee,*

Iblile tameitit neglitfomapaukit,

*And cherish thee,*

Affeigomarpaukit : Amna aja aja, &c.

*And be thy Servants.*

Kivgakomarpautigut : Amna aja, aja, &c.

*Our Ancestors have also been thy Servants,*

Siurlit karalit kivgarimiaukit,

*Even they.*

Juko : Amna aja aja, aja aja, &c.

*That thou hast thought on us,*

Ifumatigautigut : Amna aja aja, &c.

*The Natural History*

*This we know very well, O gracious Son of  
the King.*

Nellungikalloārpagut, Kongib Niarnga a-  
jungitfotit,

*We hope thou wilt continue so to do,*

Teimatoy ifumariotit : Amna aja aja, &c.

*The King thy Father has before possess'd us,*

Kongib Angutit pekaramifigut,

*When thou shalt be our King, thou'lt prove  
good enough :*

Iblile Kongingoruit namaksimotit : Amna  
aja, &c.

*Whatever we possess,*

Tomasa pirsaugut : Amna aja aja, &c.

*Shall be thine altogether.*

Piarmapotit makko : Amna aja, &c.

*When Greenland shall have receiv'd In-  
struction,*

Karalit illerpeta : Amna aja, &c.

*Then shall they love God, and honour the King.*

Gud negligomaparput, Kongible nalleklugo :

Amna aja aja, &c.

*Let us be merry,*

Tecpeitsukigifa : Amna aja aja, aja, &c.

*And*

*And of the King's Son,*

Kongiblo Niarnga : Amna aja aja, &c.

*Drink the Health.*

Skaalia immerlugo : Amna aja aja, &c.

*And say, Long live Christian !*

Tave okarpogut, *Christian innuvit* : Amna  
aja, &c.

*And thy Consort.*

Nulliello : Amna aja aja, aja aja, &c.

*May thy Years be many !*

Okiutikit armarlesorsuangularlutik : Amna  
aja, &c.

*(This I wish) Friderick Christian, and my  
Friend*

*Friderik Christian* ikingutigalo : Amna, &c.

*Peter, who were the first baptized of  
Greenland.*

*Peder, karalinit kockkartoguk* : Amna, &c.

*Would to God our Countrymen were also.*

Kannoktok ! *Ekkarlivut tamakilit makko* :  
Amna aja, &c.

Amna, aja aja, aja aja, aja, hei !

They have, besides this, another sort of  
Diversi<sup>o</sup>n, accompanied with Singing, which  
con-

Another Di-  
version, which  
consists in  
Swopping,  
or Buying  
and Selling.

consists in Swopping or Bartering. He that performs the Office of Drummer and Singer, exposes one Thing or other to Sale, at any Rate he thinks fit; if any of the Company has a liking to it, he shews his Consent by giving the Seller a Slap on his Breech, and the Bargain is done, and cannot be retrieved, whether good or bad. The

The Boys  
Play like that,  
in *French*,  
call'd *Bilbo-*  
*quet*, and in  
*English*, *Catch*  
*me if you can*.

Boys and Lads have also their Pastimes and Plays, when they meet in the Evening. They take a small Piece of Wood, with a Hole in it at one End, to that they tie a little pointed Stick with a Thread or String, and throwing the Piece with the Hole in it, up into the Air, they strive to catch it upon the pointed Stick, through the Hole.

The Catch-  
Play of the  
young Lads.

He that does it twenty times successively, and without failing, gains the Match, or Party, and he that misses gets a black Stroke on his Forehead, for every Time he misses.

A Game of  
Chance, like  
Cards or  
Dice.

Another Boy's Play is a Game of Chance, like Cards or Dice; they have a Piece of Wood pointed at one End, with a Pin or Peg in the midst, upon which it turns; when the Boys are seated around, and every

one







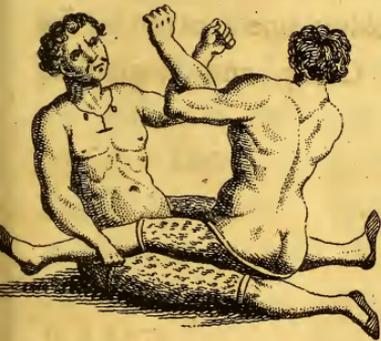
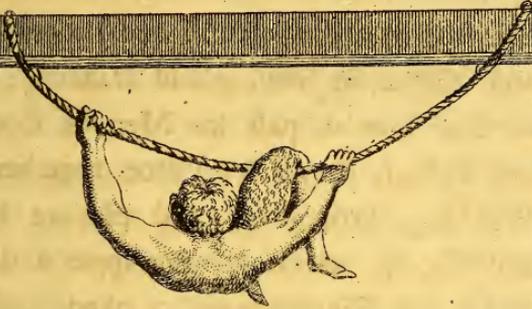
They fancy  
that the Souls  
of the De-  
ceased play  
in Heaven.

ceased play at Foot-ball in Heaven, with the Head of a Morfe, when it lightens, or the North-light (*Aurora Borealis*) appears, which they fancy to be the Souls of the Deceased.

Exercises of  
the grown  
Men, in try-  
ing their  
Strength by  
Wrestling.

The Girls  
Diverfion.

When their Acquaintance from Abroad come to see them, they spend whole Days and Nights in Singing and Dancing; and as they love to pass for Men of Courage and Valour, they'll try Forces together, in Wrestling, Struggling, and playing Hook and Crook, which is to grapple with the Arms and Fingers made crooked, and intangled like Hooks. Whoever can pull the other from his Place, thinks himself a Man of Worth and Valour. The Women's, or rather the Maiden's Plays, consist in dancing around, holding one another by the Hand, forming a Circle, and singing of Songs.





## C H A P. XVII.

*Of their Language.*

**T**HOUGH the *Greenland Language* has no Affinity with other *European* Tongues, yet it seems to have borrowed some Words from the *Norwegians*, who formerly inhabited Part of the Land; for such Words agree both in Name and Signification; as, for Example, *Kona*, a Woman; *Nerriok*, to eat, from the *Norway* Word *Noerrie*. The Herb *Angelica*, which they in *Norway* call *Quaun*, the *Greenlanders* call *Quaunnek*. A Porpoise, in *Norway* called *Nise*; they call *Nise* Ashes, in *Norway*, *Aske*, in *Greenland*, *Arkset*. A Lamp, in the *Norwegian*, *Kolle*, in the *Greenlandian*, *Kollek*. Some of their Words resemble *Latin* Words of the same Signification; as, *Gutta*, a Drop; in the *Greenland* Tongue, *Gutte*, or *Kutte*. *Ignis*, Fire, they call *Ingnek*. And some they have got from *Hebrew* Roots, as, *Appa*, a Word the Children

dren use to name their Father, and some others.

Its Accent  
and Pronun-  
ciation diffi-  
cult.

The Accent and Pronunciation of it is hard and difficult, because they speak very thick, and in the Throat. The same Language is spoke throughout the whole Country, though the Accent and Pronunciation differs here and there, as different Dialects; chiefly towards the Southern Parts, where they have received and adopted many foreign Words, not used in the northern Parts. But the *Angekuts*, or Divines, make use of a particular Speech, whenever they conjure; for then they use metaphorical Locutions and Words in a contrary Sense. The Women-kind also have a particular Pronunciation peculiar to themselves, and different from that of the Men, making use of the softest Letters at the end of Words, instead of hard ones; for Example, *Am*, for *Ap*, that is, *Yes*. *Saving*, for *Savik*, a *Knife*. Their Language, in common, wants the Letters, *c, d, f, q, x*. They have besides many double and unknown Consonants, which

The fair Sex  
mollify the  
Endings  
of their  
Words.

which is the Cause, that many of their Words cannot be spelt according to their manner of pronouncing them. For the rest, their Expressions are very natural and easy, and their Constructions so neat and regular, that one would hardly expect so much from a Nation so unpolite and illiterate. The Language is very rich of Words and Sense, and of such Energy, that one is often at a loss and puzzled, to render it in *Danish*; but then again it wants Words to express such Things as are foreign, and not in Use among them. They have Monosyllables and Polysyllables, but most of the last. Their Words, as well Nouns as Verbs, are inflected at the End, by varying the Terminations, without the Help of the Articles or Particles, like the *Greek* and *Latin*. The Adjectives always follow their Substantives; but the Possessive Pronouns are joined to the Nouns, as the *Hebrew* Suffixa \* : Nor have the Nouns alone their Suffixa, but the Verbs also. To satisfy the Reader's Curiosity, I have hereto joined a List of some of the Words, and in a Sketch shew the Construction and Inflections of this Language.

\* In its Inflections it agrees with the *Hebrew*.

## VOCABULARY.

Singular.	Dual.	Plural.
InnuK, <i>Mankind,</i>	InnuK,	Innuit.
Angut, <i>a Man,</i>	Angutik,	Angutit.
Arnak, <i>a Woman,</i>	Arnek,	Arnet.
Niakok, <i>the Head.</i>	Niakuk,	Niakut.
Irse, <i>an Eye,</i>	Irfik,	Irfit.
Kingak, <i>the Nose,</i>	Kingek,	Kinget.
Kinak, <i>the Face,</i>	Kinek,	Kinet.
Kannek, <i>Mouth,</i>	Kannek,	Kangit.
Okak, <i>Tongue,</i>	Okek,	Oket.
Kiut, <i>a Tooth,</i>	Kiutik,	Kiutit.
Kartlo, <i>a Lip,</i>	Kartluk,	Kartluit.
Suit, <i>an Ear,</i>	Siutik,	Siutit.
Nyak, <i>Head of Hair,</i>	Nytkiek,	Nytkiet.
Sækik, <i>the Breast,</i>	Sækkirsek,	Sækkirset.
Iviange, <i>Bubby,</i>	Iviangik,	Iviangit.
Tue, <i>Shoulder,</i>	Tubik,	Tubit.
Tellek, <i>Arm,</i>	Tellik,	Tellit.
Ikufik, <i>Elbow,</i>	Ikivtik,	Ikivtit.
Arkfeit, <i>Hand (that is the Fingers) is Plural only.</i>		
Tikek, <i>Finger,</i>	Tikik,	Tirkerit.
Kukik, <i>Nail,</i>	Kukik,	Kuket.
Nak, <i>Belly,</i>	Nersek,	Nerfet.
Innelo, <i>Bowel,</i>	Inneluk,	Inneluit.
Okpet, <i>the Thigh,</i>	Okpetik,	Okpetit.

Singular.	Dual.	Plural.
Sibbiak, <i>the Hip,</i>	Sibbirfek,	Sibbirfet.
Serkok, <i>Knee.</i>	Serkuk,	Serkuit.
Kannak, <i>Shank.</i>	Kannek,	Kannerfet.
Ifiket, <i>Foot, is only of the Plural Number.</i>		
Kimik, <i>Heal,</i>	Kimik	Kimit.

The Construction with Possessive Pronouns is thus.

Iglo, <i>a House,</i>	Igluk,	Iglut.
<i>My House,</i>	Igluga, Igluka,	Igluka.
<i>Thy House,</i>	Iglut, Iglukit,	Iglutit.
<i>His</i> ———	Igloa, Igluk,	Igloëi.
<i>His own</i> ———	Iglune, Iglugne,	Iglune.
<i>Our</i> ———	Iglout, Iglout,	Iglövut.
<i>Your</i> ———	Iglurfe, Iglurfik,	Iglufe.
<i>Their</i> ———	Igloæt, Igloæk,	Igloëit.
<i>Their own</i> ———	Iglurtik, Iglutik,	Iglutik.

This same Noun's Construction with the Suffixas at Prepositions, *mik* and *nik*, *mit* and *nit*, which signifies from; *mut* and *nut*, to; *me* and *ne*, on or upon, is thus performed.

Singular.	Dual.	Plural.
<i>To the House,</i>	Iglomut, Iglugnut,	Iglunut.
<i>To my House,</i>	Iglumnut, <i>idem,</i>	<i>idem.</i>
<i>To thy</i> ———	Iglungnut, <i>idem,</i>	<i>idem.</i>
<i>To his House,</i>	Igloanut, Igloennut,	Iglocinut.
<i>To his own</i> ———	Iglominut, Iglungminut,	Iglominut.
<i>To our</i> ———	Iglotivnut, Iglutivnut,	<i>idem.</i>
<i>To your</i> ———	Iglufivnut, <i>idem,</i>	<i>idem.</i>
<i>To their</i> ———	Igloænut, <i>idem,</i>	Igloëinut.
<i>To their own House,</i>	Iglomingnut, <i>idem,</i>	<i>idem.</i>

As to the Verbs, they are either simple or compounded: There are five Conjugations, to which may be added a sixth of Negative Verbs. There are three Tenses in all, the Present, Preterit and Future; and six Moods, viz. Indicative, Interrogative, Imperative, Permissive, Conjunctive and Infinitive.

The Examples of the simple Verbs are these. The first Conjugation ends in *kpok*, as *Ermikpok*, he washes himself: *Aglekpok*, he writes.

The second ends in *rpok*; as, *Mattarpok* he undresses himself. *Aularpok*, he sets out on a Journey. *Ajokarsorpok*, he teaches. The third Conjugation ends in *pokpulum*: That is, in *pok* preceded by a Vowel; as *Egipok*, he throws away. *Inginok*, he sits down. *Akrapok*, he runs.

The fourth ends in *ok*, or *vok*; as, *Pyok*, he receives. *Aglyok*, he grows. *Affavok*, he loves.

The fifth Conjugation ends in *au*; as, *Irfigau*, he ogles. *Arfigau*, he resembles, *Angekau*, he is tall.

The

The sixth Conjugation of negative Verbs ends in *ngilak*; as, *Ermingilak*, he does not wash himself. *Mattengilak*, he does not undress himself; *Pingilak*, he receives not; *Egingilak*, he throws not away; *Irsingilak*, he ogles not.

Inflexion of a Verb with the Suffixes of a Person  
Agent of the first Conjugation in *kpok*.

Indicative.		Present.	
Singular.	Dual.	Plural.	
<i>He washes himself,</i> Ermikpok.	<i>The two wash themselves,</i> Ermikpuk.	<i>They wash themselves,</i> Ermikput.	
<i>I wash myself,</i> Ermikpunga.	<i>We two wash ourselves,</i> Ermikpoguk.	<i>We wash us,</i> Ermikpogut.	
<i>Thou wash thyself,</i> Ermikpotit.	<i>You two wash yourselves,</i> Ermikpotik.	<i>You wash yourselves,</i> Ermikpose.	

The Inflexion with Suffixes of a Person patient is  
formed this Way.

<i>Thou wastest me,</i> Ermikparma.	<i>Ye two wash me,</i> Ermikpautiga.	<i>You wash me,</i> Ermikpausinga.
<i>He washes me.</i> Ermikpanga.	<i>The two wash me,</i> Ermikpainga.	<i>They wash me,</i> Ermikpanga.
<i>I wash him,</i> Ermikpara.	<i>We two wash him,</i> Ermikparpuk.	<i>We wash him,</i> Ermikparput.
<i>He washes him,</i> Ermikpæ.	<i>The two wash him,</i> Ermikpæk.	<i>They wash him,</i> Ermikpæt.
<i>Thou wastest him,</i> Ermikpet.	<i>Ye two wash him,</i> Ermikpartik.	<i>You wash him,</i> Ermikparse.

Indi-

Indicative.		Present.	
Singular.	Dual.	Plural.	
<i>I wash thee,</i>	<i>We two wash thee,</i>	<i>We wash thee,</i>	
<i>Ermikpaukit.</i>	<i>Ermikpautikit.</i>	<i>Ermikpæutigit.</i>	
<i>He washes thee,</i>	<i>The two wash thee,</i>	<i>They wash thee,</i>	
<i>Ermikpatit.</i>	<i>Idem.</i>	<i>Idem.</i>	
<i>Thou wastest us,</i>	<i>Ye two wash us,</i>	<i>You wash us,</i>	
<i>Ermikpautigut.</i>	<i>— pautigut.</i>	<i>Ermikpaufigut.</i>	
<i>He washes us,</i>	<i>The two wash us,</i>	<i>They wash us,</i>	
<i>Ermikpatigut.</i>	<i>Idem.</i>	<i>Idem.</i>	
<i>I wash you,</i>	<i>We two wash you,</i>	<i>We wash you,</i>	
<i>Ermikpauſe.</i>	<i>Idem.</i>	<i>Idem.</i>	
<i>He washes you,</i>	<i>The two wash you.</i>	<i>They wash you,</i>	
<i>Ermikpauſe.</i>	<i>Idem.</i>	<i>Idem.</i>	
<i>I wash them,</i>	<i>We two wash them,</i>	<i>We wash them,</i>	
<i>Ermikpauka.</i>	<i>Ermikpauvut.</i>	<i>Idem.</i>	
<i>He washes them,</i>	<i>The two wash them,</i>	<i>They wash them,</i>	
<i>Ermikpaupei.</i>	<i>Ermikpatik.</i>	<i>Ermikpauſe.</i>	
<i>Thou wastest them,</i>	<i>Ye two wash them,</i>	<i>Ye wash them,</i>	
<i>Ermikpatit.</i>	<i>Ermikpatik.</i>	<i>Ermikpaupei.</i>	

### Inflexion of the Negative Verb.

<i>He washes not himſelf,</i>	<i>The two wash not themſelves,</i>	<i>They wash not themſelves,</i>
<i>Ermingilak.</i>	<i>Ermingilek.</i>	<i>Ermingilat.</i>
<i>I don't waſh myſelf,</i>	<i>We two waſh not ourſelves,</i>	<i>We waſh not ourſelves,</i>
<i>Ermingilanga.</i>	<i>Ermingilaguk.</i>	<i>Ermingilagut.</i>
<i>Thou doſt not waſh thyſelf,</i>	<i>Ye two don't waſh yourſelves,</i>	<i>You don't waſh yourſelves,</i>
<i>Ermingilatit.</i>	<i>Ermingilatik.</i>	<i>Ermingilauſe.</i>

With the Suffixes of the patient Perſon the negative Verbs are inflected like the Affirmatives ; as,

<i>He waſhes me not,</i>	<i>Ye two waſh me not,</i>	<i>They waſh me not,</i>
<i>Ermingilanga.</i>	<i>Idem.</i>	<i>Idem.</i>
<i>Thou waſheſt me not,</i>	<i>Ye two waſh me not.</i>	<i>You waſh me not,</i>
<i>Ermingilarma.</i>	<i>Ermingilautinga.</i>	<i>Ermingilauſinga.</i>

And

And in the same Manner you may Inflect all Verbs whatsoever.

The Preterits and Futures have the same Suffixa, as the Present Tense.

Concerning the compounded Verbs, it is to be observed; that, whereas their auxiliary Verbs are but few, they make Use of several Particles to supply their Place, which are annexed to the simple Verbs, and so make them compounded Verbs; yet these Particles by themselves are not used, nor of any Signification. And by this Connexion or Composition the simple Verbs change their Conjugation. As for Example,

First, in this Expression, they use to do so and so, the Composition is formed thus; of the simple Verb *Erminpok*, he washes himself, in the Composition is made *Ermingarace*, he uses to wash himself. *Kiearvok*, he weeps; *Kieeillarau*, he uses to weep; *Aularpok*, he goes from home; *Aulararau*, he uses to go from home.

Second,

*The Natural History*

Second, when the Expression runs thus, he comes to do this or that, it is turned in this Manner. *Ermigiartorpok*, he comes to wash himself; *Alegiartorpok*, he comes to write. And so in all other Compositions.

But there are not only Verbs compounded with one, but sometimes with two, three, or more Particles joined to the Verb; when there is a longer Sentence to be expressed. And for this Reason the Words and Particles undergo a great many Changes and Variations, in as much as they retain but certain radical Letters, the rest either being thrown away and quite lost, or else changed for others. As for Instance, *Aulisariartorasuarpok*, he made haste to go out a fishing. Here three Verbs are joined together in one. *Aulisarpok*, he fishes; *Peartorpok*, to go about something; and *Pinnesuarpok*, to make haste. Again. *Aglekkinniarit*, endeavour to write better. Here we have another threefold Composition. First *Aglekpok*, he writes; then *Pekipok*, to mend, or do better, and at last *Pinniarpok*, to endeavour.

From whence comes the Verb *Aglikkinniar-pok*, he endeavours to write better; in the Imperative Mood, *Aglekkinniarit*, as above.

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*The Creed, and the Lord's Prayer, translated into the Greenland Language.*

ARTICLE I.

**O**Perpunga Gud-mun Attatavnut, ajua-kangitfomut, killagmik nunamiglo Sennarfomut.

ARTICLE II.

Operpunga Jesus Christufmut, Ernetuanut, Nallegautimut, Annerfamit helligmit pîrfok, Niviarfamit Mariamit erniurfok; anniartok Pontius Pilatus-mit; Ifektitaurfok, tokkorfok, illirforto, allernum akkartok. Ullut pingajuane tokkorfonit makitok; Killangmut Kollartok; Angume Gub telerpiet tungane ipfiarfok; terfanga amma tikiytfomaryok, umarsullo tokongarsullo auikfartitfartorlugit.

ARTICLE

## *The Natural History*

### ARTICLE III.

Operpunga Gub Annerfanut, opertokartoniglo nuname: Innungliglo helligniglo illegeinik, Synderronermiglo, Timiniglo umaromartunik, tokkorsublo Kingorna tokkoviungitfokartunik. Amen!

Nallekam Okausia.

*The Lord's Prayer.*

**A**TTAVUT killangmepotit, akkit uforolirfuk; Nallegavet aggerle; pekorset Killangme nunam etog tamaikile: Tunnifigun ullume nekiksautivnik; pissaruneta aketforauta, pifingilaguttog akectfortivut; Urfennartomut pifitsaraunata; ajortomin annautigut: Nallegauet, Pifarlo, ufortartorlo pigangaukit ifukangithomun. Amen.

CHAP.

## C H A P. XVIII.

*Of the Greenland Trade, and whether  
in promoting it, there is any Ad-  
vantage to be expected.*

**T**HE Goods and Commodities *Green-* Wherein the  
Greenland  
Traffick con-  
sists.  
*land* affords for the entertaining of  
Commerce, or Traffick, are Whale Blubber  
or Fat, and Whale-Bones, Unicorn Horns,  
Rain-Deer Skins and Hides, Seal and Fox-  
Skins. These Wares they use to barter  
against Merchandizes of our Produce, as  
Coats and Shirts made of white, blue, red  
or strip'd Linen or Woollen Cloth; as also  
Knives, Hand-Saws, Needles, Hooks to  
angle with, Looking-Glasses, and other such  
Mercchandize or hardWares. Besides what  
they buy of Wood, as Rafts, Poles, Deal-  
Boards, Chests, and of Brass and Copper,  
as Kettles and the like, Tin Dishes and  
Plates; for which they pay to the full  
Price. At the Beginning of our late Set-  
tlement in those Parts the Trade was much  
brisker

This Trade brought at first great Profit. brisker than at present, and much more profitable; for foreign Traders flocking thither in great Numbers, have so overstock'd them with Goods, and underfold one another, to draw the Natives to them from others, that the Trade is considerably slackened and fallen. Yet I trust, that, if we once became Masters of this Trade, as it in Justice belongs to us, by the Right the King of *Denmark* lawfully claims to these Countries as much as to any Kingdom or Province subject to him; I trust, that, with this Proviso, the Trade to *Greenland* would prove as profitable, as any other whatsoever. Which has been evidenced not long ago; when by his Majesty's special Order Foreign Trade has been prohibited within a certain Distance on each Side of the Colonies. For if the lading of some Ships with Fish and Train from *Fin-Mark*, and others of Fish, Train, Salt-Meat and Butter from *Iceland* and *Fero* bring to the Traders considerable Profit: Who would Question, but the same or better Advantage may be expected from the importing Quantities of Whale-Train, Whale-Bones,

*Greenland*  
Commodities  
as precious as  
those of *Iceland*  
and *Fero*.

Bones, Rain-Deer Hides, Fox and Seal-Skins, which are of more Value than the *Iceland* or *Feroe*? And, if the Produce and Commodities of *Greenland* were formerly reckoned of that Importance, that they were deem'd sufficient to maintain the King's Table: Why not also at present? provided *Greenland* may by Settlements and Improvement retrieve its former Abundance, which is not impossible.

If the old Lands, formerly inhabited and manured by the *Norway* Colonies, were anew peopled with Men and Cattle; they would, without doubt, yield as much as either *Iceland* or *Feroe*, seeing there is as good Pasture-Ground as in those Islands. I shall forbear to mention Salmon and Cod-Fishing, as it seems at present to be but of little or no Importance, especially on the West-Side; though I am credibly informed by the Natives, that on the Southern Coast they catch abundance of fine large Cods. Yet this may be more than sufficiently compensated by the Whale-Fishery on the North,

The old forsaken Lands ought to be settled anew with Inhabitants and Cattle.

Whale and Seal Fishery very profitable.

N

and

and the Capture of Seals on the South, which if rightly undertaken, and with Vigour set on Foot, will bring as much, nay far more Profit than the Salmon and Cod-catching does in other Places; chiefly the Seal-Capture, which can be undertaken at very small Expences, *viz.* at the Coast with strong Nets, with which they may catch many thousands in *Greenland*; which, if hitherto not practised, ought to be imputed to Negligence and want of a good Regulation. In short, *Greenland*, as we see, is very convenient for Trading, and may be very well worth one's while to take in Hand. But there is little to be done, without an established and formed Company of Men of Substance as well as Resolution; being altogether impossible and above the Strength of any private Man to master it, and go through with it.

C H A P. XIX.

*The Religion, or rather Superstition,  
of the Greenlanders.*

THE Greenlanders Ignorance of a Creator would make one believe they were Atheists, or rather Naturalists. For, when they have been asked from whence they thought that Heaven and Earth had their Origin, they have answered, nothing, but that it had always been so. But if we consider, that they have some Notion of the Immortality of Souls<sup>n</sup>, and that there is another much happier Life after this; moreover, as they are addicted to different kinds of Superstition, and that they hold there is a Spiritual Being, which they call *Torngarsuk*, to whom they ascribe a supernatural Power, though not the Creation or the Production of Creatures, (of whose Origin they

The Greenlanders may pass for Naturalists.

They hold the Immortality of Souls, and admit a Spiritual Being.

They are addicted to many Superstitions, which supposes a kind of Worship.

N 2

tell

<sup>n</sup> The *Angekuts* say that Souls are a soft Matter to feel, or rather that they cannot be felt, as if they had neither Sinews, nor Bones.

tell many absurd and ridiculous Stories) all this (I say) supposes some sort of Worship; although they do not themselves, out of their brutish Stupidity, understand or infer so much, or make Use of the Light of Nature and the remaining Spark of the Image of God in their Souls, to consider the invisible Being of God by his visible Works, which is the Creation of the World. *Rom. i.* For which Reason, instead of attaining the Knowledge of God and true Religion, they are unhappily fallen into many gross Superstitions.

Description of  
*Torngarsuk*, or  
the Oracle of  
the *Greenland-*  
*ers.*

But notwithstanding that all these Superstitions are authorized by, and grounded upon the Notion they have of the so called *Torngarsuk*, whom their lying *Angekuts* or Prophets hold for their Oracle, whom they consult on all Occasions; yet the Commonalty know little or nothing of him, except the Name only: Nay, even the *Angekuts* themselves are divided in their whimsical Ideas they have formed of his Being; some saying, he is without any Form or Shape;

Shape; others giving him that of a Bear, others again pretending he has a large Body, and but one Arm; and some make him as little as a Finger. There are those who hold he is immortal, and others, that a Fart can kill him. They assign him his Abode in the lower Regions of the Earth, where they tell you there is constantly fine Sunshiny Weather, good Water, Deers and Fowls in Abundance. They also say he lives in the Water; wherefore, when they come to any Water, of which they have not drunk before, and there be any old Man in the Company, they make him drink the first, in order to take away its *Torn-garsuk*, or the malignant Quality of the Water, which might make them sick and kill them. They hold furthermore, that a Spirit resides in the Air, which they name *Innertirrirfok*; that is, the Moderator or Restrainer, because it is pursuant to his Order, that the *Angekuts* command the People to restrain or abstain from certain Things or Actions, that they may not come into Harms Way. According to their Theology,

His Abode in  
the Center of  
the Earth.

or Mythology, there is yet one Spirit, Harbinger of the Air, whom they stile *Erloerfortok*, which signifies a Gutter, because he guts the Deceased, and feeds upon their Intestines. His Countenance, they say, is very ghastly and hagard, hollow Eyes and Cheeks, like a Body that's starved.

Each Element is governed by its *Innuæ*.

Each Element has its Governor or Prefident, which they call *Innuæ*<sup>p</sup>; from whence

<sup>p</sup> The *Innuæ*, or Inhabitants of the Sea, they call *Kongeuferokit*; of whom they say, that they feed upon Fox Tails. *Ingnerfoit*, a sort of Sea Sprights, which inhabit the Rocks that lie upon the Coast; which, they tell you, will carry away the *Greenlanders*, not to do them any harm, but to enjoy their Company. *Tunnerfoit* are Phantoms living in the Mountains; and *Ingnerfoit*, or *Fiery Sprights* (because they appear to be all over Fire) live near the Shore, in steep and craggy Cliffs. This is that Meteor which we call the *Flying Dragon*. *Innuarolit* they pretend to be a People of a dwarfish Size, like *Pigmies*, and are said to inhabit the East Side of *Greenland*. *Erkiglit*, on the contrary, are said to be a Nation of a huge and monstrous Size, with Snouts like Dogs; they are likewise said to dwell on the East Side. *Sillagikfortok*, a Spirit, who makes fair Weather, and lives upon the Ice Mountains. *Nerrim Innuæ*, or the Ruler of Diet, because he prescribes Rules for the Diet,

whence the *Angekuts* receive their *Torngak*, or familiar Spirits. For every *Angekkok* has a *Torngak*, who attends him, after he has ten times conjured in the Dark.

Some have their own deceased Parents for their *Torngak*, and others get theirs out of some of our Nation, who they say discharge their Fire-arms, when they wait before the Entry of the Place, where the *Angekkok* performs his Conjunction. Whether *Torngak* and *Torngarsuk* be one and the same Thing, I shall not decide; but certain it is, that one is derived from the other. From *Torngarsuk* the *Angekuts* pretend they learn the Art of Conjuring; which they are taught in this Method. If one aspires to the Office of an *Angekkok*, and has a Mind to be initiated into these Mysteries, he must retire from the rest of Mankind, into some remote Place, from all Commerce;

From whence the *Angekuts* have their *Torngak*.

How a Candidate to the Ministry of an *Angakkok* becomes an *Adept*.

N 4

merce;

Diet, or Eating of those, that are obliged to keep Abstinence. They ascribe also some Sort of Divinity to the Air, and for fear of offending it, they will refrain from certain Things and Actions; for which Reason they are afraid to go out in the open Air in the Dark.

merce; there he must look for a large Stone, near which he must sit down and invoke *Torngarsuk*, who, without delay, presents himself before him. This Presence terrifies the new Candidate of *Angekutism* to that degree, that he immediately sickens, swoons away, and dies, and so, in this Condition, he lies for three whole Days; and then he comes to Life again, arises in a Newness of Life, and betakes himself to his Home again. The Science of an *Angekkok* consists of three Things. 1. That he mutters certain Spells over sick People, in order to make them recover their former Health. 2. He communes with *Torngarsuk*, and from him receives Instruction, to give People Advice, what Course they are to take in Affairs, that they may have Success, and prosper therein. 3. He is by the same informed of the Time and Cause of any Body's Death; or for what Reason any Body comes to an untimely and uncommon End; and if any Fatality shall befall a Man. And though this lying Spirit of the *Angekuts* is oftentimes found out by their  
 gross

Wherein consists his Office or Ministry.

gross Mistakes, when the Events don't answer their false Predictions, as commonly happens ; yet, for all that, they are in great Honour and Esteem among this stupid and ignorant Nation ; insomuch that no Body ever dare refuse the strictest Obedience to what they command him in the Name of *Torngarsuk*, fearing that, in Case of Disobedience, some great Affliction and Misfortune may happen to him. Among many other Fibs, and most impudent Lyes, they make also these silly stupid Wretches believe, that they can, with Hands and Feet tied, mount up to Heaven, and see how Matters stand there ; and likewise descend to Hell, or the lower Regions of the Earth, where the fierce *Torngarsuk* keeps his Court. A young *Angekkok* must not undertake this Journey but in the Fall of the Year, by Reason, that then the lowermost Heaven, which they take the Rainbow to be, is nearest to the Earth.

They make People believe, they can mount to Heaven, and descend to Hell.

The Farce or Imposture is thus acted : A Number of Spectators assemble in  
the

the Evening at one of their Houses, where, after it is grown Dark, every one being feasted, the *Angekkok* causes himself to be tied, his Head between his Legs, and his Hands behind his Back, and a Drum is laid at his Side; thereupon, after the Windows are shut, and the Light put out, the Assembly sings a Ditty, which, they say, is the Composition of their Ancestors; when they have done singing, the *Angekkok* begins with conjuring, muttering and brawling; invokes *Torngarsfuk*, who instantly presents himself, and converses with him, (here the masterly Juggler knows how to play his Trick, in changing the Tone of his Voice, and counterfeiting one different from his own) which makes the too credulous Hearers believe, that this counterfeited Voice is that of *Torngarsfuk*, who converses with the *Angekkok*. In the mean while he works himself loose, and, as they believe, mounts up into Heaven through the Roof of the House, and passes through the Air till he arrives into the highest of Heavens, where the Souls of *Angekkut Poglit*, that is the chief *Angekkus* reside,

side, by whom he gets Information of all he wants to know. And all this is done in the Twinkling of an Eye.

Concerning the *Angekkut Poglit*, whom we just now mentioned, as they pass for the Heads of the Clergy, and are reckoned the most Eminent and Wisest of all, they also must pass through the inferior Orders, and several hard Trials, before they can attain to this high Degree of Pre-eminency; for none is deemed worthy of such a Dignity, but he that has made his Noviciateship in the lower Rank, as an ordinary *Angekkok*. The Tryal he must undergo, is this: They tie his Hands and Feet, as aforesaid, and after the Light is put out, and they are all left in Darkness, (that no Body may see how the Trick is played, and their Imposture be discovered) then they pretend, that a white Bear enters the Room, takes hold of his great Toe with his Teeth, and dragging him along to the Sea-shore, jumps with him into the Sea, where a Morse is ready, and takes hold of him by his privy Parts, devouring him,

Description  
of an *Angekkok*  
*Poglik*, and  
his Instalment  
into such an  
Office.

to-

together with the white Bear. A little while after, all his Bones are thrown in upon the Floor, one after another, not one missing; and then his Soul rises up off the Ground, which gathers the Bones, and animates the whole Body again, and up starts the Man, as hale and entire as ever he was; and thus he is made an *Angekkok Poglik*.

Another kind of Sorcerers, or Enchanters, pretending they can hurt and destroy Men and Beasts, are destroyed themselves.

The *Angekkuts*, as before observed, are kept in great Honour and Esteem, and beloved and cherished, as a wise and useful Set of Men; they are also well rewarded for their Service, when it is wanted. But, on the contrary, there is another sort of Conjurers or Sorcerers, especially some decrepid old Women, which they call *Illiseerfut*, or Witches, who persuade themselves, and others, that, by the vertue of their Spells and Witchcraft, they can hurt People in their Life and Goods. These are not upon the same footing with the *Angekkuts*; for as soon as any one incurs only the Suspicion of such Demeanor, he or she is hated and detested by every Body, and at last made away

way with, without Mercy, as a Plague to Mankind, and not deemed worthy to live.

Moreover the *Angekkuts* abuse the People's Credulity, making them believe, that they can cure all sorts of Diseases; though they apply such Remedies, as have no vertue in them to cure, such as muttering of Spells, and blowing upon the sick Bodies; wherein they resemble, to a Hair, those Conjurers, of which the Prophet *Isaiab* speaks, in the 8th Chapter, Verse 19.

And if by Chance any one, who has been under these Jugglers Hands, recovers, they do not fail to ascribe it to the vertue of their juggling Tricks. At Times they use this Way of curing the Sick; they lay him upon his Back, and tie a Ribbon, or a String, round his Head, having a Stick fastened to the other End of the String, with which they lift up the sick Body's Head from the Ground, and let it down again; and at every Lift he communes with his *Torgak*, or familiar Spirit, about the State of the Patient,

'Tis not found, that in this there is any Commerce with the Devil.

tient, whether he shall recover or not ; now, if his Head is heavy in lifting it, it is, with them, a Sign of Death ; if light, of Recovery <sup>q</sup>. Notwithstanding all this, I am loth to believe, that, in these Spells and Conjurings, there is any real Commerce with the Devil ; for, to me, it clearly appears, that there is nothing in it, but meer Fibs, juggling Tricks and Impostures, made use of by these crafty Fellows, for the sake of filthy Lucre, for they are well paid for their Pains taking. Nevertheless, it can't be denied, but that the evil Spirit has a Hand in all this, and is the chief Actor upon this Stage, to keep these poor Wretches in their Chains, and hinder them from coming to the true Knowledge of God.

The *Angekkuts* can also persuade whom they please, that they have no Souls, especially

<sup>q</sup> While *Angekkuts* are conjuring, no body must scratch his Head, nor sleep, nor break wind ; for they say, that such a Dart can kill the Enchanters, nay, the Devil himself. After a Conjunction has been performed, there is a Vacancy from Working for three or four Days.

cially if they are in a bad State of Health, pretending they have the Power to create new Souls in them, provided they pay them well for it, which the ignorant Fools are very willing to do. They prescribe to all Angekuts pre-  
scribe such Rules of Conduct and Behaviour in different Conduct, as,  
in divers Cases, which Rules none dare refuse to live Cases, People  
must live by. up to with the greatest Exactness imaginable; as, for Example, if any dies in a House, those of the House cannot, for a set Time, do all sorts of Work; especially the Relations of the Deceased are obliged to abstain, not only from certain Works, but likewise from certain Victuals.

If a Patient be under the Hands of an *Angekkok*, he must live by Rule, which they are accustomed to observe so exactly, that even when we have assisted many of them with our Medicaments, they have always demanded what sort of Diet they were to keep. Women in Childbed are to abstain Rules for Wo-  
men in Child-  
bed. from working, and from certain Victuals, *viz.* Flesh Meat, which their own Husbands have not taken, or that of a Deer, whose  
Entrails

Entrails are not found found, but damaged. The first Week after the Delivery, they eat nothing but Fish, afterwards they are allowed Meat. The Bones they pick, in this State, must not be carried out of Doors. After the first Childbed, a Woman is not allowed to eat of the Head or Liver. They must not eat in the open Air. During their Lying-in, they have their Water-Pails for themselves alone; if any unwittingly should drink of this Water, the rest must be thrown away. Their Husbands must forbear working for some Weeks, neither must they drive any Trade during that Time: Likewise if any body be sick, they do not care to meddle with any Trade. They are not allowed to eat or drink bareheaded. They pull off one of their Boots, and lay it under the Bowl, which they eat out of, to the End (as they imagine) that the Infant, being a Male, may become a good Seal-Catcher. During the Infancy of the Child, they dare not boil any thing over the Lamp, nor let any Strangers light a Fire with them; and many  
more

more Fooleries to be observed \*. It is customary among them, for married Women to wash and cleanse themselves after their Months, that their Husbands may not catch a Distemper and die. Likewise, if they have happened to touch a dead Corpse, they immediately cast away the Clothes they have then on; and for this Reason they always put on their old Clothes, when they go to a Burying, in which they agree with the *Jews*, as in many other Usages and Ceremonies; for Example, to bewail the Loss of their Virginity; to mark themselves upon their Skin; to cut their Hairs round the Head, which the Lord forbids the *Jews* to do, *Levit. 19*. When I consider this and many other of their Customs, which seem to be of a *Jewish* Extraction, I am not far from acceding to the Opinion of a certain famous Writer, concerning the *Americans*;  
 Omiss among

They have  
 Numbers of  
*Jewish* Rites.

\* *Argnakagertoko*, a Woman that lives by Rule, they say, can lay the Storm, by going out of Doors and filling her Mouth with Air, and coming back into the House, blows it out again. If she catches the Rain-Drops with her Mouth, it will be dry Weather; and other strange Effects they ascribe to her.

among whom as he found fundry *Jewish* Rites and Ceremonies, he took them to descend from *Jews*, or rather from some of the ten Tribes of *Israel*, who were led into the *Affyrian* Captivity, and afterwards dispersed into unknown Countries. See hereon *Es-pars*, L. IV.

They load themselves with Amulets, fancying they bring them good Luck in their Affairs and keep them from harm's Way.

A Superstition very common among them, is to load themselves with Amulets or *Pomanders* dangling about their Necks and Arms, which consist in some Pieces of old Wood, Stones or Bones, Bills and Claws of Birds, or any thing else, which their Fancy suggests to them; which Amulets, according to their silly Opinion, have a wonderful Virtue to preserve those that wear them, from Diseases and other Misfortunes, and gives them Luck to good Captures. To render barren Women fertile or teeming, they take old Pieces of the Soles of our Shoes to hang about them; for, as they take our Nation to be more fertile, and of a stronger Disposition of Body than theirs, they fancy the Virtue of our Body communicates itself to our Cloathing.

Con-

Concerning the Creation and Origin of The Stories concerning the Creation and Origin of Man. all Things, they have little to say, but they think all has been as it ever will be.

Nevertheless they abound in Fables in regard to these Matters. Their Tale of the Origin of Mankind runs thus: At the beginning one Man, *viz.* a *Greenlander*, sprung out of the Ground, who got a Wife out of a little \*Hillock. From these are descended lineally the *Greenlanders*; which may pass for a Remnant, though an Adulteration from the true Tradition of the Origin of Man. But as to us Foreigners, whom they stile *Kablunæt*, (that is, of a strange Extraction) they tell a most ridiculous Story, importing our Pedigree from a Race of Dogs; they say, that a *Greenland* Woman, once being in Labour, brought forth at the same time both Children and Whelps: These last she put into an old Shoe, and committed them to the Mercy of the Waves, with these Words: Get ye gone from hence, and grow up to be *Kablunæts*. This, they say, is the Reason, why the *Kablunæts* always live upon the Sea; and the Ships, they say, have the very same Shape

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as

\* A Word not known to me in the *Danish* Tongue.

as their Shoes, being round before and behind.

Why Men die

The Reason why Men die, they tell us, is, that a Woman of their Nation once uttered these Words; *Tokkolarlutik okko pillit, Sillarsoak rettulifavet*, let them die one after another; for else the World cannot hold them. Others relate it in this Manner: Two of the first Men contended with one another, one said, *Kaut Sarlune Unnuinnarluna, Innuitt tokkorfarlutik*; that is, let there be Day, and let there be Night, and let not Men die. The second said, *Unnuinnarlune kausunane, Innuitt tokkofinnatik*; that is, let there be nothing but Night, and no Day, and let Men live; and after a long Contention the first saying got the Day. Of the Origin of Fishes and other Sea Animals they tell a ridiculous Story, *viz.* an old Man was once cutting Chips off of a Piece of Wood; with these Chips he rubbed himself between the Thighs, and threw them into the Sea; whereupon they immediately became Fishes. But of a certain Fish called Hay, they derive his Production from this Accident, that a Woman wash-

The Origin of  
Fishes and  
Sea Animals.

washing her Hairs in her own Water, a Blast of Wind came and carried away the Clout with which she dried her Hairs, and out of that Clout was produced a Hay-Fish; and for this Reason they say, the Flesh of this Fish has got the Smell of Urine.

They have got no Notion of any different State of Souls after Death; but they fancy that all the Deceased go into the Land of the Souls, as they term it. Nevertheless they assign two Retreats for departed Souls, *viz.* some go to Heaven, others to the Center of the Earth; but this lower Retirement is in their Opinion the pleasantest; inasmuch, as there they enjoy themselves in a delicious Country, where the Sun shines continually, with an inexhaustible Stock of all Sorts of choice Provision. But this is only the Receptacle of such Women, as die in Labour, and of those, that going a Whale-fishing perish at Sea; this being their Reward to compensate the Hardships they have undergone in this Life. All the rest flock to Heaven.

Do not acknowledge different States of the Souls after Death. Though they assign them two different Habitations.

*Torngarsuk*  
and his *Gran-*  
*dame* reside in  
the Center of  
the Earth.

She rules over  
all Sea Ani-  
mals.

In the Center of the Earth, which they reckon the best Place of all, they have fixed the Residence of *Torngarsuk* and his *Grandame*, or (as others will have it) his Lady Daughter, a true Termagant and ghastly Woman, to whose Description, though already made in my Continuation of the Relations of *Greenland*, some Time ago published, I shall yet allow a Place in this Treatise, and is as follows. She is said to dwell in the lower Parts of the Earth under the Seas, and has the Empire over all Fishes and Sea Animals, as Unicorns, Morfes, Seals and the like. The Bason placed under her Lamp, into which the Train-Oil of the Lamp drips down, swarms with all kinds of Sea Fowls, swimming in and hovering about it. At the Entry of her Abode is a *Corps de Garde* of Sea-Dogs, who mount the Guard, and stand Centinels at her Gates, to keep out the Crowd of Petitioners<sup>f</sup>.

None

<sup>f</sup> Others say, that a huge Dog watches the Entry, and gives Warning, when an *Angekkok* attempts to get in, and defends the Entry. Wherefore the *Angekkok* must watch the Minute, that the Dog falls asleep, (which lasts but a Moment) to steal in upon her. This  
Moment

None can get Admittance there but *An-gekkuts*, provided they are accompanied by their *Torngak*, or familiar Spirits, and not otherwise. In their Journey thither the first pass through the Mansions of all the Souls of the Deceased, which look as well, if not better, than ever they did in this World, and want for nothing. After they have pass'd through this Region, they come to a very long, broad and deep Whirlpool, which they are to cross over, there being nothing to pass upon but a great Wheel like Ice, which turns about with a surprizing Rapidity, and by the means of this Wheel the Spirit helps his *Angekkok* to get over. This Difficulty being surmounted, the next Thing they encounter is a large Kettle, in which

*Angekkok* visits her accompanied by his familiar Spirit.

The Passage thither very difficult.

O 4

live

Moment no body knows but an *Angekkok Poglik*; wherefore the other *Angekkuts* often return home again without Success. This frightful Woman is said to have a Hand as big as the Tail of a Whale, with which if she hits any Body, he is at one Stroke mouse-dead. But if the *Angekkok* conquers her (which he does, if he can get at her *Aglerrutut*, which hang dangling about her Face, and rob her of them) then she must discharge all Fishes and Sea Animals, which she has detained in Captivity; who thereupon return to their wonted Stations in the Sea,

live Seals are put to be boiled; and at last they arrive with much ado at the Residence of the Devil's *Grandame*, where the familiar Spirit takes the *Angekkok* by the Hand through the strong Guard of Sea Dogs. The Entry is large enough, the Road that leads is as narrow as a small Rope, and on both Sides nothing to lay hold on, or to support one; besides that, there is underneath a most frightful Abyss or bottomless Pit. Within this is the Apartment of the infernal Goddess, who offended at this unexpected Visit, shews a most ghastly and wrathful Countenance, pulling the Hair off her Head: She thereupon seizes a wet Wing of a Fowl, which she lights in the Fire, and claps to their Noses, which makes them very faint and sick, and they become her Prisoners. But the Enchantèr or *Angekkok*, (being before-hand instructed by his *Torn-gak*, how to act his Part in this dismal Expedition) takes hold of her by the Hair, and drubs and bangs her so long, till she loses her Strength and yields; and in this Combat his familiar Spirit does not stand idle, but lays about her with Might and Main.

The infernal Goddess much offended at their Visit.

Main. Round the infernal Goddess's Face hangs the *Aglerrutit* (the Signification of which is to be found in my Son's Journals) which the *Angekkok* endeavours to rob her of. For this is the Charm, by which she draws all Fishes and Sea Animals to her Dominion, which no sooner is she deprived of, but instantly the Sea Animals in Shoals forsake her, and resort with all Speed to their wonted Shelves, where the *Greenlanders* catch them in great Plenty. When this great Business is done, the *Angekkok* with his *Torngak* proud of Success makes the best of their Way home again, where they find the Road smooth, and easy to what it was before.

When the *Angekkok* has robb'd her of her *Aglerrutit*, all the Fishes and Sea Animals are rescued out of Captivity.

As to the Souls of the Dead, in their Travel to this happy Country, they meet with a sharp pointed Stone, upon which the *Angekkuts* tell them, they must slide or glide down upon their Breech, as there's no other Passage to get through, and this Stone is besmeared with Blood; perhaps, by this mystical or hieroglyphical Image, they thereby signify, the Adversities and Tribulations

Departed Souls must glide down upon a sharp Stone, in their Passage to the Mansions of the Blessed.

bulations those have to struggle with, who desire to attain to Happiness.

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## C H A P. XX.

*The Greenlanders Astronomy, or their Thoughts concerning the Sun, Moon, Stars and Planets.*

*Greenland Tales of the Origin of the Stars and Planets.*

THE Notions the *Greenlanders* have of the Origin of heavenly Lights, as Sun, Moon, and Stars, are very nonsensical; in that they pretend that they have formerly been so many of their Ancestors, who, on different Accounts, were lifted up to Heaven and became such glorious Celestial Bodies.

The Sun and Moon formerly *Greenlanders*, Brother and Sister.

Their silly Stories concerning this Matter have been related in the Continuation to the *Greenland* Memoirs, or Relations; but as this Book, very likely, may not come to the Hands of every Body, I shall shortly remember some of them here. The Moon, as they will have it, has been a young Man, called

called *Anningait*, or *Anningafina*; whose Sister was the Sun, named *Malina*, or *Ajut* (by which latter Name they call any handsome Woman, for whom they have a Value, *Ajuna*.) The Reason why these two were taken up into Heaven, they give is this: There were once a Number of young Men and Women assembled to play together in a House made of Snow, (according to their Custom in the Winter Season) when the Moon or *Anningait*, who was deeply in Love with his Sister, who assisted at this Assembly, was used every Night to put out the Light, that he might carefs her undiscovered: But she not liking these stolen Careffes, once blackened her Hands with Soot, that she might mark the Hands, Face, and Clothes of her unknown Lover, who in the dark made Addreffes to her, and by that discover who he was: (Hence, they say, come the Spots that are observed in the Moon) for as he wore a Coat of a fine white Rain-Deer Skin, it was all over besmeared with Soot) hereupon *Malina*, or the Sun, went out to light a Bit of Mofs; *Anningait* or the Moon did the same, but the Flame of his

Cause of their  
Transformation.

Why the  
Moon shines  
not so bright  
as the Sun.

his Mofs was extinguished ; this makes the Moon look like a fiery Coal, and not shine so bright as the Sun. The Moon then run after the Sun round about the House for to catch her ; but she, to get rid of him, flew up into the Air, and the Moon pursuing her, did likewise ; and thus they still continue to pursue one another, though the Sun's Career is much above that of the Moon<sup>t</sup>.

The Moon  
seeks yet his  
Livelihood  
out of the Seas.

They also tell us, that the Moon is yet obliged to seek for his Livelihood upon the Earth and Sea, in catching of Seals, as a Food he formerly was used to ; which they pretend he is a doing, when he appears not in the Air : Nay, they do not stick to say, that he now and then comes down to give their Wives a Visit, and carefs them ; for which Reason no Woman dare sleep lying

Careffes their  
Wives.

<sup>t</sup> They assign the Moon a House in the Western Part of the World, where he is often visited and resorted to by the *Angekkuts*. And the Sun, they say, has her Abode in the East ; but she is inaccessible on account of her Heat, which keeps the *Angekkuts* at a Distance ; at which she is sorely grieved, because she cannot learn by them, how Matters stand upon Earth.

ing upon her Back, without the first spits upon her Fingers, and rubs her Belly with it.

For the same Reason the young Maids are afraid to stare long at the Moon, imagining they might get a Child by the Bargain. During the Eclipse of the Sun no Man dare stir out of the House; and likewise, when the Moon is eclipsed, no Women goes abroad, because they fancy, that both hate the Sex of the other. The Sun for Joy puts on her Pendants, or Ear-bobs; the Reason of which they take to be the Hatred she bears against her Brother, which also reaches to his Sex. As on the contrary, the *Greenland* Women wear their Pendants at the Birth of a Boy, because so useful a Creature is come into the World. Their Notion about the Stars is, that some of them have been Men, and other different sorts of Animals and Fishes. The faint Light of some Stars they attribute to their eating the Kidney; and Brightness of others, to their feeding upon Liver. They give also Names to many Stars and Constellations,

*viz.*

The Sun rejoices at the Death of a Man.

Origin of the Stars.

*viz.* the three Sons in the Belt of Orion, they name *Siektut*, that is separated; because these three, they say, before their *Metempsychosis*, or rather *Metamorphosis*, were three honest *Greenlanders*, who being out at Sea, a Seal catching, were bewildred, and not being able to find the Shore again, were taken up into Heaven.

*Urfa Major*, the great Bear Star, is stiled by those that dwell in the 64 Degree, *Tugto*, or Rain-Deer; while they that live in the Bay of *Disco* at 99 Degrees, call it *Affelluit*, the Name of a Tree, to which they tie their Line, when they shoot Seals. *Taurus*, the second Sign in the *Zodiac*, is named *Kellukturset*, or Kennel of Hounds, who seem to have a Bear among them; by this Constellation they reckon their Hours by Night. *Iversuk*, that is, two Persons that contend with Songs or Verses in taunting one another, as is customary among the *Greenlanders*. These two Stars are in the Constellation *Taurus*, of which heretofore. *Aldebaren* or *Nennerroak*, that is, a Light who lights the two Singers. *Canis Major* is called

led *Nelleraglek*, which is a Name of a Man amongst them; this they say has got on a Coat of Rain-Deers Skin. *Gemini*, *Auriga* and *Cupella* are named *Killaub Kuttuk*, that is, the Breast Bone of Heaven.

When two Stars seem to meet together, they say, that they are a visiting one another; others will have it to be two Women, who being Rivals, take one another by the Hair.

Concerning Thunder and Lightning, they say, that two old Women live together in one House in the Air, who now and then fall out and quarrel about a thick and stiff outstretched Seal Skin (because such a Skin, if beaten as a Drum, has some Likeness to the Noise of Thunder;) whilst they are thus by the Ears together, down comes the House with great bouncing and cracking, and the Lamps are broken, the Fires and broken Pieces fly about in the Air, and this, in their Philosophy, is Thunder and Lightning.

In their astronomical System, the Heaven turns about upon the Point of a huge Rock. The Snow, according to their Fancy, is the Blood of the Dead, on account that it turns reddish if you keep it in the Mouth. The Rain comes from a Ditch or Weer above in Heaven ; when it overflows there, it Rains here below.

What the Rain is.

They measure the Time by Months.

They have no Calendar or Almanacks, nor do they compute or measure the Time by Weeks or Years, but only by Months ; beginning their Computation from the Sun's first rising above their Horizon in the Winter ; from whence they tell the Month, for to know exactly the Season, in which every sort of Fishes, Sea Animals, or Birds seek the Land ; according to which they order their Business.

As nonsensical now as these Notions of the *Greenlanders* are (as they in reality are) yet they come short of the *Egyptian* King *Ptolomy's* Infatuation, who by the loathsome Flattery of his Astronomers was persuaded that his Queen *Berenice's* Head of Hair was

*Berenice's* Hair turned into Stars.

translated into Heaven and astrified, if I may say so; which Constellation to this Day goes by the Name of *Coma Berenices*, or *Berenice's Hair*: And what Travelers relate of *China* and the *East-Indies*, where some are of Opinion, that the Sun's Eclipse is nothing but, that a certain Devil or Spright sometimes swallows up the Sun, and then again spews it out.

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## C H A P. XXI.

*The Capacity of the Greenlanders, and their Inclination towards the Knowledge of God, and the Christian Religion; and by what Means this may easily be brought about.*

AS the *Greenlanders* are naturally very stupid and indolent; so are they likewise very little disposed to comprehend and consider the divine Truths, which we expound to them; and notwithstanding People in Years seem to approve of the Christian

P                      Doctrine;

The Nation of the *Greenlanders* for the most part stupid and indolent.

*The Natural History*

Doctrines; yet it is with a surprizing Indifference and Coldness. For they can neither comprehend the miserable Condition they are in; nor do they rightly understand and value the exceeding great Mercy and Loving-kindness God has shewn towards Mankind in his dear Son *Christ Jesus*, so as to move them to any Desire and longing after it; some few excepted. This is to me an undeniable Evidence that the carnally-minded Man cannot comprehend the Things that belong to God; for to him they seem to be foolish, and he cannot know them, as the Apostle speaks. *1. Cor. 2.* But as they in general are so credulous, that one can make them believe any thing; so they are likewise in this grand Affair. They never question what they are taught of God and Christ; but at the same Time it never takes any rooting in their Mind, because it passes without any Consideration and Feeling. For which reason they do not contradict or dispute with us the Matters proposed; and very few have offered any Objections, or desired any Difficulty to be explained. And as their Behaviour is silly and childish,

They are very  
credulous.

so we have used the same Method in teaching them, as we do to instruct little Children; inculcating the Christian Truths into their Mind by frequent Repetitions, and making use of simple and obvious Comparisons, which, I thank God Almighty, has not wanted his Blessing. For I have perceived in some the working of his Grace in a serious Amendment of their Lives; and their Endeavours have been to advance in the Way to Perfection, though all as yet is but a Beginning and Infancy, as we have mentioned in the last Year's Memoirs or Relations of *Greenland*.

Some of them observed to be devout, and desirous to hear the Word of God.

It is a Matter which cannot be questioned, that, if you will make a Christian out of a meer Savage and wild Man, you must first make him a reasonable Man, and the next Step will be easier. This is authorized and confirmed by our Saviour's own Method. He makes a beginning from the earthly Things; he proposes the Mysteries of the Kingdom of God in Parables and Similitudes. The first Care taken in the Conversion of Heathens is, to remove out of the Way all

A Savage is first to be transformed into a reasonable Man, before he can be made a Christian.

Obstacles, which may hinder their Conversion, and render them unfit to receive the Christian Doctrine, before any thing successfully can be undertaken in their Behalf.

They must first of all be accustomed to a settled Way of Life.

It would contribute a great deal to forward their Conversion, if they could by Degrees be brought into a settled Way of Life, and to abandon this fauntering and wandering about from Place to Place to seek their Livelihood. But this cannot be hoped until a Christian Nation comes to be settled among them, (I mean in such Places where the Ground is fit for Tillage and Pasturage) to teach them, and by little and little accustom them to a quiet and more useful Way of Life, than that which they now follow.

And be restrained from their foolish Superstitions.

They should also be kept under some Discipline, and restrained from their foolish Superstitions, and from the silly Tricks and wicked Impostures of their *Angekkuts*, which ought to be altogether prohibited and punished. Yet my Meaning is, not that they by Force and Constraint should be compelled

to

to embrace our Religion, but to use gentle Methods. Is it not allowed in the Church of Christ to make Use of Christian Discipline at Times and Seasons, with Prudence and due Moderation; which is a powerful Means to advance the Growth of Piety and Devotion? How much more is it necessary to apply the same Means here to grub up an untilled Ground, where a new Church is to be planted? Else it would be the same Imprudence, as to throw good Seed into Thorns and Briars, which would choak the Seed.

But as the chief Fruit of our Labours and Teaching is to be expected from the growing Youth, so if some good Regulations and small Foundations were laid for the bringing up a Number of Children in the Christian Faith and Piety, no doubt God would prosper it; inasmuch as these poor Children and growing Youth are very tractable and teachable, and good natured; shewing no Inclination or Propensity to Vice. Neither do they want Capacity; for I have found, they will take any thing as soon as any of our own Children. Now, if these Gifts

The chief Fruits to be expected from the Youth.

or

Not difficult  
to help them  
out of their  
Ignorance  
and Misery.

or natural Talents were forwarded by the Gifts of Grace; who would question their Growth and Advancement in the Christian Faith and Virtues, which would ripen to the full Harvest of eternal Happiness? Good God, how easy a Thing would it be to help these poor Wretches out of their Misery, if those that God has blessed with Wealth, were heavenly minded, and would be sensible of the wretched Condition of their fellow Creatures, and contribute out of their Abundance to the Founding of a School in these Parts, and the providing of other most necessary Things?

The King  
yearly gives a  
considerable  
Sum for the  
Missionaries  
Entertainment.

His Majesty, out of his wonted most glorious Zeal for the Growth and Advancement of the Church of Christ, has most graciously provided, by a considerable Sum of Money yearly set apart, for the *Greenland* Missionaries Entertainment, which Royal Bounty continues to this Day; for which Goodness the most gracious God will bless his Majesty and all the Royal Hereditary House, and be their Reward for ever! But as a good deal of this Bounty Money must be employed  
in

in the promoting of Trade (without which the Mission could not subsist) but little remains for promoting the proper End of the Mission, which is the Conversion of the Heathens, in which at present are employed no more than four Missionaries, and two Catechists, besides some few Charity Children belonging to both Colonies, whose Entertainment is to be provided for. Hitherto we have not been able to do great Matters, but contented ourselves with some Excursions here and there instructing the Natives; who likewise, when they have had an Opportunity, come to us with their Families to be instructed. But as these Excursions of ours, and those Visits of theirs have not been very frequent, and only for a short Time, by Reason of the Impossibility of travelling at all Seasons, which has obliged us to leave them for a while to deal for themselves; it is not to be expected that our Pains-taking should have had that Success, which would attend it, if there were Missionaries settled in different Stations amongst them. For in several Years we count but between 20 and 30 aged Persons,

Four Missionaries, two Catechists, and some of the Natives Children maintained at both Colonies.

From 1725 till now have been christned but 20 or 30 grown People, and 100 and odd Children.

sons, and a 100 and odd young ones, that have been found capable to receive the Holy Sacrament of Baptism. If amongst ourselves we had no Schools, nor other pious Foundations, for the Instruction and Christian Education of Youth and old People: Pray, what great Feats would one or two Teachers in a whole Country be able to do, by once or twice a Year taking a Journey throughout the Land, and preach a Passage Sermon? The Apostles of Christ did not think this Method sufficient; but after they had preached the Word of God up and down, they besides ordained and constituted Teachers and Catechists every where. And if so wholesome a Method be followed in *Greenland*, who will question a happier Success?

And this is all I at present have to say of the Affairs of *Greenland*; leaving it to the Judgment of others to be made out and decided, whether *Greenland* is a Country that deserves to be improved and taken Care of, or no? And whether its Inhabitants may be called happy, or no? All Things well pondered, both the affirmative  
and

and negative may be true, without the least Contradiction. For *Greenland* can pass for no better than a dismal and pitiful Country, in Regard to the greatest Part of it, *viz.* all the Inland Country, which is perpetually covered with Ice and Snow, that never melts, and therefore of no Use to Mankind; and as to the remaining Part, on the Sea Side, most of it lies uncultivated and uninhabited: But here it may again be said, that as to the first Part, or the Inland Country, it is a Thing that's past Remedy; but as to the last Part, or the Sea-Side, it may be put in a better State by Settlements, and Manuring, so that it may recover its former Fertility; and thus it might be reckoned a good and profitable Country, provided the formerly inhabited Tracts of Land were anew settled and peopled. I will forbear to mention the great Wealth and Richness, which lies hidden in the *Greenland* Seas, and can never be exhausted.

From the Land I will go to the Inhabitants, which every body will think more  
wretched

wretched than happy, considered as destitute of the true Knowledge of their Creator ; and besides lead but very poor and despicable Lives. The Knowledge of God is undoubtedly that which affords the greatest Happiness to Mankind ; as the Want of it makes one the most wretched of all Beings. But who would dare to deny it, if I should find out somebody yet more wretched than they ? And such there are, who have been blessed with the true Knowledge of God ; yet do nevertheless refuse him that Obedience, which, as our Creator and Master, and in Regard of our Redemption and a Thousand other particular Kindnesses, has the best of Titles to demand it upon, according as he requires it of us in his Holy Word. If the Life of the *Greenlanders*, which we call poor and despicable, with Respect to Morality, be compared to that of the most pretended Christians ; I am afraid, they will confound others on the great Day of Judgment. For though they have no Law, yet by the Light of Nature do some of the Works of the Law, as the Apostle says, *Rom. 2.* What Thoughts will  
any

any one harbour, who seriously considers the predominant Passions, as Greediness after Gain, Covetousness, unmeasured Ambition and Pride, sumptuous, voluptuous and prodigal Lives; Envy, Hatred and mutual Persecutions, and innumerable other Vices and Crimes of most Christians? Can any one help thinking, but that such Evil-Doers (the remotest from the Life, which is God alone) must be deemed the most unhappy of all? Whilst on the other Hand, the *Greenlanders* pass their Lives (as I may say) in a natural Innocence and Simplicity. Their Desires do not extend farther than to necessary Things; Pomp and Pride is unknown to them; Hatred, Envy and Persecution never plagued them; neither do they affect the Dominion over one another. In short, every one is contented with his own State and Condition, and are not tormented with unnecessary Cares. Is not this the greatest Happiness of this Life? O happy People! what better Things can one wish you, than what you already possess? Have you no Riches? yet Poverty does not trouble you. Have ye no Superfluity? yet you  
suffer

suffer no Want. Is there no Pomp and Pride to be seen among you? neither is there any Slight or Scorn to be met with. Is there no Nobility or high Rank amongst them? neither is there any Slavery, or Bondage. What is sweeter than Liberty? And what is happier than Contentedness? But one thing is yet wanting, I mean, the saving Knowledge of God and his dear Son Christ Jesus, in which alone consists eternal Life and Happiness. *John 17.* And this is what we offer you, in preaching to you the Holy Gospel.

Now, God, who had Light shine forth in Darkness enlighten your Hearts, in the Light of the Knowledge of God's glorious Appearance in and through Christ Jesus. May he deliver your Souls from the Slavery of the Devil, and of sinful Lusts, as you are free from corporeal Bondage, to the end that you always may be free with the Lord both in Soul and Body. *Amen.*

F I N I S.

