

Description of the islands of Orkney and Zetland ... / Reprinted from the edition of 1711, published under the superintendence of Sir Robert Sibbald.

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Publication/Creation

Edinburgh : T.G. Stevenson, 1845.

Persistent URL

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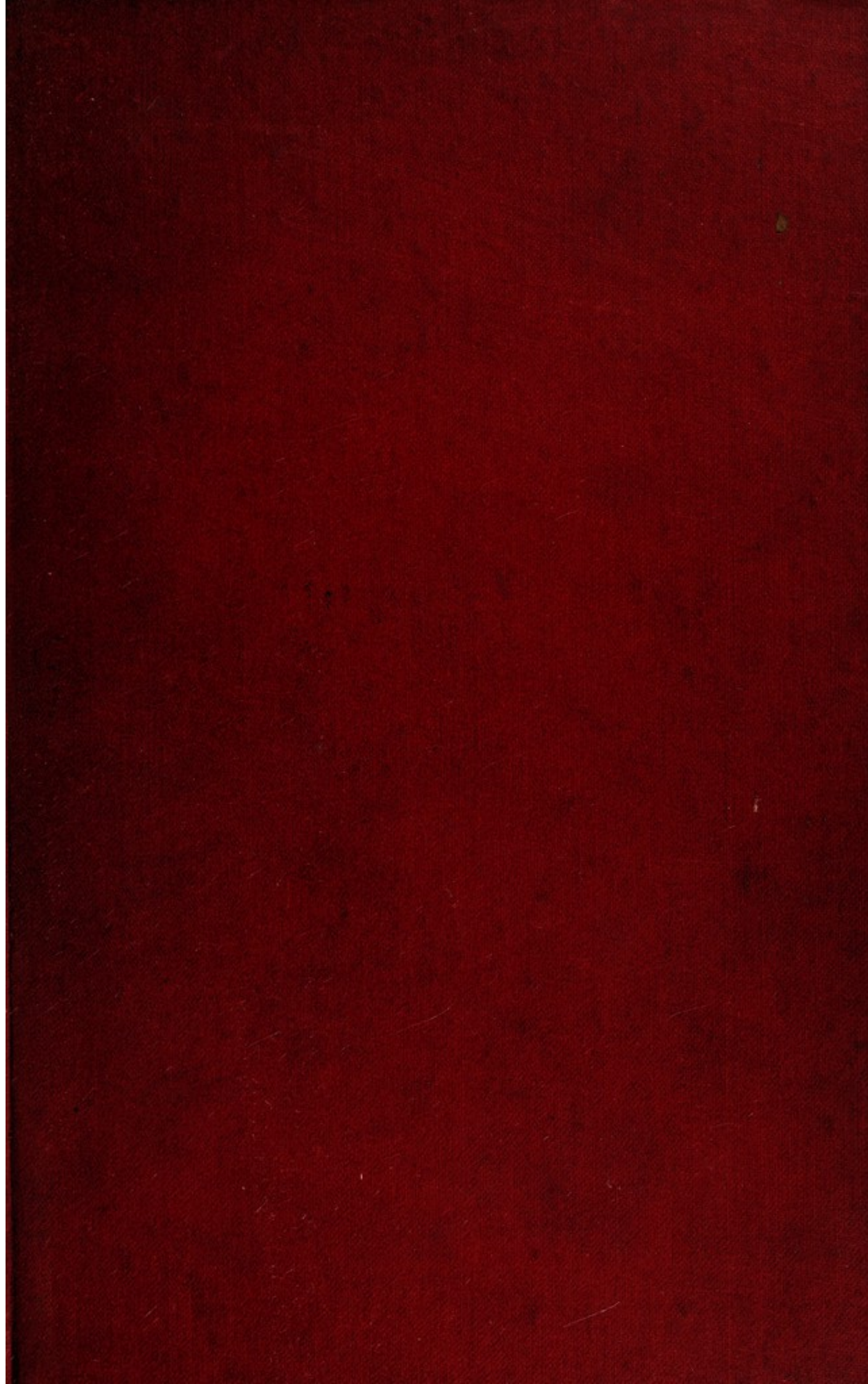
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DESCRIPTION OF THE
ISLANDS OF ORKNEY AND SHETLAND,

BY

SIR ROBERT SIBBALD, KNT.



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DESCRIPTION
OF THE
ISLANDS
OF
ORKNEY AND ZETLAND,

BY
ROBERT MONTEITH

OF EGLISHA AND GAIRSA, 1633.

REPRINTED FROM THE EDITION OF 1711,

PUBLISHED UNDER THE SUPERINTENDENCE OF

SIR ROBERT SIBBALD, KNT. M.D.



EDINBURGH:
THOMAS G. STEVENSON,
87, PRINCES STREET,

M.DCCC.XLV.

IMPRESSION.

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FOUR COPIES ON PAPER,

ONE COPY ON VELLUM.



ALEX. LAURIE AND CO. PRINTERS TO HER MAJESTY.

NOTICE.

WHETHER as separate Publications, or in a collective form, the great scarcity of the various Treatises relating to the Topography of Scotland, by SIR ROBERT SIBBALD, is matter of common intelligence. But those descriptive of Orkney and Zetland, when accompanied by the Maps, are of excessive rarity ; so much so, indeed, that of the Map of the former Island it may with safety be said, that no one copy in fifty possesses it. This fact, and the attention which these Islands have of late years attracted—both from the charming Novel of THE PIRATE, and other circumstances—has induced the Publisher to issue a limited reprint (restricted to One Hundred and Forty-Five copies), illustrated by an accurate *facsimile* of each Chart. The Tracts were originally printed in folio ; but the form of octavo has been adopted, as more generally convenient.

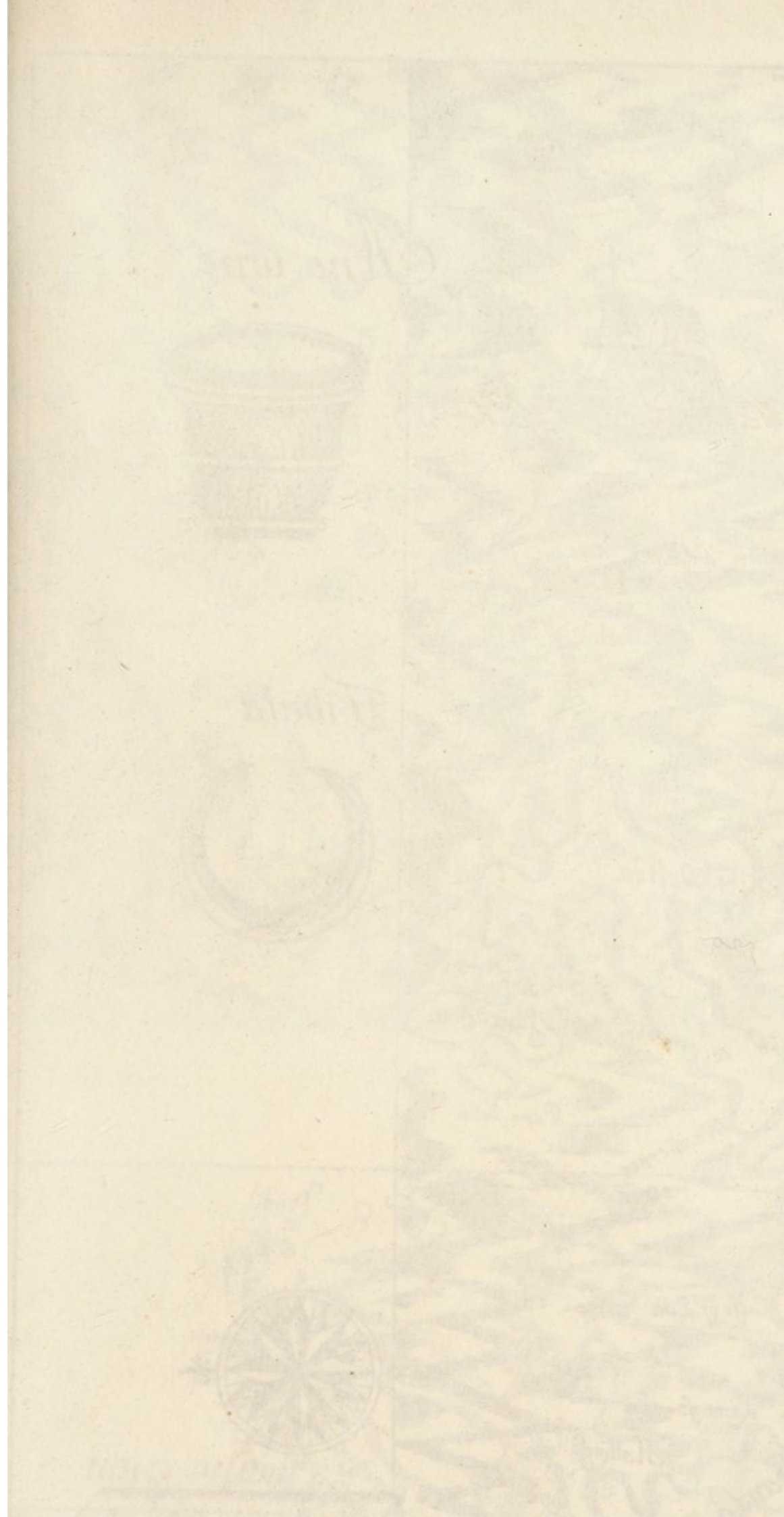
Sir Robert Sibbald, Knight, President of the Royal College of Physicians in Scotland, was of the family of Rankeillor, in Fife ; his Portrait is preserved in the Hall of the College of Physicians, and has been engraved by Mr Lizars for a volume of the Naturalists' Library. His

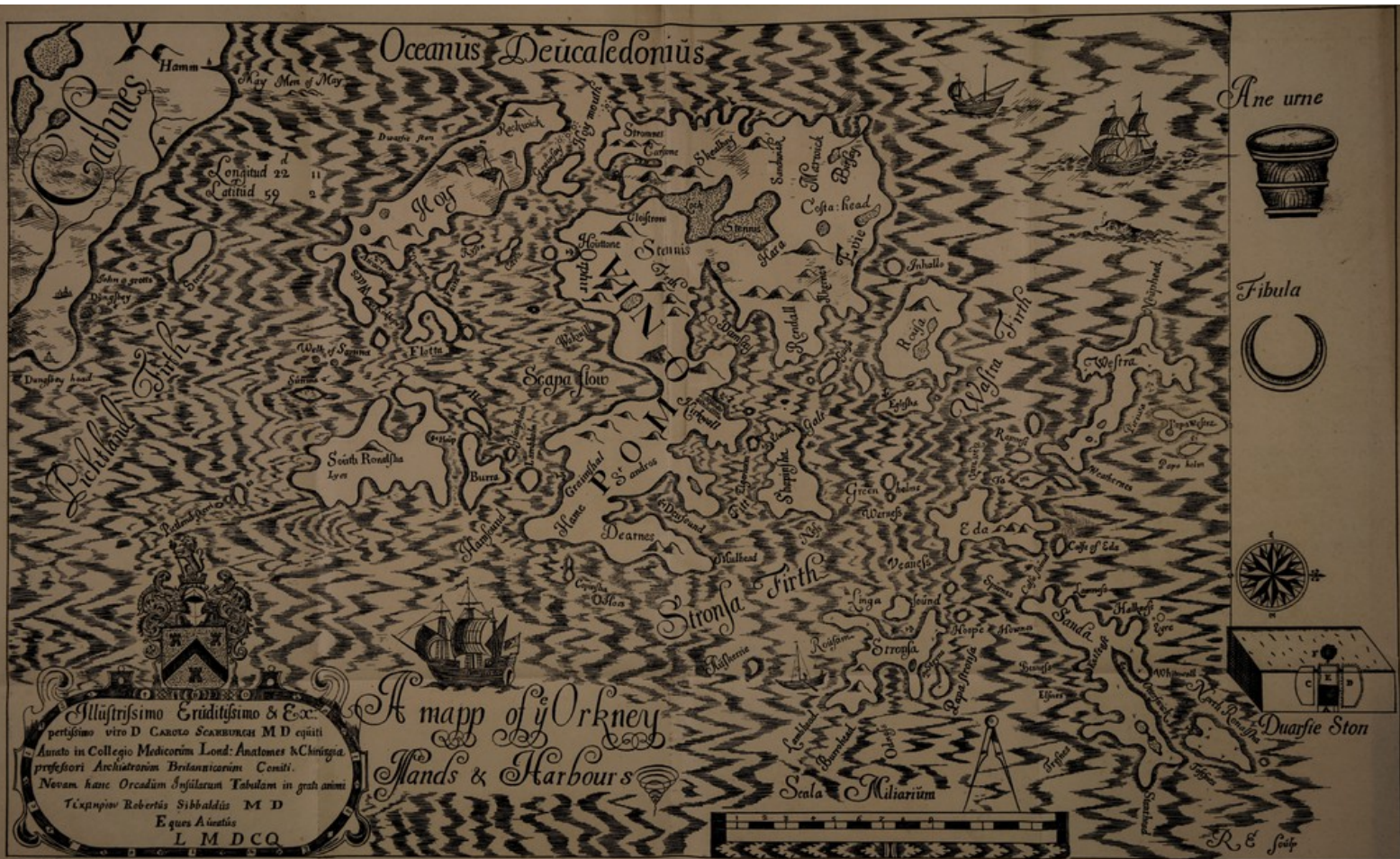
remarkably interesting Autobiography, (of which the original MS. is in the Library at Auchinleck)—although proposed for publication by the gossiping Boswell, and his design approved of by his “*Ursa Major*”—remained unheeded until 1834, when it was printed in the *Analecta Scotica* (I. p. 126) edited by Mr MAIDMENT for the present Publisher. THIRTY-FIVE copies were struck off separately.*

The Publisher at first intended to have added a Bibliographical list of Books and MSS. relating to the Islands. But the “Thoughts on Orkney and Zetland,” printed by Mr GROAT, appeared to render this somewhat unnecessary.

EDINBURGH, 87, PRINCES STREET,
10th July 1845.

* Remains of Sir Robert Sibbald, Knt. M. D., containing His Autobiography, Memoirs of the Royal College of Physicians, Portions of his Literary Correspondence, and An Account of his MSS. Edinburgh, *T. G. Stevenson*, 1837, 8vo.





THE
DESCRIPTION
OF THE
ISLES
OF
ORKNEY
AND
ZETLAND.

WITH THE MAPPS OF THEM, DONE FROM THE ACCURAT
OBSERVATION OF THE MOST LEARNED WHO LIVED
IN THESE ISLES.

Published by S. R. S. M.D.

EDINBURGH

Printed By Mr. *Andrew Symfon* 1711.

A
DESCRIPTION
OF THE
ISLES
OF
ORKNEY.

From the MS. of *Robert Monteith* Laird of
Eglisfa & Gairfa, dated *Kirkwall*, Sept. 24, 1633.

POMONA extends it self in length from the North North-west, to the East South-East, twentie four Miles *Scots*, and from North to South, from one to ten Miles in breadth. It contains an Episcopal Sea, the chief dwelling *Kirkwall*, wherein is a fair Cathedral Church dedicated to St. *Magnus*, containing a Provestrie, viz. a Provest (the Bishop) a Dean, seven beneficed Persons, and seven Prebends.

The Lands of this Island hold either of the King as Earl of *Orknay*, or of the Bishop: or as such Lands as of old were named *ADEL*-lands, now vulgarly call'd *UDAL*-lands, which, by Interpretation, is the old Inheritours Lands, which under the *Norvegians* government, were the nat iv

The Parish Churches in this Island are—

1. *Kirkwall*. 2. *St. Andrews*. 3. *Deernefs*. 4. *Holme*.
5. *Orpheir*. 6. *Staine house*. 7. *Stromenefs*. 8. *Sandvick*.
9. *Birfa*. 10. *Harray*. 11. *Evie*. 12. *Rendill*.
13. *Firth*.

Upon the Western Corner of *Pomona*, stands the palace of *Birfa*, within a Parish of that Name, now belonging to the Kings Majestie, a sumptuous and stately dwelling founded by *Robert*, and finished by *Patrick*, Earls of *Orknay*, anciently it belonged to the Episcopal Sea of *Orknay*, the Earls of *Orknay* had it in Feu.

Nota. *Robertus Comes Orcadiæ, pater Patricii Comitis, filius spurius erat Jacobi quinti Regis Scotorum.*

Near to this palace westward, there lyes a little grassie island, called the Burgh of *Birfa*, about half a Mile in circumference belonging to the Kings palace. The Ports belonging to this Isle are marked by an Anchor in the Map.

The Island of *Stroma* distant from *Caithness* two Miles, partly belonging to *George St clare* Earl of *Caithness* and Lord *Berredail*; and partly to the Bishop of *Orknay*.

South from *Pomona* lyeth the Isle of *South Ranalsa*, six Miles in length, and betwixt four and five in breadth, with two little Isles or Holms, called *Pictland Skerries*, this Isle of *South-Ranalsa* contains two Parochial Churches, *Viz.* *St. Peter's*, and *St. Mary's*.

Betwixt *Pomona* and *South Ranalsa* lye the Isles of *Burra* and *Lame-holm*, with two little Isles called *Glumholm* and , good for Pasturage; in *Burra* is one parish Church.

In the midst of *Pictland Firth* lye the Isles of *Suina* and *Flotta*. *Suina* is about one Mile in length, and *Flotta* two Miles and a half. *Flotta* hath one Parish Church. These two Isles belong in Heritage to *William Steuart* of *Mains*, brother to *Alexander* Earl of *Galloway*. To *Flotta* belong two little Isles for pasturage, uninhabited, called *Suina* and the Calf of *Flotta*.

North from *Flotta* lyes a little Isle called *Fary*, almost two Miles in length, it holds of the Bishop, and in heritage

belongs to the Laird of *Hacro*, and to it belongs a little Graffie Isle called *Rysa*.

North from *Fary* lyeth a little Isle called *Cava*, not much above a Mile in circumference, the inheritance of *Robert Hacro*, it held formerly of the *Friars of Innerness*, and now of the King, by vertue of the Act of Annexation.

North from *Cava*, lyes the Isle of *Gramefay*, betwixt *Hoia* to the West, and *Pomona* to the East and North, making a good passage to the West Sea: it contains a parish Church.

West of all the former little Isles, lyeth the Isle of *Hoy* and *Walles*, twelve Miles in length, and three in breadth, lying from South to North, yeilding the highest hills that are in all the *Orcades*: in this Isle, are Hares and Conies: in some places it is covered with little shrubs, and Bushes of Elder, Saugh and Birks, it contains two Parish Churches.

West South-west from *Hoy* and *Walles*, about fourtie Miles, lye two great high Rocks, each distant from other about six Miles, called *Souliskerrie* and the *Clett*, uninhabited, yeilding no commodity to the neighbouring inhabitants, but *Skarts* and *Solane Gees*: these two are reckoned to be of the *Orcades*.

North and West from *Kirkwall*, lyes a little Isle called *Damfa*, about half a Mile in circumference, anciently a *Nunnery* was here sited, it holds of the *Arch-dean* of *Orknay*, and a little from that lyes an Isle called the Holm of *Grimbuser*, and north from both, there lyes a little Rockie Island called the Holm of *Randell*.

Shapinsay is an Isle of sixteen Miles in length, and two Miles and a half in Breadth, it contains a Parish Church: this Isle wholly belongs to the Episcopal Sea of *Orknay*: there belong to it two little Graffie Isles fit for pasturage, lying betwixt it and *Pomona*, called *Elger-*

holme and *Theins-holm* : upon the West of *Shapinsay*, there lyes a Graffie Isle called *Grafs-holm*, about half a Mile in circumference, distant from *Shapinsay* about three quarters of a Mile.

Direct East from *Pomona* lyes the Isle of *Coupmansha* (or the Merchants Isle) about a Mile in Circumference, belonging to the King as Earl of *Orknay* : and from it, towards the North, lyes a great high Rock, able to Grafs twentie Sheep, called the Horfe of *Coupmansha*.

North North-east from *Coupmansha*, about twelve Miles, lyes the Isle of *Stronsay*, about fix Miles in length, and not above three in Breadth, containing three Parochial Churches ; it holds of the King as Earl of *Orknay*, containing three great Roads, and Harbours for Ships, surpassing all the other Isles of the *Orcades* in Traffick.

South from *Stronsay*, betwixt it and *Coupinsey* Sound, fix Miles distant on either side, lys an Isle uninhabited, near three Miles in circumference, called *Ouskerry*, it is the heritage of *Laurence St.clare*, who holds it feu of the King, for the yearly dutie of three Barrels of Train Oil.

North from *Stronsay*, lyes a little Isle called *Papa Stronsay*, near a Mile and a half in circumference, it holds of the King, and is the heritage of *James Scholy*, it makes a safe road for the Fishermen to ly in betwixt it and *Stronsay* : and North and West from it, lye three little Grafs Isles uninhabited, belonging to *Stronsay*, called *Mickle Linga*, *little Linga*, and *Sigilholm*, all three hold of the King.

North and North-East from *Stronsay* lyes the Island of *Sanda*, fourteen Miles in length, and betwixt three and four in breadth, containing three Parochial Churches, it holds of the King, and is very fertile in Barley and Oats, well inhabited, and defective in nothing, for the maintenance of mans life, but only of Fewell, which the

inhabitants are forced to transport from the adjacent Isles. The Coast of this, and alongst the Isle, is Low and Sandie, intermingled with dangerous Rocks, very dangerous and unsafe for Ships, the whole Isle affording but one little Harbour, and that not good, lying to the South : about the middle of the Isle called *Hall house*, and at the mouth of the Harbour, lyes a little Isle called the Holm of *Eufnefs*, and from it westward betwixt *Sanda* and *Stronsay*, lye the three little Grafs Isles, belonging to the King, betwixt which there is no passage for Ships, but every one of them so interlaced in other with Rocks, from the North to the South, that there is no passage for Ships : they are called the Holms of *Spurnefs*.

North and by East from *Sanda*, about four Miles, lyes the Isle of *North-Ronaldsay*, about five Miles in circumference, affording no Harbour for Shipping, in respect of the strong and mighty currents which inviron it : It is the Heritage of Mr. *Robert Henderson*, who holds it feu of the Kings Majestie. It contains one Parish Church, the Soil in quality much resembling that of *Sanda*. About half a Mile from *North-Ronaldsay*, there lyes a very dangerous Rock called *Selkskerry*, and this is the most Northern of all the Orcades Isles.

About four Miles from *Sanda*, westward lyes the Isle *Eda*, seven Miles in length, and three in breadth, it belongs in heritage to *James Stewart* Earl of *Carrick*, who holds it feu of the King : it has in it a Parish Church, and betwixt it & *Sanda*, lyes a little Grafs Isle, about three quarters of a Mile in circumference, called the *Calf* of *Eda*, uninhabited ; and betwixt them there is a reasonable good Road for Ships called *Calfs-sound*, at which Road, the Earl of *Carrick* has newly erected a Salt work. And south from *Eda* to *Shapinsay*, there lye two little Grafs Isles called *Green holms* belonging to *Eda*.

West from *Eda*, there lyes a little Isle called *Fara*

and to it a Grafs Isle, called the Holm of *Fara*, and east from it, a little Isle named the *Read holm*, and betwixt *Eda* and *Fara*, there is a good Road for Ships, coming from, or going to *Shetland*.

West and by North from *Fara* lye the Isles of *Vestra*, and *Papa vestra* : *Vestra* contains seven Miles in length, and about three or four in breadth, it contains two Parish Churches, and now belongs to the Kings Majestie, it belonged to Sir *Michael Balfour* of *Monquhanny*, from whom Sir *John Arnot* did purchase it, and the King from him, it has a fair Castle, called *Noutland*, and is very fertile in Corns, Bestial, and Wild-fowl, but especially in Conies : there is only one Harbour in all the Isle for Ships, which is adjoyning to the Castle, but it is very shallow : to this Isle of *Vestra* belong three Grafs Isles, lying from it South and by East, *Viz.* two of them called *Rusk-holm* and *Vratholm*, and the third lyes North-east from *Vestra*, betwixt it and *Papa-Vestra*, called the Holm of *Acernefs*.

East and by north from *Vestra*, lyeth the Isle called *Papa Vestra*, fertile in Corns and Bestial, without fire, about 7 Miles in circumference, with a little Grafs Isle, belonging to it, called the Holm of *Papa*, lying to the East, which makes a good Road for Ships, which go thither a Fishing, but very shallow : it contains a Parish Church, and belongs to the King. South & West from *Vestra*, about nine or ten Miles, lye the Isles of *Rousay*, *Eglisay*, *Vyre*, *Gairsa*, and *Anhallow*.

Rousay contains five Miles in length, and four in breadth, a high Mountanous Isle, about fourteen Miles in Circumference, it contains one Parish Church, and belongs to the King, and is possessed by some Gentlemen in Tenendrie, with a Grafs Isle belonging to it, called the Holm of *Shocknefs* : it is better for Pasturage, than Corns, abounding with Peets for fewell.

Eglifhay is an Isle of three or four Miles in circumference, it is the heritage of *Robert Monteith*, who holds it of the King, and it lyes East from *Roufay*, about a Mile and half, betwixt which and it, there is a good Road for Ships to the Westward, to which Road many *English* Ships repair in their going and coming from *Iceland*: It contains a Parish Church called *St. Magnus* Church, wherein, they say, this Saint lyes interred: North from this Isle, there lyes a little Grafs Isle belonging to it, named *Ridholme*.

Vyre is a little Isle of a Mile and a half in circumference, in length and breadth not much more than half a Mile, it belongs to the King, and has no Parish Church in it, but is annexed to that of *Eglifhay*.

Gairfa lyes from *Vyre* South, being a little Isle of three Miles in circumference, having in it no Parish Church, but is annexed to that of *Randell* in *Pomona*. To *Gairfa* belong two little Grafs Isles, called *Meikleholm*, lying to the North, and *Little-holm*, lying to the South: it holds of the King, and belongs to *Robert Monteith*, Heritor thereof: it contains a reasonable good Road for Ships, towards the East end of the Isle.

Anhallow is a little Isle lying betwixt *Pomona* to the South, and *Roufay* to the North, it lyes West and by North from *Gairfa*, and West and South from *Vyre*, four or five Miles distant from either of the two, being about a Mile in circumference. It held anciently of the Bishop, but now of *Adam Banantine* of *Stainhouse*. The Laird of *Hacro* is Heritor. Betwixt this Isle and *Pomona* there lyes a passage for Ships to pass from East to West, but near the Land something dangerous. The Roads and Ports of these Isles are marked in the Map by Anchors. This may suffice for understanding the Map of these Isles subjoined. These who would have a compleat Description and Historie of them, may find it in the

Account of them published by Mr. *James Wallace* Parson of *Kirkwall*, and much enlarged by his Son, M.D. in the Edition of it at *London* 1700.

FINIS.

THE
DESCRIPTION
Of the ISLES of
SHETLAND.

IN Describing these Isles, I shall first give a general account of what is common to them, and thereafter a particular Description of the most remarkable of them, and of what is observable in them.

They have several Names beside the common Designation of *Shetland*; by some they are named *Zetland*, and by others *Hetland*, and *Shethland*; some Seamen give them the Name of *Thylinsel*: the *Norwegians* call them *Yealteland*; and the people are called by them and the *Danes*, *Yealtines*: and their speech *Yealta mole*. Some call them *Yetlande*, and in the old Language of the Natives, they are named *Yealtaland*, as to the Latitude of them, the South end of them lyes under the 60 Degree, and the North end under the 61 Degree; and they lye under the 24 Degree of Longitude.

The length of them is from South to the North, *Viz.* from *Soundburgh* or *Fitfill-head* Southward, to the *Skæ* of *Unst* northward, Sixtie miles: the Breadth of them runs East and West, Sixteen or Eighteen Miles, where they are broadest, *Viz.* from *Bressay* Eastward, to *Wals* Westward; and where it is most narrow, which is at *Quarfdale*, it is but one Mile broad.

About the *Æstival Solstice* there is no Darknefs, to speak of, here; yea for a Moneth before it, and after it, (if the Horizon be clear) all the night time, one can read a Letter. Captain *Smith* in his 6th Book of *Englands Improvement*, page 253; in his account of *Shetland*, sayeth there is no night in the North of *Shetland*, part of the year, *Viz: June and July*; in an Island North of *Unst*, not Inhabited then, but Stockt with wild Cows and Conies, he with his Birding piece killed ten couple of Conies in one night, fhooting from a little before Sun Set, to Sun rising, and it was as light as a cloudie Winter day.

These Isles of *Shetland* for the most part are High Rocks upon the Shore, and very Mountainous up in the Land; the Mountains are most of them covered with Mofs and Heather: in the Valleys, especially towards the Coast, they have Corns and Meadows: the Inland most of it consists of Mountains, Moors or Heaths, and Marishes and Pools: the Mountains afford a Grafs good for Cattel, the Inhabitants call *Lubba*: so the Country is most of it more fit for Pasturage of Cattel, than for Corns, of which they have not so much as ferveth to maintain them, but must be supplied from the *Orkney* Isles, and the Continent of *Scotland*.

There is store of Peets, and Turfs for Fewel in all these Isles.

These Isles are well accommodated with excellent Roads and Bayes, and Long inlets of the Sea, which they call in their Tongue, *Voes*, which are commodious and secure for all sorts of Shipping, and upon that account are much frequented by our own Ships, and those which belong to Foreigners, in their Voyages to both the *Indies*, for which reason the Natives and Indwellers have most gain from their Supplying the Ships with their Product, especially their Fishes they take, and their Cows, and the groff Manufactures they make in this Country: the grounds

of their Inlets are clean, naturally inclining to a Sandie Clay, and the water in them is very deep : there are no dry *Harbours* here, yet in several places, Ships can be safely brought a ground and Bett.

The air in these Isles is most wholsome, being well purged by great winds. The country is found to be colder in Summer, but Hotter in winter, than in other places of this Kingdom. The forecited Captain *Smith* tell's us, he did not remember any Frost, or Snow in *Shetland*, which when it fall's out doth not last any considerable time : for what *Minucius* sayes of *Britaine*, holdeth more here, *Ambientis maris vapore tepescit* ; the vapour of the Sea tempers the Air.

The winds are so Boysterous, that they will lift Boats from the plain ground, and break them in pieces. And Captain *Smith* observeth, that in the Winter, they blow so violent, that no ship dare look on the north coast in the winter quarter ; so the people in these Isles have little commerce with other Nations in winter. He himself by the violence of the wind was blowen down flat to the ground, and was forced to creep on his Hands and Knees to the next wall, and going by the wall, got into a house : he sayeth sometimes these winds last half a day, and more.

There are only two towns or Burghs in all these Isles, viz. *Scallawey*, formerly the chief Town, and the seat of the Governor, and of the Presbytry. But now not so much frequented, tho pleasantly situated in a fertile place of the Country, with Corn, Grasse, and Meadows about it, yet scarce has a hundred Soules in it, there not being much trade there.

The other Town which is most frequented for Trade, is *Lerwick*, lying South and North upon the side of the Sound over against the Isle of *Bressay*, it is now become the principal Town in the Country ; it is more then half a mile in length, and within these few years hath arised

to confift of between 200. and 300 families ; becaufe of the many fhips, which yearly frequent *Braffa Sound*, which draw's from the Continent, and the Ifles, Merchants and Tradefmen to come and dwell in it, being neither fo pleafantly Situated, nor in fo fertile a Country, as that of *Scallawey*.

The houfes in *Schetland* are all built of rough unhewn ftone, the common thatching of them is a fort of Divet (they call there Flais) and ftraw and Summons above the fame, which is renewed each year by the owners about Allhallow-tide. Some Houfes are covered with Dales, and very few houfes are covered with Slates.

The Country is divided into the mainland, and the Ifles.

The Author of the large defcription of thefe Ifles in *Bleau's Atlas*, fays there are 46 Ifles properly fo called, fortie Holms, and 30 Skerries or bare rocks.

Of the Ifles and Holms 26 are faid to be inhabited, and the others are employed for feeding Beftial.

Befide the mainland Ifle, the moft confiderable are thefe Ifles, *Viz. Unft, Via, Yell, Hafkerfu, Phetlar* or *Phe-doroy, Papa-Stour, Foula, Havra, Burgh, St. Tronons* ifle, *Moufa, Breffa, Nofs, Linga, Melde, Whalfoy*. Skerries, *Ura, Burra, Balta, Honega, Mekla, St. Ninians* ifle, three *Skeen* iflands, *Chuefa, Noflanda, Ru*, leffer and greater *Papa, Vonneda*, and as many Holms are fcattered amongft them.

Thefe ifles from the weft look toward *Norraway*, the neareft continent of Europe. to them, from whence undoubtedly they had their firft inhabitants.

Moft of the arable ground in thefe ifles is inclofed with dykes, and the manured ground produceth only Oats and Bear.

There are few trees to be feen in them, tho there have been woods of old, for great roots of trees, and fome

Trunks of Trees are found in several places, two or three Cubits under ground, far from the Sea, there are still in some places some few Trees and Shrubs, but the Trees seldom exceed the height of two or three Fathoms.

Their meadow ground is good, and cut at Lammas, yeelds abundance of good Hay. There are no Rivers in this Country, it being so narrow and intersected with inlets of the Sea, there are only Lochs and Pools, and Bourns, and Rivolets, running from them.

The Roufts and high tidegates of the Sea about the Promontories and the Isles, make the weather often rough, and with the labour and toil and gross food of the inhabitants, hardneth their bodys, so that fourscore of years is reckoned no great age amongst the Commons, and many of them live till they be fivescore, sixscore, and some seven score years of age. In the parish of *Tingwall* in *Heylester*, the possessor lived to be an hundred and forty Christmasses at his own Boord.

The women generally are well favoured, and vertuous and frugal : many of the common men are much given to tipling, yet some live to a great age without tasting wine or Ale or beer : contenting themselves with water, milk, and their Drink made of it, they call *Blende*.

Young and old men and women are much given here to the Snuffing and Smoaking of Tobacco.

The present inhabitants consist of the Clergie and the laity : the laicks of the Gentry and the Commons.

The Gentry in manners, customes, and Fashions agree much with the Gentry of the Mainland of *Scotland*, from whence they came : they are most of them well-bred, and inclined to Hospitality.

The Commons are either the old Natives for immemorial Possession, or such as not long since came hither from *Scotland*.

The Natives are known from the Incommers by their

want of furnames, having only Patronymic Names. Many of them are descended from the *Norvegians*, and speak a *Norse* Tongue, corrupted, (they call *Norn*) amongst themselves, which is now much worn out. The Inclination of many of these of *Norwegian* Extract is base and Servile, Subtile and false, and Parasitick; they are wise to deceive, and if they be not restrained by severe Lawes, they are much given to Theft. They are generally very Sharp, and consequently docile, and because of their Commerce with the *Hollanders*, they promptly speak Low Dutch.

They are less given to Venerie and Quarrells, and more sober than some of the other Inhabitants of a *British* Extract, and they are richer. Divers of them are *Udalers*, that is Proprietaries of the Land (manured by them) by immemorial Possession, severals of these are men of substance, and can promptly speak the *Scots* Tongue. Here Hospitality is observed not only by the Gentry, but also by the Common Farmers of Land.

The Incommers (whose residence in these Isles is not above a few Centuries of years) are very politick, by reason of their frequent Converse with Strangers, which resort hither from all parts of Christendom, they are Sagacious and Subtile, and readie to take advantage of these they have business with, and are proud and stubborn, if softly treated: but if they be roughly handled, they are flexible: there are many of them great Drinkers and given to Venerie, and are Quarelsome, and these speak the *Scots* Language as well as the *Norse*.

The Clergie are Learned, and painfull and diligent: most of them have three Churches, at considerable Distances.

The Gentry are Civil and much given to Hospitality, especially towards Strangers, they are well furnished with all necessaries for the Conveniencie and pleasure of Life;

and are well bred : Some of them apply to Navigation, and in *Hollands* Veffels travell to both the *Indies*, to *Guinea*, and to *Greenland*, and often to *France*, *Italy*, and *Spain*, and breed their Sons in fuch parts of the Mathematicks, as are fubfervient to Navigation.

And thus my worthie friend, *John Bruce* of *Simbifter*, was bred himfelf ; and educateth his Son fo, after he had accomplished himfelf with travelling through the Countries abovementioned, he did apply himfelf to furvey all the Coaft of thefe Ifles of *Shetland*, and has made a Large Map of all the *Voës*, *i. e.* Bays and Sounds and the entries to them, and has marked the meaths in them, and fhowen where dangers are, and how they are to be evited, and is refolved, fo foon as he goes home, to take a more exact Survey of all again, and to mifs no Bank, Rock, nor Shallow : which, when he has done, and given the laft ftroke and finishing to his Map, will make the Navigation in thefe Ifles fecure, which will much contribute to the Advancing of Trade, and promoting of the Fisherie in thefe Ifles and their Neighbourhood : from which our Neighbours, in times of Peace, had vaft advantage, by the great Fleets they fent thither yearly : and likewise this Map will be moft ufefull to our Fleets, and to thefe of our Allies, who pafs that way to the *Indies* and other Countries, when the Paſſages towards the South are not fo clear and fafe.

The greateſt part of the food of the Commons in the Summer time, is Milk and Fiſh.

They milk thrice a day, churn once a day, and make very good Butter and Cheefe : ſome of them drink neither Ale nor any ſtrong Liquors, but their Drink they make of Milk and Water, they call Bland : or water alone, and theſe often live to fix or ſeven-ſcore of years.

Their Fiſh afford not only food, but matter of Trade to them, by cureing them, and the Oyle they make of the

Livers of them : these bring to them money, and all necessaries in time of Peace : the Fishes they take for their own use, some of them they eat fresh, some they hang in Skees till they be soure, and these they call Blown Fishes.

Such as they design for Merchant Ware, some they Salt, and some they hang Fresh in Skees, till they be perfectly dry, and they call those Stock Fishes, whereof they have great plenty.

In the Winter time they feed strongly upon Fleshes, for the Country affords many Cows, Sheep, and Swine, and plenty of Fowles, especially Sea Fowles and fresh-water Fowls. The Country affords but little Corn, and much of that often shaken by the Violent Winds, or spoiled with the Sea water blown in upon it, so that they must be supplied from *Orkney*, and the Continent of *Scotland*.

There are but few Milnes here, save hand Milnes, called Quairns, there is no Shelling of Victual : their Hooks, or Sickles have no teeth, their Sithes are not a span long, their Plough socks and Culcers slender and little ; and their labouring is by four Oxen, all going in broad band, with a man going before them backward, and the Plowman holding his plough by his side ; there are no Walke Milns here, that is done either by their hands and feet, or by the Sea, called *Tuvacuthoes*. Thus in a place betwixt a Rock and the land, through which the Sea Ebbeth and floweth, they fasten a Web of Cloth, the one end upon the Rock, and the other upon the Land, and the Sea by its motion to and fro Walkes the Cloth very thick ; which cloth they call Yelt or Wadmeal.

The people here are generally Loyal, and without Dissatisfaction, as to matters of Government, in Church or State : they are stout and Ventorious, going to Sea in small Boats with two Rowers.

There are no Castles nor Forts here save one Castle at *Scalloway*, built by *Patrick* Earl of *Orkney* anno 1600, now become ruinous : this is the place of Meetings of all Courts, Ecclesiastical and Civil : there was a Fort at *Lerwick*, built by King *Charles* the seconds Order, *October* 1665, and burnt, with the Town of *Lerwick*, by the *Hollanders*, *August* 13th 1673.

These two Towns subsist by Trade, especially *Lerwick*, which is now increased to a great Bulk by Strangers coming there in time of Peace, and by the Industrie of the People. For the better preventing of hazard from an enemy, they use to have upon the top of their highest Hills, their Ward or Wardhill, which is a heap of Turfs and Peets, placed on the top of the Hill, which being fired, gives Advertisment in a short time, to the Country about : the Ward-Hills are so ordered throughout all the Country, that the Ward-hill is always in sight of its adjacent Ward, which resorteth to the place where the fire is seen, and to this day there is a standing Law, that there be not wanting Fire and Fewell at any time, at these places, which they light upon the approach of Ships, they apprehend may be Enemies.

All their Measures are by Weight for dry Wares, *Viz.* by Lish-pounds and Marks ; the first being 24 pound weight, the other, one pound. Their Mony is for the most part *Hollands* and Dutch Mony.

The Drink they use ordinarily, in many places, is *Blend*, which is made of Milk after the Butter is taken out of it.

The Women in *Schetland* are generally Fertile. A Gentleman that stayed some time there, told me he spake with a married couple, none of them above 50 years of Age ; both the Man and the Woman were of a thin and lean habit of Body, who told him themselves (and their Neighbours confirmed it) that they had in

Marriage procreat betwixt them two, 33 Children, most of them Baptised, and many of them were Living, and were Twins.

What *Solinus* Polyhstor Cap. 22. observed of our Islanders, their Bartering of goods, *Dant res & accipiunt, mutationibus necessaria potius quam pretiis parant*, is to this day much in use with the Inhabitants of *Shetland* and *Orkney*, and is a proof of their Antiquity.

There are in most of the Parishes *Picts Houses*, as they call them ; they are some of them of a Pyramidal Form, or like a round Dovecote, broad below & drawing narrower to the top, the most remarkable of those is one in the Island of *Musa* : there are in some of them diverse Cells, vaulted above, and they have a Winding stair within them, that goeth up to the Top ; many of them are built clofs by the Sea, some of them upon the Tops of Hills : some think they were Beacons, and had in the Night Fire upon the tops of them : Some think they were Watch Towrs, some make them places of refuge, when they feared the approach of an Enemy : they call them Broughs.

In the Isle of *Papa*, belonging to *Waes*, there is an high Rock, called *Frowa Stack*, that is, the Maiden Rock, divided from the Land by a narrow Firth, upon the Top of which the Tradition is, that a certain *Norwey* Gentlewoman, (in the time the *Norwegians* were Masters of these Isles) having vowed perpetual Virginity, to preserve her self from the tempting Solicitations of Suiters, built a strong Tower, to which there was no ascent, but by the help of Ropes, how it came to pass is unknown, she became with Child, and thereupon the Tower was demolished, the Rubbish and Vestiges of it are yet to be seen.

*Nec inclusam Danaen turris abenea
Robustæque fores, munierant satis.*

There are many Obelisks, that is, high Stones standing upon their end, in this Country, which are said to be Monuments of some Remarkable Accident: there is one of the chief of them in the midway betwixt the Town of *Scalloway*, and the Kirk of *Tingwall*.

In the Isle of *Fula*, upon the top of the Hill called *Lorifield*, there is a Hole which hath been tried with two Barrel of Lines, and yet it is said they could find no Bottom to it. In the same Isle, in a Vault call'd *Garp* Tomb, there was found not many years ago, the Thigh Bone of a Man of that length, that it reached from any tall mans Foot to his Groine.

About the whole Coast here, there is a strong Current of Tide-gate upon the East and West sides of the Country: a South South-east Moon maketh high water: only at *Soundbrough head*, a South or a South and by East Moon, maketh high water.

The Ebbings and flowings here are Various and uncertain, because of the many Isles and Promontories round about the Country: It is Reported that the Sea at the Nefs, floweth nine Hours, and Ebbeth three, but bywest the Parish of *Northmavæn*, the Seamen report that it floweth Northward, and Ebbeth Southward, and some report that at the North of *Schetland* both Ebb and flood go one way.

There are many Lakes in the Mainland and Isles, stored with Eels and Common speckled Trouts, some of which are very big, of the colour and taste of Salmon.

There are no Venemous beasts found in *Shetland*; no Asks, no Adders, no Frogs, no Snails, no Rats, if these be brought there by Ships, they will not live over a year or two.

The Horses are most of them of a very small Size, not exceeding nine hand-breadth high; an Horse of twelve hand-breadth hight (which is but even rare here) is

esteemed a very tall Horse, the least of the Horses here are sharp and full of Mettle above belief, they will carry a Man and a Woman twenty miles a day, and will live till they be 30 or 40 years old, though they never are put in a Stable Summer or Winter, and are not allowed Shoes or Provender, but shift for themselves in the open Fields.

Some of the Gentry here have pretty big Horses for their own Saddle, which they bring from *Cathness* or *Orkney*: they tell a Story of an Horse at *Lunnay* that lived till he was an hundred years old.

The little Horses called Shalties go softly a natural pace, and are sure footed in Ragged and Steep places, they are little bigger than Asses, and are very durable.

Both Oxen and Cows here are of a considerable Size, they are indeed lesser than these of *England*, but greater than these of *Orkney*, or in some of the Northmost places of *Scotland*.

The Sheep are allowed no Cotes, and for the most part are wild and of Sundry Colours, they are fleeced and not Shorn: their Wool is rough, it is pulled off about Midsummer; many of the Sheep are unhorned, they are generally black and speckled; they bring forth here ordinarily two or three at a time, the Wild ones are taken with Dogs, taught for the purpose, they call them had Dogs.

The Swine or Hogs are of a middle Size, and for the most part feed upon the Mountains.

There are many Conies in these Isles, of a light brown Colour, which feed in Holmes, and upon Grassie Links, some maliciously brought Weasels here, which destroy many of them.

There are no Hares in these Isles.

There are no Foxes.

There are abundance of Selches and Otters.

Besides plenty of Tame Fowle, there are store of other

Fowle ; as Doves, Whapes, Plivers, Teal, and Ducks, and Geefe of divers sorts : there is a great resort of Sea Fowls of all sorts to these Isles ; they nest in the Rocks upon the Shore, some take them with Grins flipped over their heads while they are sleeping.

There are no Partridges nor Moor Fowl here.

Hawks have their Nests in Sundry places, as in *Foula*, *Northmaven Nefs*, *Fair Isle* : and the Kings Falconer, when he comes here to Herry their Nests, he hath a Hen payed him out of each house here as it is in *Orkney*.

There are many Ravenous Fowls here, as Eagles, Ravens, and Crows. In old time they did so increase and multiply here, that the *Fowde* (whose Office was such as that of the Sheriff now) made an Act, that whosoever at the head Court, brought in an Eagles-head, should have a Merk from each having Sheep in that Pasture : whoever brought in a Ravens-head, should have an half Merk, and who brought in a Crows-head, should have fortie penies *Scots*.

In old time the Sea about this Coast was well stored, with all common sorts of Fishes, as Mackrells, Herrings, Ling, Cods, Haddocks, Whyteens, Sheaths, especially with Podlines (young Sheaths, called by the Inhabitants Pelltacks, which in fair Weather come so near the Shore, that Men, yea Children, from the Rocks with fishing Rods, caught them in abundance :) but all kind of Fishing is greatly decayed here, albeit greater pains is taken by the Fishers now than ever before, who with small *Norway* Yoals (two or three men in each of them) adventure far in the Sea, and oft times endure hard weather : in the Summer time, an excellent kind of Fish is caught upon the East side of this Country, the Inhabitants call it *Brismaks*, the *Hollanders* call it Lump, and the *Scots* call it Tusk.

Whales are cast in upon the Shore sometimes, which

the Admiral Deputies feiz upon, as they do on the Ships and Timber which is driven in.

But the greatest Advantages *Shetland* hath, is from the fishing of Herring and Cod, which abounds so there, that great Fleets of the Hollanders come there, and by the order of the States General begin to take Herring, upon St. *Johns* day, hard by *Shetland*, with their Busses: which they continue to do from thence alongst the *Scots* and *English* Coast, till they come over against *Yarmouth*, and at the same time imploy some Hundreds of Doggers for taking of Cod. And all the Summer the Inhabitants of *Shetland* about their Isles, beside the Herrings they take, are constantly imployed in taking Cod and Ling, which they sell to *Hamburghers*, *Bremers*, *Lubecquers*, and to *Scots* and *English*, who come there with their Ships, and Hooks, and Lines, for the taking of Cod and Ling, Nets for the taking of Herring, Brandie, and strong Waters of all sorts; Mead, Strong Beer, Bisket, Wheat-meal, and Rye-meal, Barly, Salt, Tobacco, Fruits of all sorts, *Monmouth* caps, and the Courser sort of Cloth and Linen, and such like merchandise: And the Inhabitants of these Isles vend to the Foreigners their Cod, Ling, and Tusk, and Herring, and Sheaths; and the Oyle they make of the Fishes they take, and Butter, and their Horses, Cows, and Sheep, and the Skins of Selches and Otters, and the Manufactures they make, viz. Stockings and the coarse Cloth called *Wadmell*: and thus in time of Peace they do flourish, but are at great loss in time of War, wanting both mony and these Commodities the foraigners use to afford to them, and their most subsistence then is from the small trade they drive with their Barks to *Norwey*, where they buy Timber for their Houses, ready framed, and Dale Boards, and Tar, and Ships, Barks and Boats of all sorts, and all other Necessaries for their Country, for which last

also they trade with their Barks loaden with Fish and Oyl to *Scotland*, and bring home such Commodities from thence as they want : they take upon their Coast severall sorts of Shell Fishes, such as Oysters, Muffles, Lobsters, and such like they make use of in their Country.

Sometimes they catch with their Nets and Hooks *Tritons*, they call them *Shoupiltins* and Mermaids, but these are rare & but seldome seen.

They want not Plants which they make use of for cures of diseases, which are not rife amongst them, the *Heather* is a great *Panacea*, and they use that and their other Plants for cureing of Wounds and Aches. The *Muscus crustæ aut Lichenis modo Saxis adnascens flavus*, which they call a Skál, from the resemblance it hath to that, of this scraped off from the Stone it groweth on, they make the Lit they call the Corkar Litt.

It is reported there are some Copper Mines in these Isles, but it is not yet known where they are. A kind of Rock Chrystal is found in *Qualsey*, some pieces are polishd as it were by art, some four square, some eight square : and some pumice Stones are cast in by the Sea in severall places of the Coast.

It is very clear, from what *Pliny* says of *Thule*, that it was the remotest of the *Brittish* Isles : and *Tacitus* says, that when the *Orcades* were discovered, *Conspecta Thule*, and *Ptolomee* says of its being opposite to *Bergen* in *Norwey* ; that this must have been the *Thule* meant by them, *Island* and the *Feroe Isle* not being discovered till a long time afterwards.

The Government was by a *Foude*, which office answered to our Sheriff, and now they are under a Deputie, named by the Government. The Piets were the old Inhabitants ; and after them the *Norwegians* seized them, who brought in *St. Olla's* Laws and Customs, some of which yet are retained. The Sheriff now ap-

points Bailies in the feveral Bailleries: the Religion is the reformed: under Episcopacie, they make a part of the Diocefs of the Bifhop of *Orkney*, and now make part of the Prefbyterie of *Orkney*. I fhall give the Defcriptions of the particular Ifles, fuch as they were fent to me by Bifhop *M'kenzies* orders, done by Mr. *Theodore Umphry*, Mr. *Heugh Leigh*, and Mr. *James Key*, the moft intelligent Minifters there.

Shetland, is now divided by fo many Baileries or Minifteries, and is bounded with the *Fair Ifle* on the South, with *Breffay*, &c. on the Eaft, *Fula* on the Weft, and the *Scall* of *Unft* on the North, being (as faid is) fixtie Miles in length, from *Soumburgh-head* to the *Scall* of *Unft*, and at the largeft, the breadth not above 16 Miles.

The firft Miniftery or Bailewick in order, to the South, is *Dunrofenefs*, bounded from *Soumburgh-head* to the South, to *Fladabufter* to the North, about Miles in length, the Breadth at moft Six miles: from *Mavick* to *Soumburgh*, in fome places not two Miles: it hath but one Minifter, tho two preaching Kirks, and but one *Sucken* or Bailewick; the Iflands belonging to it are *Fair Ifle*, here the Duke *de Medina Sidonia*, with a part of the great *Spanish Armado*, Anno 1588, fuffered Shipwrack, tho' himfelf and the moft of the men were faved alive, this Ifland is diftant from the *Main-land* of *Zetland*, Miles: the other Ifles belonging to this Minifterie, are *Mufa* on the Eaft, where is the rareft Pi&ts-Houfe to be feen, that is in all this Countrey, alfo the Ifles called the *Kings Ifle*, *Corfe Holme*, *Colfa*, &c.

The Harbours here are *Gratnefs Voe*, *Aiths Voe*, &c.

The Second Bailewick, in order, is the Bailewick and Miniftry of *Burra*, wherein is a Church for Preaching, having adjacent to it the Ifland of *Havery*, *Papa*, &c. this Miniftery takes alfo in upon the Main land, the places of *Weft* and *East-Wharff*, with the Ifle of *Breffay* on

the East, where are two Kirks for preaching, together with the Isle of *Nefs*, where is a Chapel : one Minister serveth all these, and of old it was but one Bailiewick, but now it is divided into three Baileries.

The third in order is the *Sucken* (that is the Bailerie) and Ministerie of *Tingwall*, this hath belonging to it four Parishes, and two Towns, *Viz.* the first on the East, *Gulberrie*, wherein are four old Chapels, with four Picts Houses. Here also is the Town of *Lerwick* : 2dly on the West, *Whitnefs*, where is a Church for preaching, beside which standeth St. *Olla's* Chair, and the Church there call'd St. *Olla's Church*.

Thirdly *Wisdale*, where is, for preaching, *Our Ladies Church*, concerning the building of which at first, strange things are reported and believed by the Vulgar, who Idolize it superstitiously.

Fourthly *Tingwall*, where for Preaching is St. *Magnu's* Church, and about twelve Chapels : this Ministerie is bounded with *Wharf* and *Burray* to the South, with *Nesting* on the North, with *Bressay sound* on the East, and *Aithsting* and *Sandsting* on the West.

The whole Circumference will be more than 30 Miles, yet but one Ministerie, and of old was under one Bailiewick, but now under three, *Viz.* *Tingwall*, and the Town of *Scalloway* one ; *Gulberrie*, and the Town of *Lerwick* another ; *Whitnefs* and *Wisdale* a third ; the Isles belonging to it are *Trondray*, *Greenholm*, *Oxno*, *Langa*, *Linga*, *Hildefa*, *Havery*, *Hoy*, *Flotta*, *Gruna*, the two *Cheynies*, &c.

The most Commodious Harbours in this Ministerie, are to the East, *Bressay sound*, of 20 and 21 foot Water at full Sea. Here a South South East Moon makes a full Sea. This Harbour is so safe that there have been more than 2000 Ships lying here at a time. No Rocks

in the South Entry, save one by west, near *Lerwick*, another in the North beneath the Fort.

To the South of this Parish are no Commodious Havens. To the South are *Scalloway Voe*, which if you come to, in the South Entry no danger, keeping the middle Chanel, and the Church and Steeple of *Tingwall* in your eye: as also to the West no danger, if you be once within *Oxno* keeping sight of the Castle.

To the West of this Ministerie, there are many good Harbours, such as *Wisdale Voe*, *Binga Nese Voe*, *Whitnests*, which run all up North, but no safe entry to any of them, without a Pilot, by reason of many Holms, Isles, Rocks, &c. in the Mouth.

To the North of this Ministerie are these Harbours and Voës North, *Chaldernefs Voe*, runs up North-East and by North: next to it is *Laxford Voe*, running up two Miles South South West, a third is *Dails Vo*, which runs up South South West two Miles: a fourth is *Grimista Bight*, in the North mouth of *Bressay sound*: but to none of all these Harbours is there any coming in from the Sea, without a Pilot, by reason of Rocks, Sholes, &c. that run from *Nesting*, to the North mouth of *Bressay Sound*.

The fourth Bailierie and Ministerie in order, is that of *Nesting*, bounded on the South with *Tingwall*, on the West with *Delting*, on the North with the Isle of *Yell*, on the East with the Ocean. There are three severall Congregations belonging to this Ministerie, two on the Main Land, viz. *Nesting* and *Lunasting*, a third in the Isle of *Qualfey*; divided from the other two, by a Ferry of three miles, of a great current, dangerous to pass with a South East wind: here the *Skerries* lye from *Quelfey* six miles, a place commodious for fishing, and because of this, many of its adjacent Neighbours resort to it.

The *Skerries* have three Roads for Veffels of fmall Burden, where they may Ride fafely in the Summer-time.

One runs in Northwest : a fecond South-Eaft : a third North : which tho it be deep within, yet is fo fhallow in the Entry, that no Veffell can come in, fave fmall Boats ; here lye alfo feverall fmall Ifles and Rocks, alongft the whole coaft from the Skerries to the influente of *Breffay Sound*, which is about 16 or 18 Miles long.

Qualfey is three Miles long, and about nigh two Miles broad, there is no Harbour there, fave a Bay, called the *Hame*, where Dutch Merchants refort on the South-weft fide of the Ifle, which runs in Eaft, and is fafe only in the Summer.

Nefting is about four Miles in Length, and two miles broad, and runneth out in feverall Head Lands, the Harbours are *Catfoord Voe*, on the South fide, which runs in Weft North-weft, neareft. *Dury Voe* on the Weft fide, which runs in South : another at *Brough* called *Ham*, for fmall Veffells, but no coming in to it without a Pilot.

Lunafting is about 4 Miles long, and two miles broad, here no fafe Harbours, it runs alfo in feverall Headlands : hence it has the Name *Lunafting*, as all the Parifhes of *Zetland*, which run out in the Sea in Arms of Land, are called *Tangs*.

The fifth Baillerie and Minifterie in Order, is that of *Sandfting*, bounded with *Tingwall* on the Eaft, with *Walls* on the Weft, with the Ocean on the South, and with *Delting* on the North : here are two Churches for preaching and Congregations, one at *Sand*, another at *Aith* : hence that part of the parifh is called *Aithfting*, both are under one Bailierie, taking in with it the Ifles of *vemendry* and *Papa litle*.

The Harbours here to the South are *Sand-Soundvoe*, running up North and Northwest about four Miles, but

there is no safe Entry without a Pilot : the next is *Sandshelde-Voe* running up North about two Miles, a 3d *Skelde Voe* running up North a Mile, but has rocks in the Entry : here are severall Picts Houfes or Broughs, as also Trouts at *Northborrow Firth*, greater than in any parts of this Countrey.

The fixth in order is the Baillerie and Ministerie of *Walls*, comprehending *Walls*, *Sandis* with the Isles of *Valey*, *Papastoure*, and *Fair Isle*, bounded with *Sandsting* on the East, on the South & West with the Ocean, on the North, with *North Maveen*, *Fulay*, well replenished with Corns, Fish, Feathers, & is Miles distant from the Mainland.

In *Valey*, as in some other places through the Countrey, no Mice, Rats, or Cats will live, tho' brought to it.

The Seventh Baillerie and Ministerie in order is *Delting*.

The Eighth Baillerie and Ministerie is *Northmaveen*.

The Ninth is *Yeil*, a great Isle, and next to the Mainland by North, having in it three Churches for Sermons, each distant eight Miles from another, to it belongeth the Islands of *Samfrey*, half the Island of *Bigga*, together with the Isle *Hascofea*, all inhabited, yea, the Isle of *Fetlar*, was at the Reformation and long after it, a part of this ministerie, which had but then one Minister, though now it hath two, there are in *Yell* about twentie Chapells, it has one Baillerie, the Chief Harbours in it are, by South, *Burravo*, *Hamnavo*, *Bastavo*, and *Re-Firth* : by North are *Culyevo*, &c.

The tenth Baillerie and Ministerie in order is *Fetlar*, running East by South, and West by North, there is no Harbour here, and but one Church for Sermon, tho' there are about 10 or 11 Chappels.

The Eleventh and last Baillerie and Ministerie in order is the Isle of *Unst*.

Before I proceed to give a Description of these Baileries and Parishes particularly, I shall first give the names of the remarkable Voes, that is, Bays and Firths in them, from an old Manuscript written a Hundred years ago, and sent to Sir *James Balfour* Lord Lyon, amongst whose collections I found it.

These names are in the *Norse* or *Norwegian* Language, and still are retained by the Inhabitants, as well the Modern as the Ancient, which are of a *Norwegian* Extract, and still speak their Language, they are many of them named from the Villages or Houses adjacent to them, or from the Names of the old Possessors of the adjoining Lands, called *Udalers*, and therefore in the first place these Norse Words are to be explained, we meet with in the account of these Isles a few of which are these following.

A, in the Teutontick Tongue signifieth water, and because the Isles are pieces of Land surrounded with water, severall of their Names Terminate in a, as *Papa*, *Burra*, &c.

Air a Bank of Sand.

Airr house the place of meeting appointed by the Foud General.

Backie a small running water which gave rise to the Surname of the people of that Name.

Beislane; a Termination of a Surname signifying the Superlative Degree of Comparison.

Bland or *Blend*; a Drink made of the Milk that remaineth of Churned Butter, clarified and Barrelled for Winter.

Cassie; a Vessel made of Straw, for containing, weighing and transporting of Corns: the Weight of it on the Malt Pounder, should be half a Setten, and on the Bear Pundler eight Marks. (*malt pounder weight = 1/2 set. B P*)

Custellpennie, is the due the Bailive claimeth out of the goods of the deceased.

vice versa
 $1/2 \text{ Set} = 12 \text{ lbs. } B P = 8 \text{ lbs. } M. P.$

Ey ; in the old Language signifieth water, and therefore is adjected to the Name of some of the Islands here, as *Bressfey*.

Foud ; an Office answering to our Sheriff: he was invested with all power in Civil and Criminal Matters, and he had under him ten Deputed *Fouds*, answering to our Bailives, who exerceed the Jurisdiction.

Foudrie ; the Government of the Districts under the Foud and his Deputies.

Gavelkind ; The Division of the Heritage and Moveables, equally (*sine discrimine sexus vel ætatis*) amongst the Children of the deceased, only by the custome of *Shetland*, the youngest got the dwelling House, beside his share, upon the equal division of all the goods Heretable and Moveable.

Holm ; a litle Isle; the most part of them are desart, and imployed only for pasturage.

Last ; that of Malt is 24 Meils; and that of Bear 38 Meils. 16

Leispound ; a weight of their victuall, which containeth 24 of their Marks, it is called also a *Setten*, this answereth to 28 of our pounds at sixteen ounces the pound.

Mark ; it answereth to a pound, but really contains 18 Ounces.

Meill, is their Boll, which contains Six *Settens* or *Leispounds*: 18 Meils of Malt, make a Chalder: and 36 Meils of Bear, upon the Bear pundler, and 24 upon the Malt Pundler, makes a Chalder of Bear, which will measure out 21 Bolls *Linlithgow* measure: the Furlet will be a *Setten* and a half, but it altereth less or more, according to the goodness of the Grain. The Boll of Meal will be but four *Settens* and a half, *Orkney* weight.

Norn ; the Language spoken by the Inhabitants of *Orkney* and *Zetland*.

Oyfe ; an inlet of the Sea.

Handwritten calculations at the bottom of the page:

$$\begin{array}{r} 166 \\ 2\frac{1}{2} \times 96 \\ \hline 240 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 28 \\ 4\frac{1}{2} \\ \hline 112 \\ 14 \\ \hline 126 \end{array}$$

Pundler, is a Beam distinguished with the Marks of their weight, which hath a stone upon the one end, (which stone on the Malt *Pundler* should be a *Setten* weight, and on the Bear *Pundler* sixteen *Mark*) and a Hook on the other end, for hanging up the *Cassie* in which their Viçtuall is. In most it does resemble a Stalliard, on which mony is weighed.

Rouft, is a tempestuous Tyde.

Setten ; the same with a *Leispound*, fix *Settens* make a Meil.

Seater, a Sirname from *Seater*, whom they held was *Saturn*.

Skeos, are little houses built of dry stones without any Mortar, that the Wind may have free passage through them, in which they dry their Fishes and Fleshes, and what is dried so is called Blown meat : they call it *vivda*, it is not salted.

Shundhill ; the Decreet past by the *Foude*.

Skerries, Ragged Rocks.

Sucken, a Bailiffrie, and the district under the Bailiffs jurisdiction.

Tang, a piece of Land running out into the Sea.

Voe ; a Creek or Bay.

Udal-Lands, a Right of Possession the Natives have successively without either Charter or Seafine.

Wart, or *Ward hill* ; High hills upon which they plant Beacons, *Viz.* a heap of Turfs and Piets, which fired gives Advertisement to the Country People to meet there, this being seen by these of the adjacent Ward.

These particulars were to be premised for the better understanding of the customs of the Inhabitants of these Isles.

In the next place, I shall give the Names of the Bayes and Roads in the severall Parishes, the Description of them is to be seen in the Account of the Bailliffries.

In the Parish of DUNROSENESS, there are these.

At *Swimburgh-head*, *Vigaanna Voe* ; *Greatnefs-Voe* ; and on the east side of the Parish, *Aiths voe* ; and on the West side, one at *St. Ninians Isle*.

In *BURRA* Parish.

One called the *Myne*, on the West side of the Countrey, one called the *Meill* on the North of the Isle, on the East side is *Cliftsound*.

In *TINGWALL* Parish.

Scalloway-voe, *Quhytnefs-voe*, *Laxford-voe*, and *Beinwynefs-voe*, *Weisdel-voe*, *Wadhisten-voe*, *Delif-voe*.

In *BRESSEY* Parish.

Bressay Sound, *Gunnuls-voe*.

In *NEISTING* and *SANDSTING* Parish.

Tuetf-voe, *Sandfili-voe*, *Skeeldi-voe*, *Grutting-voe*, *Bringa-Seater-voe*, *Aithf-voe*, and in the Isle of *Vemin-drie*, one upon the West-side, and another on the North-side.

In *WAES* Parish.

Valley-Sound, *Hellen-Setter-voe*.

West from *Walsound* 16 Miles lyes the Isle of *Fula*, where Ships may ride, with a Land Wind, on either side.

In the Isle of *Papastour*, *Hamna-voe*, *Olla's-voe*, and *Calzeo-voe*, and *Houfa-voe*.

In the Parish of *DELTING*.

Olna-Firth, *Roesound*, *Maivisgrind-Voe*, *Burra Firth*, *Daillis-Voe*, *Caldaback-voe*.

In *NORTHMAVING* Parish.

Tuetsetmouth-voe, Manga Settar-voe, Gunnaſet-voe, Hammers-voe, Hildſwich-voe, Stanehouſe-voe, Hamna-voe, Ranis-voe, Yell-found, Burra-voe, Cola-Firth-voe, Gluf-voe.

In the Parish of *YELL*.

Hamna-voe, South-Ladie-voe, Gravelland-voe, Burra-voe, Rafirth, Silla firth, Culzea-voe, Glupe-voe.

In *NESTING* Parish.

One in the Iſle of *Skerrie*, and in the Iſle of *Quhalsay* one Road.

In *UNST* Parish.

Ure found, Balta Sound.

On the *MAINLAND*.

Suiningſ-voe, Gillesbrig-voe and Dure-voe, Lax-voe, Cattfurd-voe and Vaſſa-voe.

Southweſt from *Suinburgh*, about 24 Miles from the Land, lyes the *Fair-iſle* ; with a Creek for Barks, but no Commodious Harbour. I come now to the particular Deſcription of the Bailleries and Pariſhes.

The Deſcription of *DUNROSENES*

Chapter firſt.

D*UNROSENESS*, the Southmoſt part of *Zetland*, extendeth it ſelf from South-Weſt to North-Eaſt, *Viz.* from *Fitfell-head* to *Eaſter-Quarf*, 12 large Miles : from South-Eaſt to North Weſt *Viz.* from *Soumburg-head* to *Weſter Quarf*, 10 large Miles : but further North

it drawes much Narrower, being about the Midle but fix Miles in Breadth, and in the Northmoſt part, but three or four Miles at moſt.

The North-weſt bounds of *Dunroſeneſs*, is a range of Hills very high, called the Clift Hills, lying alongſt a narrow Arm of the Sea, two Miles in Breadth, dividing the Iſle of *Burra* from the Continent of Main-land: theſe Hills are five or fix Miles in Length, and very Steep to travell through, they lye from Weſter *Quarf* in the Pariſh of *Burra*, South-Eaſt to *Maweek*, where is a Creek or Voe, running two Bow-draught within the Land, but no Harbour, except for little Boats. Southward from *Maweek* lyes an Hill called *Ireland*, Head, from which toward South-Eaſt lyes a Village called *Ireland*, where ſtand the Walls and Steeple of an old Kirk, and from that South-Eaſt a Quarter of a Mile ſtands a Gentleman's Houſe call'd *Bigtoun* and a *Dutch Booth* built by *Bigtoun*, for the uſe of an *Hamburgh* Merchant, who lyes there in the Summer time, and makes Merchant Fiſhes. Oppoſite to which (diſtant from the Continent, a Quarter of a Mile towards the South) lyes an Iſle called *St. Ninians* Iſle, about a Mile in length, and half a Mile in Breadth.

This Iſle of *St. Ninians*, is very pleaſant and Fertile, in it is another Church call'd *St. Ninians* Kirk: this Iſland is but an Iſthmus or Peninſule; for from the Continent ſouthward, toward the midle of the Iſle, the Sea is divided by a Bank of Sand, and Channel, about twentieth paces in breadth, by which they goe both on Horſe and Foot, as dry and ſafe, as in any place, excepting when it blows a ſtrefs, at Weſt or North weſt, at which time the *Air* or *Bank* is all covered over with the Sea, except when it is a Low water, at which time the *Iſlanders* (when neceſſity requireth) will venture forth upon their Horſes bred for that purpoſe, who will cautiously wait a Lay, and ſo at the regreſs of the Surges, they come ſafely through.

Hard by this Isle toward South-East, lyeth a little Isle, or *Holm*, not inhabited or manured, but very commodious for Pasturage of Sheep : in this *Holm* are a great many Sea Fowles, (of which an account shall be given in the Chapter concerning the Natural History of these Islands) which here Nest and Hatch their young ones, they are very profitable to the Inhabitants of St. *Ninians* Isle, by reason of their Feathers (for which alone, I knew a *Jew* sent from *Holland* for that part of Trade,) and their Eggs also are esteemed very good Meat, being boiled hard, and eaten with Vinegar. Between St. *Ninians* Isle and the Continent, there is a Road or Bay entering from the South ; here Ships may ride safe enough in the Summer time.

From *Bigtown* toward the South-East, (half a mile distant) lyeth a Village called *Rear-week*, pleasant and fertile : here is another Creek or Voe, a good Harbour for little boats, but no Harbour for Ships.

From *Rear-week*, a Mile toward the South-East, there is another Village called *Scoufburgh*, where is another Creek or Voe, which entering from West North-west, runs a Quarter of a Mile within the Land, yet is not a safe Harbour for Ships, except when the Wind is at East and North-East. Here the *Hollands* Galliots will sometimes ly till they supply themselves with Water and other necessaries. Upon the South side of this Voe is an head called *Foranefs*, which lyes out into the Sea a quarter of a Mile. Opposite to which, toward North-West is a little Isle or Holm called *Colza*, not a Mile in Circumference, this Isle is not inhabited, nor manured, but affoords excellent pasture for Sheep and Neat ; the Sheep here, are extraordinarily Fat. Upon the South-East side of *Foranefs*, is another Creek or voe, call'd *Spiggie*, it is full of ragged Rocks, or *Skerries* in the entrie, and so no Harbour for Ships, but safe enough for Boats.

From *Spiggie*, toward the South, a quarter of a Mile distant, is another Village called *Nofse*, where is another *Creek* or *Voe*, but no Harbour for either Boat or Ship.

From *Nofse* to *Fitfell-head*, toward South and South-East, the length of four Miles, are very Rocks all along, without any Creek save one, called *Bergalie*, Northwest from the point of *Fitfell* two Miles, but neither is this any Harbour.

Fitfell-head is a very high Hill, or Promontorie, very Conspicuous to Seamen : within this head toward the East, is another Creek, on the East side of which, there is one called *Gairths-Nefs*, within which toward the East, is *Quendal* Bay, which entering from the South, runs more than a Mile within the land. In the Entry of this Bay, are three little Isles, or *Holms*, the Westmost (distant from *Gairthnefs*, a large Mile of Sea) is called *Crofsesholm*, it is good Pasture for Sheep. The next lying hard by it, toward South-East, is call'd *Swine-Island*, it is a very little Holm, and lyes very low. The third South-East from it (hard by the Land, on the other side of the Bay) is called *Horfe-Island* ; it is a very high Holm, but little, there is no entring of this Bay with Ships, on the East side of these Holms, nor yet between them ; but between *Crofs-Holm* (the Westmost of the three) and *Gairthnefs* is a very spacious Entry, without any Rocks or Shoals.

This Bay is too open for a Winter Harbour, but very commodious for the *Hollanders* in Summer time. The best Anchoring ground is in the West side of the Bay, in a little Creek or *Voe* called *Gairths-Banks*, a Mile distant from the outmost part of *Gairths-Nefs*.

The Bay has its name from *Quendal*, the Seat of a Gentleman of the Name of *St. Clare*, one of the most ancient and richest Heritors in this part of the Main land ; whose Predecessor honourably relieved the Duke of *Medina*

Sidonia, when Shipwrack'd in the *Fair-Isle* belonging to him.

From *Gairthsbank* to *Quendale*, (a Quarter of a Mile) is a very pleasant Platt of fertile Land, as likewise from *Quendale* North-west to *Spiggie*, but from *Quendale* (a large half Mile toward South-East, East and North-East) is nothing but sand, whereas, within these fiftie years, it was all Corn Land, and pleasant Meadows. It is a white Sand so admirably light, that with but an ordinarie gust of Wind, it flies so thick, that (like Mist) it darkens the Horizon. In the midst of this sand, (at the end of *Quendal Bay*) stands the South Kirk of *Dunrofenefs*, called the *Cross-Kirk*, a Church prettie large and well replenished, but of no Magnificent structure, yet equall to (if not exceeding) the rest of the Countrey. This Church is furrounded with Banks of Sand, two or three paces distant from the Water, consequently no good Burial place, for, if it blow but an ordinary gale, many of the Coffins are discovered, and sometime naked CorpSES; for all have not Coffins. To the South wall of this Church, are affixed two Monuments, one very Large, and very curiously cut, at the Expences of *Hector Bruce* of *Mowanes*: another (not so large nor so fine) belonging to *Lawrence Sinclair* of *Quendale*: there are other two, within the Church, standing upon Pillars, one pertaining to *Robert Bruce* of *Soumburgh*, another to *Quendale*; besides these are no graved Stone Inscriptions or Monuments within *Dunrofenefs*.

On the East side of *Quendal Bay*, lyes a platt of Ground, dry and very pleasant, all good Corn Land: this they call the Nefs. It is in length from North-west to South East, *Viz.* from the head of *Quendale Bay*, to *Soumburgh head*, two large Miles: about a large Mile downward from the head of *Quendale Bay*, toward South East, is a *Creek* or *Voe*, entering South west (in the mouth of the Bay,

hard by *Horſe-Iſland*) called *Weſt Voe*, a very good Harbour, for Ships, in the Summer time, but too open for a Winter Harbour. Hard by this *Voe* toward South and South-Eaſt, ſtand the Walls of a ruinous houſe, built by *Patrick* Earl of *Orkney*, and (a Bow-draught from it) the Houſe of *Soumburgh*, a Houſe prettie large formal, and very well ſituated: A little from which (toward South-Eaſt) is *Soumburgh-head*, a very high Hill, or Promontorie, verie Conſpicuous to Seamen; it is in length from North to South, a large half Mile, narrow toward the South point of it. Here is excellent Paſture for Horſes, Sheep, and Neat. Off this head, there is a very impetuous Tide called the *Rouſt*. A South South-Eaſt Moon, makes high Water here.

Haveing thus deſcribed the Weſt ſide of *Dunroſeneſs*, we come now to the Eaſt ſide of it, and beginning from the South point of *Soumburgh-head*, (*viz.* from South to North) We reckon from it to *Lowſie-Law*, a very Low head, at the entrie of *Gratneſs-voe*, ſome more than a Mile. Within *Lowſie-Law* (toward Weſt & North weſt) is the entrie to two *Bayes* or *Voës*, divided by a narrow neck of Land, called *Wilſneſs*. The *Voës* are theſe; that on the South-Eaſt ſide of *Wilſneſs*, is *Gratneſs-voe*, which (entering from Eaſt and North-Eaſt) runs a Quarter of a Mile within the Land: here lyes the *Dundees* Veſſel till ſhe receive her Loading, *viz.* Fiſhes, Butter, Oyl, Beef, Hides, and Tallow. On the South Eaſt ſide of this *voe*, and near about the midle of it, is *Gratneſs*, or *Greedy-Neſs*, where the *Dundee* Merchants have their Booths, as alſo ſome Taverners, (who in the Summer time) have their reſidence there, for ſelling of Ale, Beer, and Brandie to theſe Merchants, and their Customers, who reſort thither. The other *voe*, lying on the Northwest of *Wilſneſs*, and running alſo a quarter of a Mile, within the Land, is called the *Dutch-pool*, becauſe the *Dutch* and *Hamburgh*

Merchants were used to lye there, and make Merchant Fishes : this is the only safe Winter Harbour, in this Parish, only the entrie of it is a little dangerous, if it blow at East, or North-East, by reason of Sholes, except at a Full Sea, and a Stream Tide. Above this *Voe*, toward West and North-west, is a large Platt of Fertile ground, and pleafant Meadows.

From this Bay, the Land lyes North & North East ; two large Miles to the *Voe* of *Skelberry*, which runs near half a Mile, within the Land. This is no Harbour for Ships, being full of Sholes and Rocks.

From this *Voe*, the Land lyes North and North-East, (with high Rocks, all along, and some little Creeks) three large Miles to *Leven week Sound*. South & South-west from *Leven week* (a large Mile distant) lye the Ruins of two Forts, built by the *Picts*, upon a Rock, close by the Sea : a little befouth which, are three blind Rocks, called the *Balles* of *Clumley*, two of them lye hard by the Shore, the third more than a Bow draught off : they are to be feen at a low water : within the outmost of these *Balls* or *Skerries*, a Ship of good Burden (if acquainted) may pass without hazard, but if unacquainted they will doe well to keep without them.

Leven-week found, enters from South-East and runs North-west two Miles within the Land, it is in Breadth, a large Mile : Here the *Hollands Bushes*, or *Herring* Fishers, will ly in great Numbers, sometimes to the Number of an Hundred Sale at once, to whom the people from all Quarters, resort with Stockings, woven Gloves, Garters, Feathers &c. which they exchange with the *Hollanders* for Tobacco, Brandie, Shoes, Boots, Money &c.

Round about this Sound are Villages, and Arable Land with some Moor interjected, good for Pasturage, and Fuell.

On the North East side of the found, is the Ness of

Comly-week (very commodious for Pasturing of Horses, Neat and Sheep) within which toward the East, is the Bay of *Sandwick*, which entering from South, runs a large half mile within the Land; a good Harbour for Ships in the Summer time. At the head of this Bay is the Kirk of *Sandwick*, a Kirk of as good a Figure, and Order, as any almost in this Country. Here is a platt of ground, very pleasant, and indifferently fertile. Alongst the East side of this Bay, is a Nefs, good Pasture for Horses, Neat, and Sheep, called *Nonefs*, in the South end of which Nefs, is a very high Hill, call'd *Nonefs-head*, here are very great Seas, when it blowes at South and South-East.

From this Head, the Land lyes North, for the length of a short Mile, (*Viz.* to *Sands Air*) and near about the midst, betwixt *Nonnefs-head* and *Sands Air* (a short mile distant from the Shore toward the East) lyes an Isle called *Moufssa*, or *Queen's Island*, in length from North to South, scarce a Mile, and a Quarter of a Mile in Breadth: it was formerly inhabited, and a part of it manured, but now is only appropriat for Pasturing of Neat, Horses, and Sheep. In the West side of this Isle, toward the Land is a Castle or Fort, built, as is supposed, by the *Picts*; It is of a Pyramidal Form, or like a round Dovecoat, drawing narrow toward the top; the Rooms of it, have been in the Walls around the House, it is built close by the Shore, and the Sea by an under Passage flowes up within it.

I take the rise to discourse of our first building with Stone and Lime, in the North part of *Britain* and the Isles, from what is said of the *Picts* Houses, and I am of Mr. *Maul's* opinion, that the *Picts* were a more Civil people than the other Inhabitants of this Isle, and learn'd first, from the Romans the Art of Building. Mr. *Maul's* words are, *Mea opinione videntur Scoti & Picti, ex Lapidibus & calce ædificandi rationem primum accepisse, ex opere illo Romano, quod extruxit Legio Romana, jam*

non amplius redituro, Eugenio Fergusii secundi filio, apud nos regente, qui adhuc in tutela Græmi Proregis, avi sui materni hi enim (ut nostri referunt) ubi Vallum antea a Severo ductum fuerat, murum e Lapidibus extruunt, octo pedes latum, duodecim altum, ac eum in ambitu castellis distinguebant, quorum nonnulla Oppidorum speciem præferebant. Principium autem ducebat in Agris Pictorum, ab Abercorno Arce, finiebatur autem haud procul Brittonoduno, in Scotorum Regione, ut utraque Gens, antea ignara Architecturæ, inde exemplum sumpserit ab Ædícula vero illa rotunda quæ est ad Carontem Amnem Scotos desumpsisse exemplaria Ædificiorum primorum credibile est, ut & Pictos, nonnullæ enim hujusmodi adhuc in insulis tum Hethlandicis, tum Orcadenfibus integræ remanent, tum & in Rossia Regione : Brehini item turris Sacræ ædis rotunda, per vetustum opus, at post ædificata, quam illæ quæ in Insulis sunt tum ad Carrontem, quæ omnes ex Lapidibus sine cæmento constructæ sunt ; ista autem quæ Brehini est calce coagmentata, quam vetustiore, ac prius ædificatam, quam ipsa sacra ædes, ex cohæfione Turris cum æde satis facile videre licet. Est & huic altera Abrenethii, quæ Regia quondam Pictorum, ex cæso item lapide ac calce firmata, ego facile crederem Pictorum utrumque Opus.

An vero Romani, an ipsi Barbari, ædiculam rotundam quæ ad Carrontem est, ædificaverint, ac ibi pro fano constituerint incertum apud nostros Scriptores : ego a nostris excitatum opinarer, quia adhuc in ultima Rossia, qua nunquam Romanorum arma penetrarunt, hujusmodi adhuc quædam extant integra ædificia & majora & Laxiora : Præterea multis in locis ruinæ ac Rudera talium quandam ædicularum Orbicularium, quæ ut plurimum in locis editioribus cernuntur, ab Incolis vero appellantur Crunnach, quam vocem prisce sermonis periti interpretantur

Gentis rotunda ædificia, et ibi certe Ptolemeus collocat Creones; quæ vox efformata videtur a vocabulo Patrio Crunach.

In Hethlandicis Insulis plurimæ hujusmodi ædiculæ sunt, quæ vulgo a Pictis excitatæ creduntur. Illic certe adhuc Pictorum Ædificia monstrantur ex magnis & quadratis Saxis asperis constructa, rotunda, ad omnia similia Ædiculæ rotundæ quæ est ad Carrontem Amnem ac creditur opus quondam Romanorum fuisse, ab optimis quibusque Scriptoribus, & ad hujus formam cætera omnia quæ vel in Rossia vel proximis Insulis sunt, ædificata esse.

At ista quæ in Insulis longe sunt majora, cubilia vero non humi in solo, sed in crassitie muri, ad quæ scenditur ab imo circumitione quadam muri turbinatim adinstar cochleæ, & sic ad summum fastigium, ut se quis circuire quam ascendere credat.

Hujus generis adhuc unum in insula Mouffa integrum, e cujus imo solo descensus est subterraneus quem incolæ aiunt pertingere usque ad proximum mare, quod non inde procul distat, ibique exitum fortiri, ubi quondam Incolæ Picti scaphas & Naviculas habebant in omnes fortunæ eVectus parata; ut si qua vi aut fraude ab Hostibus Domus capta fuisset, seu obsessa, ut se per descensum tanquam per Cuniculos ad mare sese recipere potuissent, ac hostium manus sic evadere.

But to return; from *Sands Air* (of which we spoke,) the Land lyes North East, for the length of two Miles, *Viz.* to *Cunysburgh*, where is another Kirk, built in the time of Poperie: above this Kirk Northward (two large Miles) is only Arable Land and Meadows, a very pleasant platt of ground.

From the Kirk of *Cunysburgh*, the Land lyes again East and South-East, the length of two Bow draughts, making a little *Voe* or Bay beside the Kirk, but it is very open, and full of *Skerries*, and therefore no Harbour:

but from the Kirk, two Bow-draught eastward, is another Bay or *Voe*, called *Aithf-voe*, entering from South, and running North (a large half Mile) within the land. It is a narrow *Voe* and an Harbour good enough for small Ships, even in the winter time. On the East side of this *Voe*, lyes a Nefs called *Holy Nefs*, a Mile and an half in length, from the end of which Nefs, toward East and North East, Enters *Bressy Sound*; along which *Dunrofsenefs* lyes, North West, four Miles to Easter-*Quarf* in the Parish of *Burra*.

Thus you see that the Arable Land and places Inhabited in *Dunrofsenefs* lye around the Coast; now the land Interjected, is Hills, very commodious for pasturage of Horses, Neat, and Sheep, as likewise for Fewell, where, Mark, that they who live nearest the Hill are best accommodat, in all the Respects before mentioned.

Dunrofsenefs was of Old, divided into three Parishes, but now only into two, (united under one Ministrie) *Viz.* the South Parish or Parish of *Cross-Kirk*, and the Parish of *Sandwick*, the people of *Cuniburgh* now resorting to *Sandwick*. As concerning the rest of the Kirks and Chapels in *Dunrofsenefs*, by whom they have been built, and upon what occasion, cannot be certainly determined: some think they have been built by Shipwrecked Men in the time of Popery, and Dedicated to their Guardian Saints: others that the *Udallers* of this place (being men of Substance) have built them for their own conveniencie and Ease.

Dunrofsenefs, as it is the most fertile, so it is above Comparifon the most Populous place in all *Zetland*: the only grains that grow in this place, are *Oats* and *Bear*, of which (if they fold none to other places of the Country) they would feldome want as much as serve themselves, which is the peculiar advantage of this place. There is good store of Sheep, Neat, and Horses here; but the

Wool is very rough, yet of it they make the finest Stuffs and Stockings, that you will readily find of Wool, but it costs them a great deal of pains to fine it. Their Cloth is not so good here: they were wont to make very Course Cloth, (called *Wadmiln*) the threads whereof, were as thick as Fishers Lines, and this they payed to the *Danes*, as a part of their Superiour Duties, but now they spin it small enough, but they have no Cloth Milns to thicken it, and therefore (being thickened only with hands) it is not dureable. Their Mutton for the most part being poudered, (that is salted) is dried in little Houses, which they call *Skees*, Houses built of dry Stones without any Morter that the Wind may have free passage through them, for which cause they call the Meat so dried, Blown Meat, which really is not unpleasant.

The Oxen and Cows here, are prettie big, a great deal taller than in *Orkney*, but the Horses are very little generally, not exceeding nine hands breadth; an Horse of twelve hand breadth high (which is but rare here) is esteemed a very tall Horse, but to speak truth, they are metalled above belief.

Some of the Gentlemen here, have very tall Horses, for their own Sables, which they bring from *Caithness* or *Orkney*. Here were wont to be great plentie of Fishes, but now they are much decayed, whereby you may perceive (Fishes being the chief income here) how much this place (as also the rest of the Country) is impoverished, yet not so much by the decay of Fishes, as by the exorbitant exactions of the Customers that come to this Countrey: whereby they have banished the *Dutch* and *Hollanders* from this place, without whose Commerce it can hardly subsist. The severall kinds of Fishes here are these, Killing, Ling, Tusk, Turbat, Skeat, Seaths, Sea-dogs, (here called Hoes) and Podlocks (here Piltocks) which three last are very beneficial, by reason of the Oyl they

make of their Livers, which is one chief commodity of this place.

Of the Fishes they take, some they salt, some they hang in Skees till they be fowre, and these they call Blown Fishes, which indeed are very delicious, & easie to be concocted: here they make no Stock-Fishes: another chief product of this place is Butter, which here they make very good. Here likewise are many Swine, whereof they make delicious Hamms, only the Swine here are little.

The Parish of *Cross-Kirk*, hath this great advantage, that they never want Ale, whereas the rest of the Countrie, (abstracting from the Towns, and some few Gentlemen's Houses) they have seldom or never other drink in the Winter, but *Bland*, or rather *Blend*, being a Liquor blended or mixed of Milk and Water, which flowes from the Butter, this they Tunn up in Puncheons in the Summer time, and keep it till Winter, it is then in colour, like White Wine, they ascribe to it a vertue to warm the Stomach, which must be from the Acrimonie of it, they are accustomed to drink it without prejudice, but they that are not, will quickly find Damage by it, for it is the most astringent Liquor that ever I tasted. *Experto crede.*

There are no Woods, nor Forrests, no Parks nor Orchards in this place; here are no Partridges, nor Moorfoul, but abundance of Duck, Teal, Plivers, &c. there are no Foxes, no Toads, no Snakes, nor any venomous Creature: here were abundance of Rabbets, but many of them are destroyed by Weasels, maliciously brought hither by His Majesties Falconer, because once refused Rabbets to his Hawks.

There are no Rivers, but very good Springs; yet none we know Medicinal: there are some Loughs in this place, but not very Big; one in the North west part of

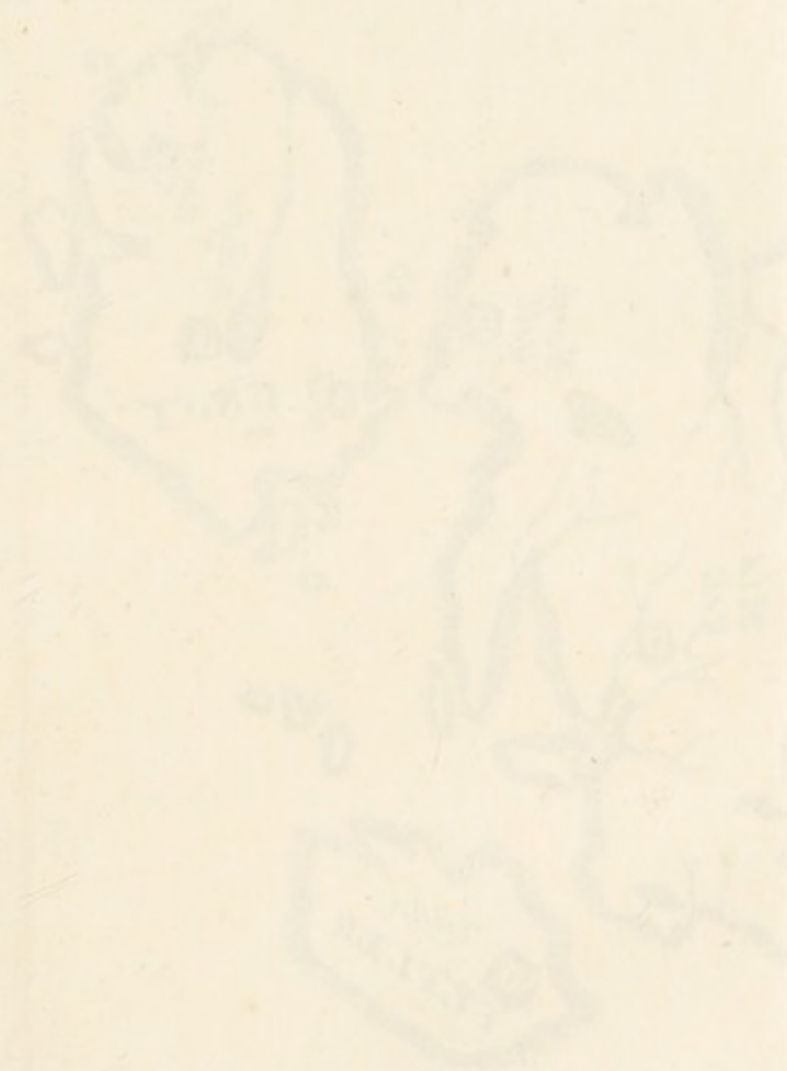
the Parish called the Lough of *Valefeter*, about a Mile and an half in circumference: the next South-East from it, and three Miles distant, is the Lough of *Scousburgh*, near two Miles in circumference: the third, South-East from it half a Mile, is the Lough of *Hilwell*, scarce a mile in circumference: the fourth, North East from it a Mile, is the Lough of *Skelberry* about a Mile and a half in circumference. The fifth, North-East from it some more than a Mile, is the Lough of *Clumely*, about a Mile in Circumference. The 6th, in the Northmost end of *Dunrofenefs*, is the Lough of *Flathbyster*, about a Mile and a half in circumference. These Loughs are replenished with no Fishes, but Trouts (whereof they have plenty) but all of them very good for Gunning, having abundance of Ducks, Teals, Swans, &c.

We know of no Mineral here, nor substance cast up by the Sea, except the Wrack of Broken Ships, whereof the Admiral disposeth.

This Countrie with *Orkney* is a Stewartrie, the greater Affairs whereof are (in the Stewards absence) managed by a Steward Deputie, or Deputies; the lesser by Baillies (commiffionated by the Steward) in their respective Parishes and Isles.

The Inhabitants of the South Parish, are (for the most part) Strangers from *Scotland*, and *Orkney* whose Language, Habite, Manners and Dispositions, are almost the same with the *Scottish*, only here they are much more Sagacious and subtle, and withall false and deceitfull, proud above measure, Stubborn if softly, but Flexible if roughly handled, not unfitly compared by a certain Gentleman to the Thistle, which if you grip not hard, will prick you.

They are generally great Drinkers, and withall Vene-reous and Quarelsome, their Language is the same with the *Scottish*, yet all the Natives can speak the *Gothick* or



The Map of SCHETLAND



Re: Miles Sulp.

Norwegian Tongue : they are generally very sharp, and very docile : by reason of their Commerce with the *Hollander*, they promptly speak *Low-Dutch*. In this Parish are many Gentlemen, who are either *Sinclairs* or *Stewarts*, the Offspring of several Earls of *Orkney*, or *Bruces* from *Scotland*, who are (except some *Kings-Land*, and some *Udall-Land* possessed by some of the *Udallers*) Proprietaries of all *Dunrofenefs*.

The inhabitants of the North Parish are, very few excepted, Natives of the place, yet of the same habit, Manners and Disposition with the other, excepting that here they are very sober, less venereous and Quarrelsome, and withall richer. Here are many *Udallers*, Proprietaries of the Land manured by them, these are Men of substance : all the Inhabitants of this Parish can speak the *Gothick* or *Norwegian* Language, and seldom speak other among themselves, yet all of them speak the *Scots* Tongue, more promptly, and more properly, than generally, they do in *Scotland*.

Their Hospitality here must not be pretermitted, wherein a common Farmer doth far exceed the Gentlemen of other places.

The Description of the *FAIR ISLE*.

Chapter second.

THE *Fair-Isle*, lyes near about the midst between *Orkney* and *Zealand*, and from it (if the *Horizon* be clear) you may have a Prospect of both Countries : of *Zetland*, a very clear view, but not so distinct of *Orkney*, because the Land lyes low.

This Isle is in length from North to South, three Miles, but very narrow, not exceeding a large half mile, in the

broadest place : the *Hollanders* (who usually Cruiz about it) reckon it three Leagues in circumference : here are very impetuous Tides, which (without a good Gale of Wind,) no Ship is able to cutt : a South-South-East Moon causeth high Water here.

This is a very high lying Land having three Hills or Promontories ; two in the West-side : one near the South-end called *Malcolms-head* ; another near the North-end called the *Wart* ; a third on the East side called *Vasseter*, to which is adjoined the *Sheeps-Craig*, a very high Rock about a quarter of a Mile in Circumference ; it hath excellent Grafs for Sheep, and the Sheep there are admirably Fatt ; they use no Doggs to take them, but Men on foot catch them without difficulty, for being chased but once about the Rock they fall of their own accord, which if they do not the Shepherd concludes them not fat enough for Slaughter : the only entrie to this Rock is from the Sea, for it lyes low in the East Corner only, and ascends by degrees towards the West ; in the midst of it is an excellent Spring, and under it just about the midst, the Sea runs through it as through a Vault of well polished work ; where small Boats sometimes (to shun the Violence of the Tides) pass through safely.

This Rock as I said is adjoined to the Land, yet only in the bottom of it, and thirtie Fathoms upward by a Narrow neck of Ground, above which about an 100 Fathoms hight it is divided from *Vasseter* the adjacent Promontory, so as there can be no entrie to it from the Land, whereas within these 40 or 50 years it was Levell ground.

In this Isle are two Harbours, one in the South end of the Isle, called the South Harbour, entering from South-South-East, it is full of Rocks, and no Harbour for Ships, but commodious for *Orkney* Boats that travel to *Zetland*. In the South-west neck of this Creek or *Voe*, is a Booth,

built by *Quendale* proprietarie of the Isle, for the use of an *Hamburgh* Merchant, who used to lye there, and make Merchant Fishes, hard by which stands the Kirk of the Isle: the other Harbour lying West and North-East from it, about a Mile and an half, is called the North-Haven; it lyes on the East side of the Isle, benorth the *Sheep-Craig*, and enters from East North-East: this Harbour is clean enough, having no Rocks nor Sholes, but one very small and high Rock, good for fixing of a Land Rope; the only safe entrie to this Harbour is in the North side of that little Rock: here small Ships may ride safe enough in the Summer time, but it is no good Winter Harbour.

This Isle is surrounded, with very high Rocks, all along, save only in the South end, and North-east part of it, in both which places, are many *Skerries* or Ragged Rocks: on each side of the Isle, are some little Creeks, where (if the Wind blow not on the Land) a Ship may stop a Tide.

This Isle is indifferently fertile so far as it is manured, yeelding greater increase, than any Land in *Zetland*, but the Cultivated ground of it is but little, lying all together in the South end of the Isle, the rest they reserve for Pasturage and Fewell, though the most part of the Isle might be made good Corn-Land: their Grass here is very short, but very Fatt, as appears by the more than ordinary fattness of their Milk and Butter: there is no grain here but Oats and Bear, whereof they seldom want as much as serves themselves: no Woods here nor Loughs, no Rivers, no Broom, no Whins, no Partridges no Moorfowles; but there are here Multitudes of Sea Fowles, which are not a little beneficial to the Islanders by reason of their Feathers, which is one chief Commoditie of this place, but they buy them dear, with their hazard always, and sometime the loss of their Lives, for they Nest in high Rocks, more

then a 100 Fathom depth from the Surface of the Earth, as many Fathoms high from the Sea, they goe down in Ropes to catch them, and sometimes in stead of catching the prey, they sometime catch a slip and are either crushed on the Rocks, or drowned in the depth. An excellent Falcon nests and hatcheth in this place, whose young ones are taken with the same difficultie and hazard, that the Sea Fowles are caught.

The chiefeft income of this Isle, is Fishes, whereof they have great plenty, *Viz.* Killing, Ling, Skeat, Turbatt, Seaths, Sea-dogs (here called Hoes) and Podlocks (here Piltocks) which three last are very beneficial, by reason of the oyl, which they make of their Livers.

Of the Fishes they take (such as are for their own use) some they eat fresh, some they hang in Skeos till they be soure, and these they call blown Fish: such as they design for Merchant Ware, some they salt, some they hang fresh in Skeos, till they be perfectly dry, and these they call Stock Fishes, whereof they have great plentie here.

This Isle is reckoned ten Leagues, or thirtie Miles from *Zetland* yet is united with the Ministrie of *Dunrofseness*, the Minister whereof goes thither once a Year, where for the space of six Weeks (less or more, according to his conveniencie) he daily discharges some part of his Ministerial Function, preaching frequently. There is a little Church here, more regular, and more orderly frequented, than will be easily believed: they have always a Reader, who every Sabbath reads the Sacred Scriptures, and in the Ministers absence Catechizes them: and it is worth the marking, that Fornication, and other such escapes (frequent in other places) are very rare here.

The Inhabitants of this Isle, are (for the most part) from *Zetland*, whose Language, Habit, Manners and Dispositions, are almost the same with theirs, only here all the Inhabitants are bald: for which cause the *Zet-*

landers say of them, that there is not an Hair between them and Heaven: they themselves ascribe the cause of their Baldness to their excessive toying in Rowing through Impetuous Tydes; but I rather incline to believe, that their baldness proceeds from Scals, for all of them being full of Scals while they are young, doeth necessarily occasion their loss of Hair: Now their Scalyness may be judged to proceed either from their Nestiness, or (which I am apt to believe) from the dropping of the Fishes, which hang above their Heads, as they enter their Skeos.

The Inhabitants of this Isle, were of late Men of considerable Substance, but now they are greatly Impoverished, not so much through depredations, as that the *English* and *Hollanders* take not them in their way, for the occasional access of Strangers is their greatest advantage for vending their Fishes, Feathers, &c.

One memorable Accident, here occurs, namely that the Duke of *Medina*, Admiral of the Formidable *Spanish Armado* (in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, Anno 1588) here suffered Shipwrack in a Creek on the East side of this Isle, where the Ship split, but the Duke with 200 Men came to Shore alive, and wintered here in great Miserie, for the *Spaniards* at first eating up all they could find, not only Neat, Sheep, Fishes, and Fowls, but also Horses, the Islanders in the Night, carried off their Beasts and Victual to places in the Isle, where the *Spaniards* might not find them: the Officers also strictly commanded the Souldiers to take nothing but what they payed for, which they did very largely, so that the People were not great losers by them, having got a great many *Spanish Ryalls*, for the Victualls they gave them, but now the People fearing a Famine among themselves, kept up their Victuals from the *Spaniards*; thus all supply from the Isle failing them, they took their own Bread (which they had preserved) which being dipt in Fish oyl, they did eat,

which being also spent, it came to pass, that many of them died for Hunger, and the rest were so weakned, that one or two of the Islelanders finding a few of them together, could easily throw them over the Banks, by which means many of them died, at length all sustenance failing, not only to the *Spaniards*, but also to the Islelanders, they sent a small Boat or Yole to *Zetland*, desiring a Ship to carrie them out, lest all the Inhabitants of the Isle should be famished. Notice came to *Andrew Umphrey* of *Burra* (then Proprietarie of the Isle) who having a Ship of his own, instantly went to the Isle, and brought them to *Zetland*, where for the space of 20 days, or a Moneth, they met with better Entertainment. The Duke stayed at *Quendale* till the ship was readie, where (imagining the People did admire him) he made his Interpreter ask *Malcolm Sinclair*, of *Quendale*, if ever he had seen such a Man? to which *Malcolm* in broad *Scots* (unintelligible to the Interpreter) replied, Farcie in that face, I have seen many prettier men hanging in the *Burrow-Moor*.

From *Zetland* *Andrew Umphrey* carried them in his little Ship to *Dunkirk*, for which the Duke rewarded him with three thousand Merks.

The Description of *BURRAY*.

Chapter third.

BURRAY is so called, because it signifies a Burrough or Brugh: it lyes upon the West side of the Mainland of *Zetland*, some what Southerly, every where encompassed with the Sea, and is divided into two Islands, to wit, *Kirk-Island* and *House-Island*: *Kirk-Island* lyes Westmost, being in length from *Keth-nefs* Southward, to *Brunnin-nefs* Northward, four Miles and an half, and in breadth (even where it is broadest) not a quarter of a

Mile, from East to West ; the South-most and westmost parts of it are covered with Grass, the Northmost, and Eastmost, with Heather.

Here is a Church, within a Mile to the Southmost end of the Island, standing near to the Sound side of *Burray*, called St *Lawrence* Church, (Built as it is reported, by the Mid-most of the three *Norwegian* Sisters, the eldest having built the Church of *Tingwall*, and the youngest sister the Church of *Ireland*) the steeple whereof, will be five or six Stories high, though a little Church, yet very fashionable, and its *Sanctum Sanctorum* (or Quire) yet remains.

Here, near a Mile and a half from the Northmost end of this Island, there is a Chapell in *Brough* (the highest place Inhabitated within the Island) how it is named, or by whom it was built it is not known : now it is become altogether ruinous.

Here are two or three sterile Loughs, or rather Pooles : here are two rich Coniegars, the one in the Links of *Mean*, Southward, and the other in the Links of *Meal*, Northward.

Here is a Sound that divides *Kirk-Island* and *House-Island* called *Burray* Sound, and from South to North, it is six or eight Miles in length, at the South-most end, it will be a Mile of Breadth, and at the Northmost end, half a Mile, but in the middle of it from East to West, very narrow ; which at *Grunzie* Sound, every Sixth hour, Ebbs dry, where when it flows there is a Current of *Tydgate* ; the Southmost end of this Sound, a long Mile from the Sea, it is deep water, and good Anchor ground, in a small Bay whereof toward the West-North-West, an *Hamburgher* Merchant lyes with a Ship yearly in the Summer, for making of *Fish*, and buying of other Commodities of the Countrey : to the North and East of this, are many blind Rocks, Shelves, and base foul ground,

commonly called the Baes of *Sumbister*, and of *Paphill*, and of *Norbister*, &c. where no Ships frequent, but in the Northmost end of this Sound the Water is deeper, and the ground clearer, where are two small Holms, the one straight befouth the other.

House-Island lyes Eastmost, being in length from *House-nefs* Southward to *Walsees Air* Northward, three Miles and a half. The South-most end whereof is covered with Grafs, and the North-most with Heather. In *House-nefs* there is a Promontorieie with a Wart upon the top of it.

Here, within a Mile of the Southmost end of the Island, is a Gentleman's dwelling-House opposite to the Church on the other side of the Sound, whose Sirname is *Sinclair*, above an Hundred years standing in this Countrey.

This Island hath on the East side of it, *Clift-Sound* (so called from the high hills above it, the Clifts which disjoyn it from the Continent or Main-land) this Sound is twelve Miles in length, running from *Mavewick* Southward, to *Scalloway* Northward, and in Breadth (from East to West) in some places two Miles, in some places one Mile, in some places half a Mile, and in one place which is at the Deick-end of *Howle*, near *Scalloway*, not a quarter of a quarter of Mile, where in high Water, it will be five or six Fathom, & Southward still deeper, till you come to twentie two Fathom, which is at the South entrie, the ground is clean, but few Ships Anchor in it, except in a little Bay of it, clos under *House*, where is a small Skerrie in the mouth of the same, and the reason of it is, because it is the South way that leads to *Scalloway*, where there is a good Road.

To the South-East, and South-South-East of *Burray*, lyes *Mavewick*, *Ireland*, and *St. Ninians* Isle, in *Dun-rofenefs* parish, with the Interjection of the outmost mouth of *Clift-sound*, two or three Miles breadth.

To the due South of *Burray*, lyes *Havery* (an inhabited Island, belonging to the Parish of *Burray*, a Mile distant from the same) it hath on the South, and the West, the Ocean, in length lying South-East and North-west, it is three quarters of a Mile, and in Breadth lying North-East and South-west, is not above a quarter of a Mile, it is all covered with Grafs: here one Ewe, hath very ordinarily two Lambs, and here doth no Moufe nor Rat live, yea its Mold or ground, hath such a vertue, that if it be carried to places where Mice and Rats abound, it will presently kill them, which hath often times been proved.

To the West of *Burray*, is the Ocean, to the North-west *Guldirumple* in *Sandsting* Parish, with the Interjection of the Mouth of a wide Firth, of seven or eight Miles breadth, which runs in the length of *Wesdale* East North-East, as many Miles as it is broad, and divides it self into many Branches or *Voers*.

To the North-west of *Burray*, in the foresaid Firth, towards *Sandsting* and *Wesdale* Parishes, are sixteen or seventeen small Islelands all covered with Grafs, save one called *Linga* covered with Heather, whereof three only are inhabited, to wit *Oxney* Westward in the Ocean; *Hildeshay* a little Eastward of it, in the Bay; and *Papa-little*, Southward of both: these three Isles are somewhat stored with Conies, but of all these three only *Papa-little* belongeth to the Parish of *Burray*, and is distant from it, about half a Mile of Sea; in length lying South-South-East, and North-North-West is a long Mile, the Breadth of it is not considerable.

This Island affords good Grafs for the fatning of Sheep, and close by it, betwixt it and *Burray*, is the West way, that leads to the Road of *Scallowey*, always keeping the Castle in sight. To the North of *Burray*, lyes *Tronrey* belonging to the Parish of *Tingwall* of two Mile length,

with the Interjection of a small Sound called *Stream-sound*, where is some Tydegate running East to *Clift-sound*, and West to *Burray-sound*, not a quarter of a Mile in length, very narrow in Breadth, at the East end whereof, is a small Green Holm, and a little, to the South-South-West of it there is a Skerrie, betwixt both at high Water it will be three Fathom deep: Here once a Ship passed through, whose Skippers Name was *Earl*, but keeping too Northerly, when he entered *Clift-sound* Eastward, the Ship funk upon a blind Rock, to this day called *Earls Bae*.

To the due East of this *Stream-sound*, & over *Clift-sound*, lyes *Quarfdale* (almost in the middle of the *Clift-hills* on the Continent) belonging also to the Parish of *Burray*, in length (lying due East and West) it is a just mile from Sea to Sea, that is, from the Ocean on the East, and *Clift-sound* on the West, where is the narrowest place of the whole Continent or Main-land of *Zetland*; it hath on the South *Sandwick* Parish, and on the North *Tingwall* Parish.

Here, in *Easter-Quarf*, is a Chapell, how called or by whom it was built, is not known, only the Foundation with some Rubbish remains at this day.

In Anno 1652 in *August*, the *Hollands* Navy by a tempest of Weather, were driven into the West side of *Burray*, where a fire Ship was wracked, and a little Southward of *Burray*, a man of War or two funk to the Bottome, the rest of the Fleet upon Life and Death hazarded and Ventured in amongst the small Isles, to the North of *Burray*, and Anchored there, and rode safely.

Burray and *Bressay* are under one Ministerie, and lye distant the one from the other near seven Miles South-west and be West, and North-East, and be East.

The Description of Island of *BRESSAY*.

Chapter fourth.

THIS Island lyeth South and North in length, and East and West in Breadth, the length of it is six Miles, which beginneth at the *Bard* South-ward, and endeth at *Beofter* Northward, the breadth of it is two Miles, which beginneth at *Nefs-Sound* East-ward, and endeth at *Bressay Sound* West-ward; it is every where encompassed with the Sea, having to the West *Tingwall* Parish (being a part of the Main-land, with the interjection of the Sound) to the South-west *Cuningbrough* with the interjection of a Firth, of five or six Miles breadth) which is at the South entrie of *Bressay-sound*, to the South and South East the Ocean; to the East the Island of *Noffe*, with the Interjection of a small sound; to the North-East the Ocean; to the North *Whalsay*, with the Interjection of a broad Firth of 12 Miles; to the North-North-west, *Nesting* with the Interjection of a Firth of four or five Miles, in which are severall blind Rocks and Shoals, but easely discerned in regard of the *Brake* that is constantly on them, through the Seas motion. Here, within a Mile and a half to *Bressay*, is an Holm, called the *Green-Holm* and about three quarters of a Mile to the South-west of it, there is an other Holm called the Holm of *Beofter*, near to the Shore of *Bressay* benorth the which, some space, there are two (easily discerned) Rocks, called the *Brethren*, between them once a Ship was lost.

This Island is Mountanous and covered with Heather (except Corn Land, that lyeth on its Border, close by the Shore) and is good for Pasturage, the Bestial are not so plentiful here, as in many other places of the Countrie.

It hath in it two Promontories or high Hills, the one Named *Andrew's-Hill*, at the East fide, by *Cullinsburgh*, the other the *Wart-Hill* (which is highest at the South-end by *Kirkabuster*) both well warded for the benefite of Sea-faring men. It hath in it two Churches, the one in the North end, at *Gunielfstay* named *St. Olla's Church*: the other in the East fide at *Cullinsburgh*, named *St. Marie's Church*, where the Minister hath his Manse: also there is a Chapel in the South-South-west fide at *Kirkabuster*, Named *St. John's*, but now Ruinous; when or by whom they were built is not known, only the two foresaid Churches (where Ordinances are now served) were a little enlarged by the late Minister.

It hath in it five Ancient Picts Houses, one at *Brough*, one at *Liranefs*, one at *Beoaster*, one at *Culbinsburgh*, and one at *Nosse fount*.

It hath in it eight Loughs, of no considerable length or Breadth, to wit, the Lough of *Grein-fitter*, the Lough of *Brough*, the Lough of *Seateer*, the Lough of *Aith*, the Lough of *Gunielfstay*, two Loughs of *Beoster*, and the Lough of *Kellabuster*, all which have small Brooks running from them, and are somewhat stored, with Common Trouts and Eels.

Here, within sight of *Bressay fount*, on the West fide of the Isle, there is a standing stone, ten foot of hight, three foot of Breadth, and seven inches thick, just as you are in the middle of the Mouth of *Bressay Sound*, it stands to you, due North-North-east.

Here are two excellent Bayes or Roads, the one is named *Aiths-Voe*, at the North end of the Isle, which opens North-Westward, and runs up South-Eastward, a Mile in length, and a quarter in Breadth, good clean Anchor ground, of Six, Eight or ten Fathom deep at high water, in the Mouth whereof lyes a round small Holm, called the Holm of *Gunielfstay*: the entrie to this

Bay or Road, is best on the East side, betwixt this Holm and *Aithsness*, for on the West side towards *Gunielstay* and *Beoaster* are very dangerous Shoals and blind Rocks, at the head of this Bay or Road in old time, *Englishmen* had a Booth where they made fish and exported.

The other Bay or Road is called *Bressay Sound*, which lyeth at the West side of the Isle, dividing it from the *Main-land*; the most famous Road in all *Zetland*; in length is near four Miles; in Breadth, in some places a Mile, in some places half a Mile, and in some places not a quarter. The South mouth of this Sound opens South-west, the middle of it lyes nearest South-east and North-west; and the North mouth of it opens North-North-East: excellent Anchor ground, where Ships may safely ride all Weathers, in some places twelve Fathom, in some places eighteen Fathom, and in some places twentie Fathom deep at high water. There is no hazard in all this Bay or Sound, save only one blind Rock called *Loofaber*, that lyeth in the middle of it, benorth the Town of *Lerwick*, to the South-west of a little Holm, called the *Holm of Cruister*; and therefore when any Ships are going to or coming from the North, they must hold close to the West shore against the foresaid blind Rock and Holm; likewise, it is to be remembered, in the Northmost end of this Sound, overgainst *Heugon*, in high water there are but fifteen or seventeen foot Water, so that Ships of great Burden cannot go out North.

Here in old time (in years of peace betwixt *Britain* and *Holland*) there have been seen 12 or 15 hundred Sail of *Hollanders* Fishers, who did great good to this poor place, but now there come not above 2 or 3 hundred fail.

Here in *Anno* 1640, in the Summer time, ten *Spanish* Men of Warr (under name of *Dunkirkers*) surprised four *Hollands* Men of Warr, waiting for the *East Indian* Fleet, two whereof were sunk, at the West Shore of the

Sound, one fled hence about eight or ten Miles North-westward, where running on Shore, her own Captain caused blow her up, and the 4th was taken and carried.

Here in *Anno* 1653, in *May*, lay some days the *English* Fleet consisting of 94 Men of War, *Deans* and *Monk* were Admiralls.

Here also in *Anno* 1665, in *August*, lay some days the *English* Fleet consisting of 92 Men of Warr, the Earl of *Sandwich* was *Admiral*. It is in all *Zetland* the Road most frequented.

The Description of the *ISLE* of *NOSS*.

Chapter fifth.

THIS Island lyeth South-east and by East, and North-west and by West in length; and South-west and by South, and North East and by North in breadth. The length of it is two Miles, which beginneth at *Nosse-head* South-eastward, and endeth at the *Sound-side* North westward: and the breadth of it is about three quarters of a Mile, which beginneth at the Sea Southwest-ward, and endeth at the Sea North east-ward.

This is a pleasant Island, for the most part covered with Grass, and stored with Bestial, and there is considerable Corn Land in it for so much bounds. Here is a little Church or Chapel, at the *Sound-side*, built as it is reported by Shipwraught Persons, the time when and the Name of it is not known. At the South-East end of this Island there is a high Promontorie called *Nosse-head*, the top whereof hangeth outwards to the Sea, and therefore by the *Hollanders* named *Hang-clip*, in the face whereof builds and Nests the best Falcon in the North except that of the *Fair-Ile*.

From this head South-westward, not half a quarter of a Mile, there is a Holm fiftie Fathom high from the Water, and sixteen Fathom over betwixt and the Island, which no man ever could climb but one, having fixed some stakes on the brink thereof, opposite to the Island, in coming down he broke his Neck: and on the Island side opposite, there are so many stakes fixed, upon which there is a Rope, with a small Ark (called the Cradle) fastened, wherein one Man at once goes in and comes out of the Holm. Truly it is such a rare conceit, that it cannot well be expressed by Words, without much circumloquution. This Island is well served, with all sort of Sea Fowls, and hath on the West, *Bressay*, with the Interjection of a small Sound called *Nosse-sound*, running from South to North; a Short & a Narrow, a shallow and a dangerous Sound, currented with Tyd-gate, not above eight foot deep at high water, and on all other parts it hath the Ocean. Here is no Anchoring, but in great Necessitie, either befouth or benorth the Islands, betwixt it and *Bressay*.

The Description of the Parish of *WAES* in
YETLAND.

Chapter sixth.

THE united Churches of *Walls* in the *Mainland*, are *Walls* and *Sandis* Islands, *Papa*, and *Fala*, *Walls* being the Westmost Parish in the Island of *Yetland*: the Church of the same is called *St. Pauls* Church. There is an Island *Wallaye*, lying South-west from the said Church, and a Sound betwixt them very commodious for Ships: there are two Entries to the Harbour, the one from the South, entering North, where is to be observed,

that those intending for *Walleys-sound*, they must steer to the West of a Rock which will be visible to them, and no hazard but what is seen, the water being deep enough for any Merchant Ship, and the Port secure for Shipping, either Summer or Winter. The Products of the said Port being Herring, which are ordinarily taken in the Moneths of *June*, *July* and *August*; also Codlings, Lings, through the whole year. The other is called the *Wester-sound*, entering the same Port which entereth from South-west to North-east, but is not to be entered without a Pilot.

There are several Lochs in the Mountanous places, almost Barren, except some Gray-coloured Trouts.

The Island of *Fula* lyeth twentie Miles distant from the Western sound of *Walaye* west, where there is no Harbour, Road nor Anchor ground for Shipping in Summer, and much less in Winter, being surrounded with the Rageing Seas. The Island is exceeding High, Mountanous and Rocky, and there is little Arable ground in the same, but not profitable for Pasturage, the Manured little, but yet fruitfull, the product of the place is Stockfish and Feathers.

Sand-nefs lyeth North from *Wael*s fix Miles, where there is no Harbour for Ships, but the Ground is fertile of Bear and Oats. Betwixt *Sand-nefs* and *Papa* is a Sound of a Mile in breadth, entering North-East from the Ocean, having a Reif of Rocks on every side, with two little Isles, the mid Channel is to be keep'd, where there is no hazard, the water being sufficiently deep, but no Passage for Ships betwixt either of the Isles and the Shore.

Hamna-voe in *Papa* enters from the Sea, on the South side of the Island, and goes North-east, dangerous to pursue without a Pilot, there being several turnings and Shoals a little after the entrie, but the Harbour it self is

secure for Shipping, Summer and Winter. *Houffo-voe* on the North side of the Island, entering South-west, a Summer Harbour: Another Harbour, called *Culle-voe* half a Mile West from that Port, entering due South without hazard, keeping the mid Chanel, a secure Harbour for Ships both Summer and Winter.

The Products of these Harbours are the same with *Walleys found*, the Commons of both places being Fishers by Occupation.

There are certain Rocks lying West from the said Island of *Papa* which are visible to Sailors, six Miles which are commonly called the West Skerries, to which no Ship can approach within a Mile, without hazard, by reason of the Impetuous Current and Tides at that place.

The Description of *DALETING*.

Chapter seventh.

DALETING is so called, because it is a *dale* with a *Tang* or *Nefs*.

This Platt of ground, lyeth South and North in Length, and East and West in breadth. The length of it eight Miles, which beginneth at *Mara-field* South-ward, and endeth at *Yell-found* side North-ward: the breadth of it is above five Miles, which beginneth at *Colla-Firth*, and endeth at *Culfitter* West-ward.

This Plat of ground is very Mountanous and bad for travelling, and is covered with Heather and Moss: here in old time there was but one Parish Church, North-westward at *Scatstage*, called *St Pauls Church*, somewhat excentrick for the People, wherefore it was deserted, and is now become altogether Ruinous, but the Inhabitants here (for their better accommodation in Gospel

Ordinances) afterwards erected and built two Churches, one at *Olna* Firth in the South end called *St. Ollas* Church, and the other in the North end of *Daleting*, called *St. Magnus's* Church: both these Churches of late were rebuilt and enlarged by the present Minister thereof, who constantly visits them *per vices*, as is commonly observed through the whole Countrie, these churches are five or six Miles distant the one from the other.

Here are good store of Sheep, many whereof are Scarr or wild.

Here are three Ancient Picts Houfes, (now ruined) called by the Native Inhabitants *Burroughs*, one at *Burro-nefs*, North-ward, at *Yell-sound* fide: another at *Burro-voe*, Southward at *Waderflay*: and the third a little Holm Westward in the mouth of *Meiklerooe sound* at *Booflaye*.

Here are many sterile Pools, in regard they are filled with Peat-water: it hath on the Sound, *Tingwall* and *Weifdale*, with the Interjection of the long Hill eight or ten Miles in length: on the South-west *Aithfling* or *Twat*: on the North-west to North, *Northmaven*, with the interjection of a sound, of one or two Miles breadth: on the North, and North and by East *Yell*, with the Interjection of the Sound called *Yell-sound*, of Miles breadth, where is a strong current of Tyd-gate, so that a Ship under fail, cannot without difficulty and danger go against the stream: on the North-East the Ocean, and on South-East *Nesting*, with the Interjection of six or seven Miles of Mountanous way.

Here on this fide of *Yell-sound*, are severall small Isles, belonging to *Daleting*, the Northmost is called little *Rooe* about a Mile in circuit; and about a Mile from thence North-East, lyes *Brother-Isle*, about a Mile and a half in compass: from thence North-east lyeth *Onerie*:

from thence South-East lyeth *Bigga*, two Miles in compass, where is a ruined Chapell, built (as is reported) by Shipwrackt Men, but how called it is not known; from thence South east, lyes St. *Erie*, about a Mile and a half in compass: from thence South, lyeth *Fish-Holm*, about a Mile in compass. From thence West lyes *Linga*, about a Mile and a half in compass.

South-ward of which lyes a little Holm called *Wather-Holm*, all Inhabited (save *Onerie*, *Linga*, and *Wather-Holm*) and manured, but the Corns thereof are subject to be blasted; all of them are covered with grafs, and are good for pasture.

Here are severall Bayes called by the Inhabitants *Voes*, very commodious for Ships: on the North-east, lyeth *Colla-firth-voe*, which goeth up South and by West, a Mile within Land, of Fathoms deep: from hence North-west and by west two Miles, lyes *Dales-voe*, which goes up South-west a Mile and a half, of Fathoms deep in flood; in high Winds, it is dangerous to pursue either, in regard of the Whirl-winds, that come from the steep Mountains on either side of them. From thence North a little, lyes *Swinister-voe*, which goes up half a mile within Land, of Fathoms deep. From thence Northward, about a Mile, lyes *Firths-voe*, which goes up half a Mile, of Fathoms deep. From thence Northward, lyes *Grunavoe* which goes up South, about half a Mile within Land, of Fathoms deep. From thence Westward, lyes *Urka-voe*, which goes up south, a Mile within land, of Fathoms deep. From thence two Miles, lyes *Lax-voe* which goes up South-east, a Mile within Land, of Fathoms deep. From thence South-ward, two Miles, lyes *Hard-wellvoe*, which goes up South-east, half a Mile within land, of Fathoms deep: and also *Scattflayes-voe* and *Brea*, running up Southerlye a large way within Land; all excellent Harbours for Ships, where the ground

is clean & fomewhat deep ; for at *Brea*, the *Hamburger* or *Bremer* Merchants use to lye with their Ships yearly in the Summer time for makeing of Fish : About half a Mile from thence South-ward, lyeth a Large Island called *Meikle-Rooe*, about fourteen Miles in compafs, in it are twentie four steril Pools : this Isle is good for pasture & useth to have many Sheep upon it : here in this Isle on the West side of it lyes a good Harbour called *Hams of Rooe*, so strongly fortified & fenced by Nature, that no Wind or storm can wrong any Ship that lyeth in it. On South-south west of this Island, there is a Firth or an Arm of Sea, the mouth and entrie whereof is called *Swarback-smeen*, which goeth up fix Miles, within land, wherein are fix Harbours or Bayes going up Eastward, to wit *Gon-firth-voe*, *Ollna-firth-voe*, *Watherstaye-voe*, *Burro-voe*, &c. there is a division by a small parcell of ground, betwixt the Seas of the North Parish and the West Sea.

Daleting is in Form like a *Trapeza*.

The Description of *YELL-ISLAND*.

Chapter eighth.

THE learned Mr. *Robert Maule*, in his Latine MS. concerning our Antiquities, thinks that this Isle *Yell*, or *Zeal* as some call it, gave the Name to the People who first Inhabited *Zetland*, and to their Language also : from this Isle all the Inhabitants of these Isles in their Countrey Language call themselves *Yalts*, which in our Language also signifies a *Shetlander*, and their Language by themselves is called *Yaltmol*, and he thinks this was the *Thule* of the Ancients, & was of all the *Shetland* Isles the first Inhabited, because of its nearness to *Norway* from whence the first Inhabitants of

these Isles came : and tho he acknowledgeth that the Isle of *Unst* lyeth benorth it, and is a more pleasant Isle too, yet because *Unst* is encompassed with a most tempestuous Sea, and only even in our time, at certain times can become at without great hazard, therefore he makes *Yell* the *Thule*, which is more frequented by Merchants, and has a *Bremer* who has his abode therin, and Trades with the Inhabitants, Importing what is necessarie for them, which, after the Ancient way, he Barthers with them for the Products of the Island : But now in our time *Unst* is more frequented, and is better known : the Isle of *Yell* is ten Miles distant from the Main-land of *Zetland* towards the North of it : it is twentie Miles in length and eight in Breadth as he tells us, others make it to be in length eighteen Miles, and Nine in Breadth.

Some make it but fix Miles distant from the Main-land : it hath three Churches in it, in which there is Sermon, each near eight Miles distant from other, the Isles of *Samfrey*, half the Island of *Bigga*, together with the Isle of *Hafcofea*, all Inhabited, belong to it ; yea the Isle of *Fetlar* was, at the Reformation and long after, a part of this Ministerie, which had then but one Minister, though now two, and there are about twentie Chapells in it, and it makes a Bailliewick.

One of the Churches is named *Refurd* Church, which lyeth in the Southmost part of the Isle.

The Chief Harbours in this Isle are by South, *Burra-voe*, *Hamna-voe*, *Basta-voe* and *Refirth* : and by North are *Culye-voe*, *Hamna-voe* entereth from the East and runneth through *Yell* Sound.

Northwest from *Hamna-voe* is an Harbour called *Southladie*, and an other called *Gravelland*, the entrie from the South-west, esteemed a good Harbour.

Burra-voe, hath its entrie from the West.

Rae-Firth-voe hath its entrie from the East.

Sylla-firth-voe in the midle of the Isle hath its Entrie from the East.

Culy-voe hath its entrie also from the East. In the Northmoſt part of the Island *Gloup-voe* hath its entry from the North.

Yell lies North-East and by East from the Main: it is more moffie than the other Isles, tho there is in it ſome good Paſtorage and Corn Land, to the East of it lyes *Haſcoſea*, two Miles long; and to the South-weſt *Samphra* one Mile long; to the Weſt, South weſt *Bigga*, a Mile and a half long, all pleaſant and well Graſſed, and has much Fewel: all of them fit for Fiſhing.

Fetlar lyeth South eaſt from the Isle of *Yell*, it hath a Promontorie in it called *Standbruch Neſs*; it is a Baillierie: it runs Eaſt by South, and Weſt by North: it has no Harbour for Ships, but Creeks for ſmall Boats, there is one Church in it for Sermons, and it hath ten or eleven Chapells.

The Deſcription of *NORTHMAVEN* Pariſh.

Chapter ninth.

NORTHMAVEN is the Northmoſt part of the Main-land of *Zetland*, bounded on the South-South-Weſt, with *St. Magnus's Bay*: on the Weſt and North with the Ocean: on the North-East with a part of *Yell-ſound*: on the Eaſt and South with *Daleting*, from which it is divided by a Narrow piece of ground, called *Mavis grind*, where the land is ſo narrow, that a man may caſt a ſtone over from the one Sea to the other, beſide which there is an Harbour called *Manga ſeter-voe*, entering at the South-weſt: about five Miles from this, are three Harbours, all three opening to the South-Weſt; the firſt called *Gundafetter-voe*, a good Harbour, but a

bad entrie to unknowing Sailers, by reason of some hidden Rocks, that lye in the mouth thereof: the other *Hamelf-voe*, a Secure Harbour, and a good entrie: the North most is a Summer Harbour called *Hilswick-voe*, where an *Hamburgh* Ship lyeth for transporting the commodities of the Country, beside which there is a Church for Sermon called *St Ollas Church*. West and North-west from this, there is a little Island called the Isle of *Stennes*, beside which *Scots* Ships were used of old to lye for taking of Fishes. North-East from *Stennes* lyeth *Hamna-voe*, opening at North-North-west, a bad entry to Stranger-Seamen, by reason of some hid Rocks, which lye in each side of the entrie. In the middle of the said Parish lyes an high and large Mountain called *Ronise-hill*, otherwise *Bleaubarg*, twenty Miles in Circuit, upon which are twentie small Lakes, or rather large Pools of Water, out of which runneth a bourn or rivulet which breedeth store of speckled Trouts. South to the said Hill, at the foot thereof, the Sea runneth up into the Land full four Miles, which is called *Ronis-voe*, and could Harbour many Ships, were it free from the Flams of Wind, which come from the Mountain: to the North of *Ronise-hill*, lyeth *North-Rue*, where are two summer Harbours, the one called *Sand-voe*, opening at the North North west, the other called *Burra-voe*, entering to the North. There is another Church also in the said Parish, called *St Magnus Church*; the Air is wholsome, but the Soil naturally Barren, bearing but little Corne, the want whereof is supplied from *Orknay* and *Scotland*: this place of the Country breeds good Falcons, and store of other Fowls.

There is a small Isle on the West side of this Parish, called the Isle of *Niben*, which feedeth good Sheep, and breeds such store of Fowls, as you may gather in the summer time Loads of Eggs, and yet leave enough behind for the Fowls to Hatch.

There are many Eagles and Ravens here, but no Venemous Beast nor a Frog to be found in this Parish. The principal Commodities are oyl, Butter, Herring, Wool, White Fish, Hides, and Course Stockings.

The Inhabitants are Hospitable, subtile, given to flatterie. Their ordinary Drink is *Blend*, which is made of the Milk that remains of Churned Butter, being clarified and Barrelled up for Winter.

There are no Antient Monuments here, except some old Ruinous Houses, built of dry stone, called *Picts houses* or *Broughs*, and some old Ruinous Chapells, built as is supposed by Ship-broken Merchants in the days of superstition, of which there is one called the *Cross-kirk*, where the superstitious Commons of old used to frequent in the silence of the night, each carrying their Candles with them, and then feasted and sported until day, but this superstitious Custome is now banished.

The Description of the Island of *UNST*.

Chapter tenth.

UNST is the Northmost Island of *Zetland*, lying on the fixtie one degree of Latitude: from the South part to the North, which is the length of it, it is eight Miles, and the broadest part of it will not exceed four Miles. The chief Harbour is called *Uzea sound*, an excellent large Harbour, not much inferiour to *Bressay-sound*, it flows South-South-East, of nine Fathoms deep, and very good Anchor ground at the Bottom. This Harbour has three entries, one lyes toward the East called *Skuda sound*, having two Holms to the South, the one is *Grunzie*, the other *Weather-Holm*, good for Pasturing of Sheep and other Bestial: the second entrie lies toward

the South, called *Col-grave sound*: and the third lies toward the West, called *Bluma sound*, in which there runs more than an Ordinarie Current, North and South, and it flowes an hour sooner than at the *Uzea-sound*, though it be scarce two Miles distant from it. Upon the South-East part, there lyes an excellent little Isle called *Uzea*, fertile in Corn and Bestial, which is divided from *Unst* by *Uzea-sound*, and 'tis thought this Isle gives Name to *Uzea-sound*.

Upon the east part of *Unst*, there is a little Castle called *Mownefs*, built by *Lawrence Bruce* sometime of *Cultimalindie*, having a little Creek contiguous to it call'd the *Hamne* of *Mownefs*, having its entrie toward the North-east, in which Boats may ly safe, but it is not an Harbour for Ships.

In the middle part of this Isle of *Unst*, there is another excellent Harbour called *Balta-sound*, which takes its Name from a little Island called *Balta*, on the East, consisting of a Mile in length, and near a quarter of a Mile in breadth, notable good, for grazing of Oxen, Kine, Sheep, and other Bestial, and very well stored with Rabbits, but there grows no Corn in it: there is an old Chapell here, called *St. Sineva's* Chapell. This *Balta-sound* is an excellent safe Harbour, about eight fathoms deep, and good Anchor ground; in length a Mile, and in Breadth half a Mile, it hath two entries, one to the South, of a considerable Breadth and deepness, so that any first Rate Ship can come in; another towards the North, Narrow, Shallow, Rocky, only for small Ships: Upon the South part of *Balta Sound*, there lyes a small Isle called *Huny*, good for Pasture, but not for Corns: in time of Lent, the Inhabitants find abundance of Shell Fishes, such as they call Cullzeoks, Smirlings, Cockles, Spouts and Muscells in this Harbour.

North-ward from this, the space of a Mile, there is a

large Bay called *Haralds-week-Bay* the entrie of which lyes, East-South-east full of Hidden Rocks, in no wayes good for Ships.

Upon the North fide, there is an old Chapell called the *Crofs-Kirk*, and he that will fail to the *Crofs-Kirk*, will undoubtedly meet with a great one: at the head of this Bay, there is abundance of Spout Fish, in time of Lent: and towards the South-west, there lyes a high Hill called *Haralds-hill*, or the Hill of *Haralds week*, full of Rocks and great Stones.

To the North of this, almost another Mile, lyes the Bay of *Norweek*, the entrie of this lyes to the North-east, of a great deepness, but not safe for Ships to Harbour in, by reason of its narrowness, having many blind Rocks in it, and in foul weather an extraordinary great Sea leads it. Upon the North part of the entrie of this Bay, called the *Skae* of *Unst*, there is a great current, that runneth North-east, and South-east; much resembling that of *Soumbroch* head, having a little green Holm, to the North, called the Holm of *Skae*: upon the south fide of this Bay stands an old Chapell, called *St. Johns Chapel*, but commonly the Kirk of *Norweek*, and upon the North fide of it, there is a great high Hill, called *Saxa-vord*, having on the top a great hole downward, of an extraordinary deepness, which the old inhabitants call *Saxiesdoor*, in which (say they,) the *Giant Saxie* lived of old; and a little from this to the North-east, there is a great Hollow Rock, which they call *Saxies Bottle*, having a Hole in the Bottom, through which the Sea enters, that all the Tinkers in this Country cannot help, which Bottle will contain more Beef and Mutton (if well packed) at one time, than *Unst* is able to spend in a twelve Month.

Three miles westward from this, there is yet a Bay, called *Burra-Firth*, the entry of which is very deep and sandie ground, but towards the Shore is very Shallow:

upon the West fide of the Bay there lye feveral Rocks, or Skerries, which Selches frequent in the Moneth of *November*, and the Inhabitants neglect not to wait upon them to kill them, the Skins they fell, but the Bulks they falt, and in time of Lent, they eat them as sweetly as Venifon. At the head of this Bay, Southward, there lys a great Loch of three Miles in length, but not half a Mile in Breadth, in which there is abundance of small Trouts, Eels and Flouks.

There is a little Holm in the midft of this Loch, having a *Skeo* in it, in which the Owners ufe to dry their flock fifh and *Vivda*, *i: e.* flesh dryed without being falted. *Vivda*

Upon the West fide of *Unst*, there is no Harbour at all, but great Rocks, and a Roaring Ocean: there is a great Hill upon this West fide called *Valla field*, about two Miles in length, upon which there growes nothing but Heather: at the foot of this there is a little Bay called the Bay of *Week*, with an Entrie to the North, in which the fifhing Boats ufe to land, but it is not for Ships: and North-west from it about a fhort Mile, there ftands a high Rock call'd the *Vaer*.

Unst hath three Parifh Churches, one in the South part, call'd *Week*; another in the midle of it called *Balzistay*; and a third in the North part, called *Haralds-week*, and but one Minifter, who fubjoins a Complaint, that the Vicars of *Unst*, have never payed the Minifters, their ftipends, either compleatly or pleafantly, and with all they have ftoln away from the Church 300 *Merks per Annum* conform to the Aët of Parliament, which *in fine* will prove like the Eagles Nef that was once fet on fire with a Coal that fticked to the flesh which was ftoln from the Altar.

The Chief product of this Ifland, is Butter, Fifh, Oil and Hides, the Corn is fo little that it cannot maintain the Inhabitants above four or five Moneths, at moft; the Chief of the Fifh is Ling, Killing and Tusk &c. their

Bestial is Kine and Oxen and but few Sheep; they have abundance of little Horses that pasture in the Hills both Summer and Winter without being stabled at all: the Inhabitants use to fish in small Boats, being four or six Men in them the piece, and they sell their fishes, to the *Bremer* or *Hamburgh* Merchants that use to Traffick here: the Inhabitants generally are Irreligious and much given to Venerie, and to Tobacco, and they have a drink made of Milk and Water, which they call *Bland*, which in the Winter time grows sour as Vinegar; and they have a Language which they call *Norn*, that differs from the *Danish*: the Government of the Isle is by Bailies.

In the Isle of *Qualsay* there is a little Hill, on the top of which, if you set a Compass, the Needle will stand contrary, the South point looking to the North, and being removed but two foot from that place it stands right: and in the Isle of *Fetlar*, at *Odsta* is a Chapell, where if you place a Compass, the Needle will still run round without resting.

Concerning the *Natural Advantages* of *Shetland*, for the Inhabitants, and their Usefulness to the Crown of *GREAT-BRITAIN*.

Chapter eleventh.

ALBEIT these Isles of *Shetland* lye far North from the Continent of *GREAT-BRITAIN*, in the Main Ocean; and can have little Commerce in the Winter time with it, yet, Nature (by their Situation in the North Passage to the Countries upon the *Baltick* Sea, and to both the *Indies*, and by the conveniencie of their Bays and Sounds, and by the Qualitie of the Country which disposeth all the Inhabitants to Trade, and to Fishing) has

been very kind to them: they are very usefull to the Crown of *Britain*, and give great Advantages to it, if they were improved, as they may be in the time of Peace for the securitie and relief of the Fleets which pass that way. I shall give some Account of the Advantages Nature has given to the Inhabitants there, which are not a few.

The many Winds there Purifie the Air much, so that they usually live to a great Age, in much health, except the small Pox, which sometimes rageth there: they are not infested with contagious or Pestilential Diseases: the Scurvie is the Disease they are most troubled with, for Remedie of which they abound with such Plants, as cure it, every where; *Viz.* the *Scurvie-Grass*, *Sorrell*, the *Cresses*, and *Water-Purpie* or *Beca-bunga*, the *Sedum Vermiculare*, *Chamæmorus*. And the Heather serves not only as a Medicine to them, but also with the Tops of it they season their Ale, which gives it a Briskness, and makes it keep: and besides they have most of the Herbs which grow in the Neighbouring Islands of *Orkney* and *Feroe*. They have abundance of Kine & Sheep, and many Shalties, *i. e.* Horses of a small Size, but durable and Active: and the Rocks afford them all sorts of Sea Fowls, and they have many fresh water Fowls, such as are narrated in the Description of the Firth of *Forth*, and others of which there is an account in the *Prodromus*: they have also Domestick Fowls, whereof they have plentie.

They have not much Corn, but for that want, it is supplied by their Trade with their Product.

The Inhabitants of these Isles have most benefit by their fishing, which yet in some years is greater than in others, and they have not only all the Fishes which frequent the *Baltick* Sea, but also these found in more remote Seas, by tempests of Wind, and the Impetuous Motion of the Seas, are caught about these Isles: and Tortoises and such as frequent the *Atlantick*, are some-

times cast in alive upon their shore, and sometimes Tritons and Mermaids are seen about these Isles. But their greatest profit is from the Herring Fishing, alongst there Coast, especially in the Moneths of *July* and *August*: the *Hollanders* yearly with great Fleets of Busses reape their in *June*, they begin upon the Coast of the Island of *Unst*, and go along the East side of *Shetland* to *Orknay*, and from thence over *Murray Firth*, towards *Yarmouth*, upon the Coast of *England*, continuing to Fish, from the Summer *Solstice* to the first of *December*, and at the same time Employ several Hundreds of Doggers, for taking of White Fish: for besides vast quantities of Herring taken in *Shetland*, many Ships Loading of Cod and Ling are taken there, and beside them they take many Tusk, (a rare wholesome and delicious Fish) from the end of *May*, at the East of the Isle of *Bressay* and *Whalsay*, and of *Dunrosenefs*: the Natives themselves make use, for their fishing, of small Boats, which they call Yalls, about the bigness of *Gravesend Oars*, and they take their Ling and their Cod with Hooks and Lines, they take also Seeths (of the Livers of which they make Oyl) and other small fish with Angles, sitting on the Rocks, and in their small Boats with Hooks and Lines in the Sounds, and between the Isles, which small fish are considerable: what they eat not presently, the rest of them they preserve in their *Skeos*.

With their small fishing Boats or Yalls Rowing them with two Men, and sometimes four according to the Largeness of the Boat, they go to the Main, about two or three Leagues more or Less, where the Banks are, and there they lay their Hooks and Lines for Ling and Cod, and usually every Morning (that they go to Sea) they take about fiftie or fixtie Ling and Cod: if they had better Boats and tackling, they might take a great many more fish of all sorts: and if Magazines and Work

Houfes were fet up, provided with all neceffaries, it would much enrich the Inhabitants, and add much alfo to the Revenue of the Crown.

They take alfo Turbet, Mackrell, Congers, and Skate, Sword-fifh, and Sturgeon fometimes, and many Sorts of Shell fifh, as Oyfters, Mufcels, Spoutfifh, Cockles, the Sea Locufte, and Lobfters and Crabs.

The Land in all thefe Ifles aboundeth with Conies, and the Rocks with Otters, and Selches, the Skins of which furnifh them with a matter of Trade.

Of the firft Inhabitants of thefe Ifles, that they are the *Thule* mention'd by *Tacitus*, and how they came to belong to the Crown of *Scotland*.

Chapter twelvth.

THE firft Inhabitants of thefe Ifles were a Colonie of the *Goths*, who from the Baltick, and from *Noraway*, firft came to fettle there, and afterwards from the marking of their Bodies with Various figures, were called *Picts*; that thefe Ifles were in their Poffeffion, appears from *Claudian*, in thefe Verfes of his *de 3 confulatu, Honorii, Carm : 7*.

*Facta tui numerabat Avi, quem littus aduftæ
Horrefcit Lybiæ, ratibusque impervia Thule :
Ille leves Mauros, nec falfo nomine Pictos
Edomuit.*

By which as the *Mores* were the Inhabitants of *Lybia*, fo he makes the *Picts* the Poffeffors of *Thule*, and the fame *Claudian*, IV *Conful. Honorii, Carmen : 8*, tells us.

Incaluit Pictorum fanguine Thule.

Which confirms that the *Picts* were Inhabitants there. Beside, *Conradus Celtes*, in his *iter Balticum*, points at *Shetland* to be the *Thule*, more directly thus,

*Cogor ad Arctoum pergere forte Sinum
Orcadibus qua cincta suis Thule,*

This is the *Thule* mentioned by *Tacitus*, *Vita Agricolaë* Cap. 10. treating of *Caledonia*, *Han, oram novissimi Maris, tunc primum Romana Classis circumvecta Insulam esse Britanniam adfirmavit, ac simul incognitas ad id tempus Insulas, quas Orcadas vocant, invenit domuitque, dispecta est et Thule*, which can be applyed to no Isle, so well as to *Shetland*, which *Mela* placeth, *Bergarum littori opposita*, which is the true Situation of it, since *Norway* proves to be the *Nerigon* of *Pliny*, in which *Berga* is over against the Northmost parts of *Shetland*, the *Norse* Language yet in use with the Inhabitants of *Shetland*, and the many *Broughs* or *Picts-houses* there, put this out of all Question: so these Isles came with the rest of the *Picts* Country to be under the Crown of *Scotland*; in after times the *Norwegian* *Pirats* seized them, from whom they were afterward recovered, and upon the Marriage of King *James* the third, were given up with *Orkenay* to our King, and were since annexed by Act of Parliament to the Crown. The Learn'd Lawyer Sir *Thomas Craig* has given an account of this Right of the Crown to these Isles, thus. *Si res ex jure agatur, profecto & Orcadas & Shetlandiam ad Scotiam pertinere, indubium est, sed invalescentibus Danorum armis, cum fere omnia maria Classibus occuparent, silvis materiam abunde sufficientibus, Dani & Norvegi, vi & armis earum Insularum Imperium sibi vendicarunt, & Norvegi Occidentales Insulas, Hi tamen eodem modo eas restituerunt, quo acquisiverant. Illi vero Orcadas & Schetlandiam,*

post, cum Margarita Jacobi tertii Conjuge & Christiani primi filia in dotem dederunt, sub pacto de revertendo, ut nostri loquuntur, cui etiam reversioni postea renuntiaverunt, ex vi et tenore fœderis illius, quod inter Serenissimum Principem Jacobum quartum, & Christianum secundum Danorum Regem intercessit, Alexandrique sexti Rom. Pont. auctoritate confirmatum, & in acta Registri Romanæ curiæ relatum.

The Civil Government of these Isles of old was under a *Foudrie*, there was one who was the *Great Foude* (in the time the *Norvegians* possessed these Isles) who had the same power which our Stewarts and Sheriffs now have, in judging both Civil and Criminal Actions, he governed the whole Country, having ten *Fouds* under him, that is Bailies, & there were so many Bailleries in the Country: once in the year, the *Great Foude*, did convene all the Udalers and Heritors anent the Affairs of the countrie, the place of their meeting being the Holm beneath the Manse of *Tingwall*, which retaineth still the Name of *Tinga Holm*, or the *Court Holm*, where they sate in the open fields, in the *Lawting*. When any of the Parents or Masters of the Families died, the Minister, the *Foude*, and some honest Men, convened at the *Airv-house*, the place of their Meeting, where by a *Shundbill* or Decreet, they ordered the Youngest to have the dwelling house, and the rest, both of Moveables and Heretage, was divided *Gavel kind, sine discrimine, sexus vel ætatis*, and the Judge the *Foude*, for his part, had the best Grip, and yet as Bailie hath his Custell-penny. Their Laws were these of St. *Olla*, whom the Natives have in great esteem: he was one of the Kings of *Norway*, of whom strange things are reported, in their Songs they have of him, call'd *Vificks*. Some statutes also concerning their Sheep were made by *Hagen*, Duke of *Norway*, Son to King *Magnus*, as may be seen in the Description of the *Feroe* Isles, page 228:

these were directed to the Bishop of *Feroe* and to the provincial Judge of *Hetland*, for the determining controversies amongst the Commonalitie, dated at *Opfle*, anno 1040.

Since the year 1669, when it was erected with *Orkney* in a Stuartrie, the Government is by a Stuart, the same that is also Stuart of *Orknay*, who deputeth one or more Deputies, and so many Bailies under him, and he names one to be Admiral Deputie, who takes : care of what belongeth to the Admiralty. And he who is Commissarie of *Orknay* has jurisdiction in *Shetland* also, who has his Deputies, and takes cognizance of what is proper to that Court. The Seat of Justice, is the Castle of *Scalloway*, where two Head Courts are kept, one at Christmases, the other at Hallowmases, beside Circuits and other particular Courts : the Bailies are substitute in each parish for deciding smaller affairs of Neighbourhood betwixt Man and Man.

The Ecclesiastick Government in these Isles, was an Arch-deanry a dignity by it self, Independent of *Orkney*, the residence of the Arch-dean was at *Tingwall*. He had many Lands belonging to it, both in *Orkney* and *Shetland*. Since it hath been annexed to the Bishoprick of *Orkney*. Now under Presbyterie the Ministers (in Number eleven) meet four times a year, viz. on the first *Wednesday* of each Quarter, each of them hath large bounds, and two or three Churches, in which they preach on the *Sundays per vices*, which makes their toil great : their Maintenance is by Tithes, either Vicarage or *Umboth* Tithes, the Vicarages some of them are in the hands of *Lay-Vicars*, or of the Ministers themselves, the *Umboths* belonging to the Crown.

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