

noise like thunder, casteth forth great stones, vomiteth out Brimstone, and fills all the ground with ashes round about it, so that the Countrey cannot be inhabited for two entire miles round about it. They which draw neere to this Mountaine to consider and view more curiously the causes why it burnes, are sometime swallowed up alive by some hidden breach in the Mountaine, for there are many, and those covered so with ashes, that no man can beware of them: therefore they call this place *Carcer sordidarum animarum*, the prison-house of uncleane soules. Besides it happeneth, that the yce being loosed, doth in great peeces for 8 moneths together beat against the shore, and maketh such an horrible sound, that the Inhabitants say, it is the crying and howling of those soules. There is an other Mountaine of the same nature called *Helga*: this Mountaine in the year 1581, (as *Jonas* witnesseth) did cast forth fire and stones with such a thundering noise, that foure score miles from thence, they thought some great pieces of Ordnance had bene shot off. In one part hereof, strange Spirits are seene in the liknesse of men, so that those who doe not know them to bee dead before, would thinke they were alive: nor doe they finde their error before the ghosts doe vanish away. But these things *Jonas* thinke are fabulous, or else the delusions of the Devill. *Crantzius* and *Olaus* doe write, that the Islanders, for the most part, doe dwell in Caves, which they digge in the sides of the Mountaines, especially in the Winter time. But *Jonas*, on the contrary, saith, that there are many Temples and houses built of wood very faire and costly. The Island hath two Cathedrall Bishopricks, as *Holar*, or *Hallen*, under which are the Monasteries *Pingora*, *Remsted*, *Modur*, *Munkemiere*; and *Scalholm*, under which are those Monasteries *Videy*, *Pyrnebar*, *Kirckebar*, and *Shieda*. Yet wee understand by the writings of *Velleius* the Authour of this Table, that there are nine Monasteries in it, and three hundred and nine and twenty Churches. The Bishops are sent thither out of the Universtie of *Haffnia*, the only Universtie in *Denmarke*; one of them governeth the Northerne part of the Island, the other the Southerne. And each of them hath a free Schoole joyned to his house, in which hee is bound to be at the cost of the bringing up and teaching of foure and twentie Children. The Inhabitants live, eate, and lodge in the same houses with their Cattell. They live in a holy simplicity, seeking nothing more than what Nature grants them; for the Mountaines are their Townes, and the Fountaines their delight. A happie Nation, not envied by reason of their poverty, and so much the happier because it hath received the Christian Religion. Yet the *English* and *Danish* Merchants doe trouble their quiet; not suffering them to be content with their owne; for they frequenting this Island, to bring away fish from thence, have brought among them their vices together with their wares. The memorable acts of their Ancestours, they doe celebrate in Verse, and doe keepe them from oblivion by engraving them on Rocks. They live, for the most part, by Fish, which being dried and beaten, and so made into a kinde of meate, they use at their Table instead of bread. But the wealthier doe eate bread twice baked. Heretofore they dranke water, and the richer milke, but now they have learned to mingle corne with it, which is brought hither from other places, and they

The Papists thinke, that here is their seined Purgatorie.

Solheimio

The manners of the Inhabitants.

Their food.