ISELAND.

Selænd is the greatest of all those Islands in the Western Ocean, which are subject to the Kings of Norway; it takes this name from the cold, wherewith it is partly frozen. It is also called Suelandia, from the Snow: Also Gar- 
darsholme, that is, the Island of Gardart. The most do 
suppose this to bee that Thule mentioned by the Ancients, which also 
Poelme doeth call Thule; the middle whereof he placeth in the 30. 
Degree of Latitude, and 63. of Longitude. Solinus placeth it five dayes 
and nights stately from the Orcades. An Island the most famous of all 
other with Poets, when by this, as being the farthest part of the World, 
they would intitate any thing farre distant. Whence Virgil saith, Tibi 
fervas ultima Thule, may the farthest Thule serve thee. But Sinism doth 
whether there were ever any Thule: and Giraldus writeth, that it 
was never seene, and the more Learned are doubtfull in their opinions. 
The most doth affirme (as wee said) that Selænd was heretofore called 
Thule: yet Saxo the Grammarian, Cran-Kus, Milius, Jonas, and 
Pencenius are of a contrary opinion unto them. But of this enough: I returne a 
gaine to Selænd. It is situated not under the 1st Meridieon, as one hath 
noted, but in the eighth Degree from thence. The length of it is an hundred 
German miles, as the common Writers have it, and Jonas addeth to 
these foure and forty. The Latitude or breadth is fixe and fiftie German 
miles. It hath an ungentle ayre, and for the most part it is unhbitited, 
especially towards the North, by reason of the vehement Western 
winds, which will not suffer the shrubs (so Olaves writeth) to rise up. 
The Land is usit for tillage, neither doth it bare any graine, but all 
that have written of this Isle doe report, that it hath such abundance of 
grasse, that unless the Cattell were sometime driven from the pasture, 
they would be in danger to die, and be choak'd with their owne faffeels. 
Jonas himselfe confesseth, that they have no labouring beasts, but Horses 
and Oxen; and here all the Oxen and Kine have no horses, nor their 
Sheepel likewise. They have little white Dogs, which they very much 
effecte. They have abundance of white Faulcones, and white Crowes, 
which prey upon the young Lambs and Hoggges. Also there are white 
Beares and Hares. Also (as Islandus witnesseth) there are Eagles with 
white trains: which Pliny (as he saith) called Pygargos. Velclusius report-
reth, that this Isle beareth no tree but the Birch and Juniper trees; so 
that there is great scarcitie of wood through the whole Island, unless 
by chance (which sometime happeneth) some great trees being rooted up 
by the violence of the winde, are brought out of the Northern parts, 
and like wracks cast upon these moorers, which the Inhabitants use in 
building houeses and ships. It hath bene subject to the King of Norway, 
as Jonas reporteth from the year 1260. in which they first did homage to him: In regard whereof, the King of Denmarke and Norway 
dothe yearly send thither a Governor, who keepe his residence in the 
Caffe called Besede, whom they now obey, as heretofore they did their 
Bishops,