

noife 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 peeces of Ordnance had bene ſhot off. In one part hereof, ſtrange Spirits are ſeene in the likeneſſe 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* thinks 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, faith, 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*, *Remeſted*, *Modur*, *Munkeniere*; and *Scalholt*, 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 Univerſitie of *Haffnia*, the only Univerſity 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

z The Papiſts thinke, that here is their feined Purgatorie.

The manners of the Inhabitants.

Their food.