

ICELAND AS IT IS.

In the cold North Sea, a little below the Arctic Circle, lies the island called Iceland. Properly speaking, it occupies an area of above thirty-seven thousand square miles, affording the dull diversity of valleys without verdure and mountains without trees. Desolation here has fixed its abode. It broods among the dells, and looks upon the flocks. The rocks and hillsides are sculptured with great of an ice-cream design, while the whole island is still the sport of convulsion. The ground trembles with the throes of the earthquake; the Geyser spouts scalding water; the plain belches mud; while the great Jokull, clad in robes of eternal snow—true priest of Ormuzd—brandishes aloft its volcanic torch, and threatens to become the incendiary of the sky. The interior of the island is traversed with difficulty even during the summer. Here may be seen peaks that the Alpine Club dare not climb. The scanty population dwell in thinly settled hamlets along the banks of the fords and streams, leaving the territory to the fox, the reindeer, and the occasional Greenland bear that floats over on the berg. Only two quadrupeds, the mouse and the fox, are indigenous. So sterile is the soil and so brief the summer sun that life is supported only by a struggle. Indeed, the neighboring ocean is more hospitable than the dry land; for of the thirty-four species of mammalia twenty-four draw their life from the roaring main. The same is true of the birds, fifty-four of the ninety species being water fowl. Here and there may be seen patches of meadow, a few sheep pastures, and tracts of arable land; yet so poor is the soil that man, like the lower orders, must eke out his subsistence by resorting to the sea.—Round Table.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S MODEL FARM.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia Bulletin writes from London: During the long drouth, when every blade of grass was burned to a dead brown, and the cattle had no herbage to feed on, milk and butter were scarce, and the famous Devonshire clotted cream could not be found. But we Americans went to headquarters. The model farm, laid out by and completely under the supervision of the late Prince Consort, is about a mile from Windsor Castle. At the main lodge we received from the daughter of the keeper a permit to visit the dairy. Approaching a beautiful cottage, as we supposed, in the center of a large garden, not at the bottom of a hill, under a hazel tree, by a running stream, we could not imagine a dairy on a dry, level plain. But entering the vestibule lined with marble half way, and frescoed above with beautiful designs, we rang a bell, which was immediately answered by a woman past middle age and neatly dressed, one of the queen's favorite servants. She ushered us into a room about thirty feet square, the roof supported by six octagonal columns of white marble, with richly carved capitals. The floors were of white porcelain tiles, the windows stained glass, bordered with May flowers, daisies, butter-cups and primroses. The floors were lined with tiles of porcelain of a delicate blue tint, with rich medallions inserted of the Queen, Prince Consort and each of the children. Shields, monograms of the royal family and bas-reliefs of agricultural designs, representing the seasons, completed the ornamentation of this exquisite model dairy. All around the walls ran a marble table, and through the center two long ones, supported by marble posts, resting on basins through which runs a perpetual stream of spring water. By this means the slabs of the table are always cold, and the temperature of the dairy is chill, while the white and gilt china milk and butter dishes resting on the tables are never placed in water. We drank the delicious milk, just brought in, in white metal buckets, lined with porcelain, the Queen's monogram and crest glittering on the brass plates on the covers. In the room where the butter was made, milk skimmed and strained, we feasted our eyes on the rows of metal porcelain-lined cans of every size, made to lock, and sent to the royal family even as far as Scotland; so they always have good milk and butter. The churn was of metal also, and lined with porcelain, made in two compartments, the outside chamber, surrounding the cylinder, could have warm or cold water poured in to regulate the "coming of butter," without disturbing the stream. The lid was screwed on, and the stationary stand on which the whole was turned made the work easy and rapid. But while over sixty cows are daily milked and as many more are out grazing, the royal family are more than satisfied, and the Londoners more than dissatisfied to see rolls of golden butter and cans of cream sold from the Model Farm. I know the butter is sold, for we breakfasted on it this morning, and we paid for it, not as a bribe, but as a regular market bargain at the dairy.

CHARITY.—Night had kissed the young rose, and it bent softly to sleep. Stars shone, and pure dewdrops hung upon its blushing bosom, and watched its sweetest slumbers. Morning came with its dancing breezes, and they whispered to the young rose, and it awoke joyous and smiling. Lightly it danced to and fro in the love-liness of health and innocence. Then came the ardent sun-god sweeping from the East, and he smote the young rose with the scorching rays, and it fainted. Deserted and heart-broken, it drooped to the dust in loneliness and despair. Now the gentle breeze which had been gamboling over the sea, pushing on the home-bound bark, sweeping over hill and dale, by the neat cottage and still brook, turning the old mill, fanning the brow of childhood, came tripping along on her errand of mercy and love, and when she saw the young rose, she hastened to kiss it, and fondly bathed its forehead with cool, refreshing dewdrops. The young rose revived, looking up and smiling in gratitude to the kind breeze. But she hurried away—her generous task was performed—yet not without reward; for she soon perceived that fragrance had been poured on her wings by the gentle breeze, and she was able to breathe through those wings. Then, like the kind breeze, she frag-

rance from drooping flowers it refreshes and unconsciously repays a reward in the perfume of its offices of kindness, which stands upon the heart like rich perfume, to bless and cheer.

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