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978-1-108-07101-7 - A Summer in Iceland
Carl Wilhelm Paijkull Translated by M. R. Barnard
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A Summer in Iceland

In 1865, the Swedish geologist Carl Wilhelm Paijkull (1836–69) made a voyage from Copenhagen to Iceland, a country that was still little understood by the rest of Europe. In the course of a trip that had a chiefly scientific purpose, Paijkull noted not only the geological features of the island, but also many salient aspects of Icelandic culture in a detailed yet readable style. The book features a number of striking engravings of natural features, including the volcano Hekla, as well as depictions of Icelanders engaging in activities such as drying fish or crossing a river. Paijkull ranges widely in his narrative, commenting on the Icelandic fondness for dogs, historical and contemporary friction with Denmark, and the island's economic fortunes. His perceptive account was first published in Swedish in 1866 and is reissued here in the English translation that appeared in 1868.

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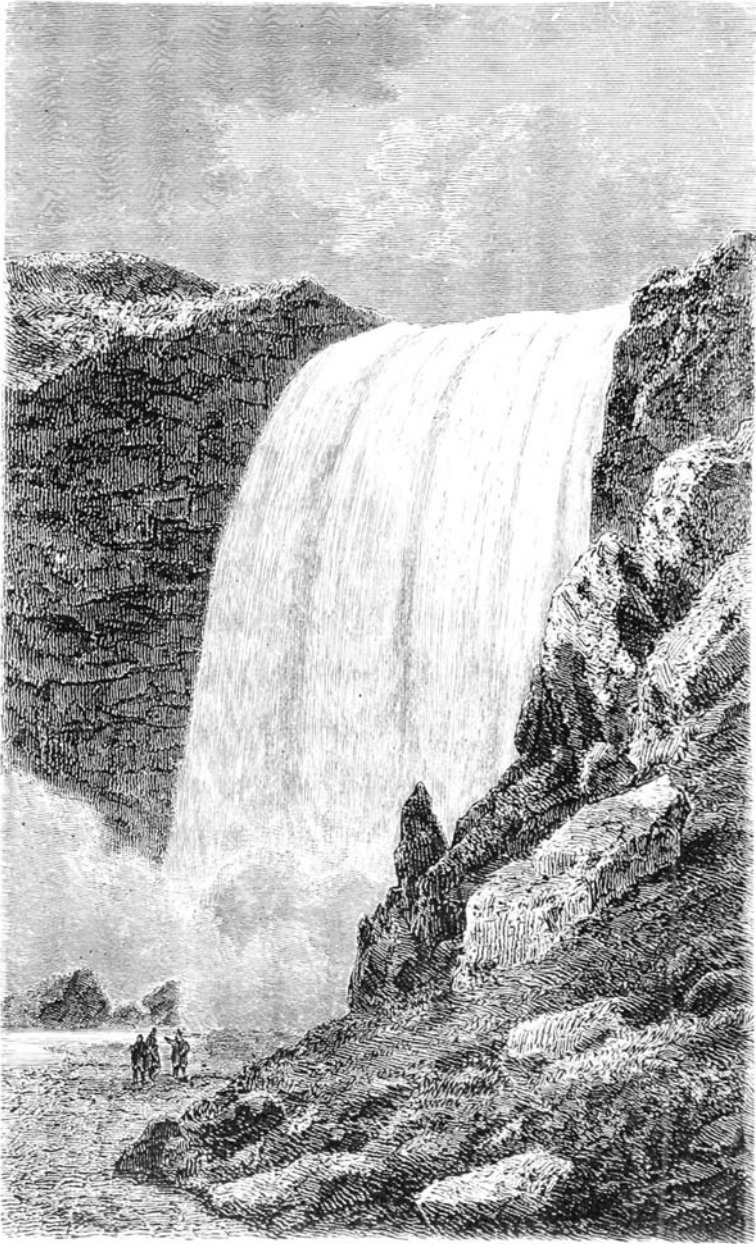
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SKÓGAFOSS.

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A SUMMER IN ICELAND.

BY
C. W. PAIJKULL,
PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF UPSALA.

TRANSLATED BY
REV. M. R. BARNARD, B.A.,
VICAR OF MARGARETTING, ESSEX,
AND AUTHOR OF "SPORT IN NORWAY, AND WHERE TO FIND IT," "LIFE OF THORVALDSEN," ETC.

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PREFACE.

ICELAND and the Icelanders are comparatively but little known to us. Those of our countrymen who have visited the island have, from their inability to speak the language, to a great extent, been precluded from acquiring that intimate acquaintance with the manners, and the public and private life of the inhabitants, which a knowledge of the vernacular alone can ensure.

It occurred to me, therefore, that by translating "A Summer in Iceland," the author of which seems to have made it his business to pass nothing by unobserved, I might be doing good service; and if I have only succeeded in rendering it in a style as readable and agreeable as is the case in the original, the many pleasant hours I have passed in imagination with the Author on the snow-clad "Jökuls" and the sandy "heiði" of Iceland will not have been thrown away.

M. R. B.

1st June, 1868.

P.S.—In order to render the volume more complete, I have appended a list of the Fauna and Botany of the country, from Gaimard's voluminous work. The woodcuts, I should state, are the same which are used in the original, and were executed in Sweden.

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ICELANDIC PRONUNCIATION.

á	is pronounced like	ow
æ	„	„ ai in <i>said</i> .
è	„	„ yed
ei	„	ei } Diphthong.
ó	„	ou }
ú	„	„ u in fool.
au	„	„ eui
ð	„	„ d pronounced soft.
fl, fn	„	„ bl, bɪ
h	„	„ aspirated.
ll	„	„ dl
nn	„	„ dn
þ	„	„ th in <i>the</i> .

WEIGHTS (Danish).

The Danish pound is equal to $1\frac{1}{10}$ lbs. English avoirdupois.

MONEY (Danish).

			s.	d.
1 skilling	is equal to about	0	$\frac{1}{4}$	English
1 mark	„	0	$4\frac{1}{2}$	„
1 rix-dollar	„	2	3	„
1 Sp. dollar	„	4	6	„

MEASURES.

The Danish foot is $12\frac{3}{8}$ English inches. The Danish mile equals 8,244 English yards, or $4\frac{1}{2}$ English miles and 330 yards.

Fifteen geographical miles (Danish) equal one degree.

N.B.—English measurement is used throughout, unless when the reverse is expressly stated.

LIST OF WORDS USED.

Amtmand, *deputy governor*; dalr, *valley*; fjord, *firth or fjord*; fjeld, *mountain*; fljot, *river*; foss, *waterfall*; hraun, *lava stream*; heiði, *mountain road*; hreppstjóri, *constable, bailiff*; hver, *boiling spring*; landfoged, *steward*; syssel, *sheriffdom*; sysselmand, *sheriff*; síra, *reverend*; surturbrandr, *lignite, mineralized wood*; tûn, *enclosed fields round a farmhouse*; bæ, *house*; vatn, *lake*; jökul, *ice mountain*; skredjökul, *glacier* (N.B.—This word cannot be properly translated into English); holm, *rocky island*; wadmél, *coarse homespun cloth*.

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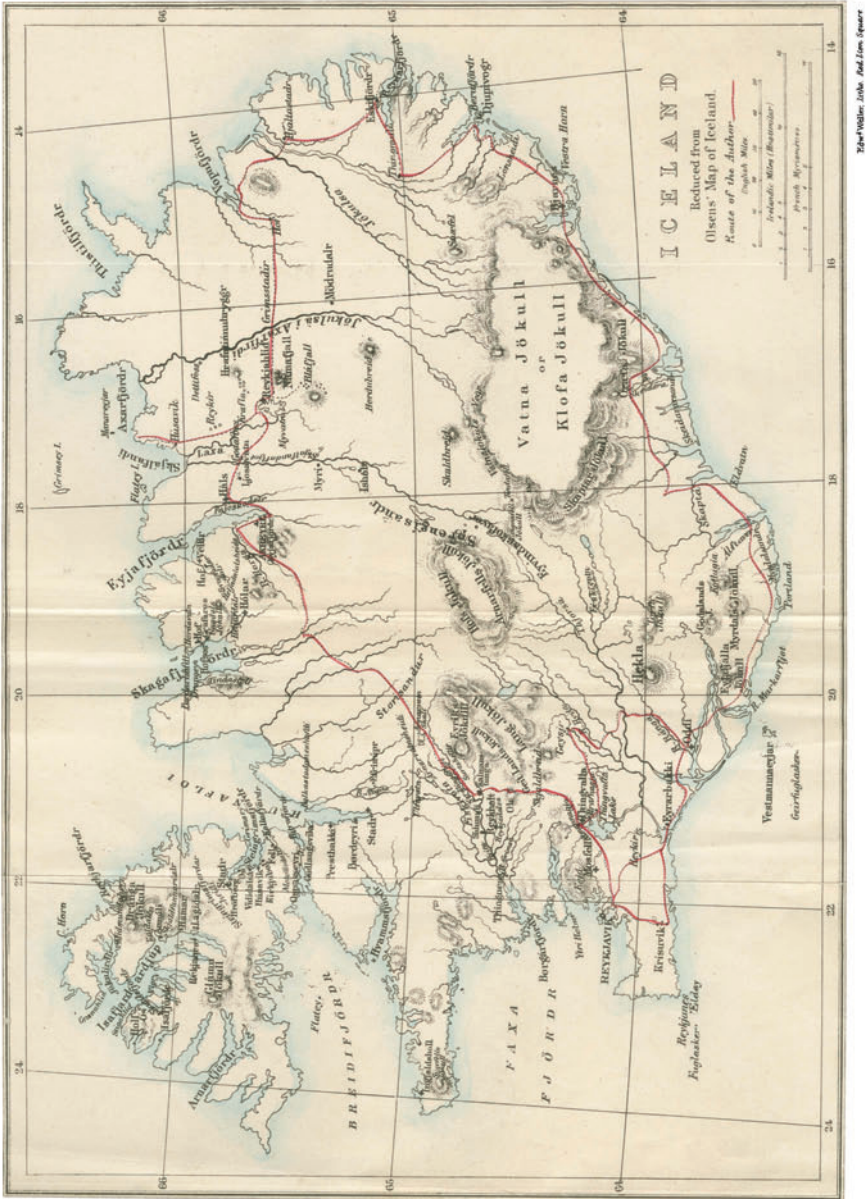
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