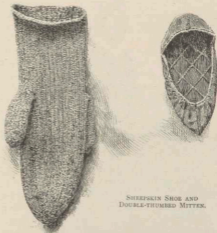


to look down upon a little river flowing round the ancient lava stream from which Hraungerthi (Lava-Garth) takes its name. Suddenly my guide discovered that he was two horses short! I offered at once to take charge of the convoy while he galloped back in search of the untied ones. Seizing the cord attached to the head of the foremost, and shouting the native exhortation, a sound between 'Ho' and 'Haw,' I succeeded in setting the shortened train in motion. But when we reached the river a difficulty arose in the shape of a bridge, which an Iceland horse of all things hates the most. Dismounting, I coaxed, and drove, and whipped, and pulled, till the passage was effected.

Then came the lava bed with its savage corners and cranky angular scars, while between them were hollows with pools of water, or beds of bright green grass, which the ponies coveted one and all. A steady old stager or two in front, however, moved faithfully on, climbing like cats on a gabled roof, but others held back, and the rotten old ropes gave way between them. In high glee at their freedom, the hindmost set made rushes round each other, till they tied themselves tight in a lovely knot, and had to be quiet—or strangled—at last. Meanwhile the rain, which

began on the hill, came splashing and clattering down, to add to the general liveliness. Forming a base of the steadier sort, I loosened and freed the others, tying them on again one by one till the chain was nearly complete, when up came the postman bringing the lost ones, and we recommenced our pilgrimage through the lava labyrinth.

At Hraungerthi I found a capital parsonage. The old pastor is assisted by his son, whose room, I believe, was prepared for me. On the table lay a copy of the English Revised Version! The ordinary guest-chamber has here become a bright little dining-room. Its windows were perfectly brilliant with flowers—cinerarias, pelargoniums, fuchsias, and mignonette. A supper to match, and couches and easy-chairs, completed the contrast between inside and out. The church is good, and the carved work over the communion table and round the pulpit very interesting. As usual, paint



SHEEPSKIN SHOE AND
DOUBLE-THUMBED MITTEN.