



ICELANDIC FUEL—PEAT.

CHAPTER VII.

THINGVELLIR AND GEYSIR

WE are now on the threshold of a district the very name of which will recall the memories of the past to many a traveller, who, in the interval between the arrival and departure of a steamer, has become an antiquarian on the Lögberg, or an amateur navvy in Haukadals. The journey from Granton to Geysir and Hekla and back may be accomplished in three weeks, nine days being allowed in Iceland. Sometimes twelve days are given, and then Njal's country and Kriúvík may be included. The interminable delays which exasperated the travellers of half a century ago no longer tax the patience of Geysir parties; still, it is advisable to write a mail beforehand, and so insure attention. Reykjavík may await our return, for there is a delightful uncertainty about Icelandic travel which adds piquancy to the expedition, and to keep a day in hand is always wise. Half-a-dozen straps will not be out of place, and if the visitor be not at home on horseback, a sheepskin over the saddle will earn his gratitude ere long.

The distance to Thingvellir is five-and-thirty miles, though miles form a doubtful index to the length of an Icelandic day's march. For ten of these we keep to the Reykir road, already traversed, meeting at intervals