

to mingle with the lake, or floundered through the edges of the morass; farm succeeded farm in rapid succession: in the numerous sheltered nooks cattle and horses were abundant, and peace and plenty seemed to reign in this, one of the best dairy districts in the island. But now the Brúará stops the way; foaming and snorting, it hurries along through a lovely glen, where dwarf birch and willow and extensive patches of heather and moss have established themselves on the decomposed surface of an old lava field.'

At the point where the river is crossed, a rift has opened in mid-stream. Into this the waters pour, and so reduce the depth on either side. The



CROSSING THE BRÚARÁ RIVER.

ponies dash through the shallows till they reach the rift, which is crossed by a wooden bridge.

In a couple of hours, the shoulder of the last hill is turned, and there heaves in view the goal of many a pilgrimage, the patch of parti-coloured silicious deposit, some four or five square miles in size, over which Geysir exercises still undoubted though diminished sway. Earliest known among such displays, it is little wonder that the native name of this particular spring should have become of universal application. Tents are usually pitched on a piece of greensward a hundred yards south of the steadily increasing mound which encloses the famous basin, unless indeed, as is often the case, quarters have been secured at one of the farms in the neighbourhood.

The mound itself rises about six feet above the level of the lower