

Royal College of Science—Prof. W. A. Tilden.
 Meteorological Council—Admiral Sir W. Wharton.
 Christian Evidence Society—The Rev. C. Lloyd Engstrom.
 Corporation of Cambridge—The Mayor (Councillor P. H. Young), the Ex-Mayor (Ald. G. Kett).

After the service, the procession left the church in the following order:—The officiating clergy, the body, the fellows of the college, the relatives, honorary fellows and former fellows of the College, the Vice-Chancellor and other representatives of the University, together with representatives of learned societies, members of the Senate, bachelors of arts, scholars, other members of the College, and all those desiring to attend the service at the Mill Road Cemetery, where the interment took place.

EXPLORATIONS IN ICELAND¹

DURING the nineteenth century, and up to the present time, a considerable number of books and magazine articles were published in England and America giving an account of travels in Iceland. The greater part of these writings contain merely personal details, interesting only to the narrator himself and his nearest relations; some remind us pleasantly of Mark Twain's "Innocents Abroad"; others are well written and possess some literary value, though these also are very liable to contain errors.

Some of these travels have a quasi-scientific tendency, but do not contain anything new, and very few contain anything of real scientific importance. We may, perhaps, say that the oldest books describing

more, and generally study very little; the traveller passes over half the world without any serious preparation beforehand, and, when he returns home, he considers it to be his duty to enlighten the reading public with a thick book containing observations and discoveries about matters which hundreds of other travellers have described much better before him. Fortunately, however, there

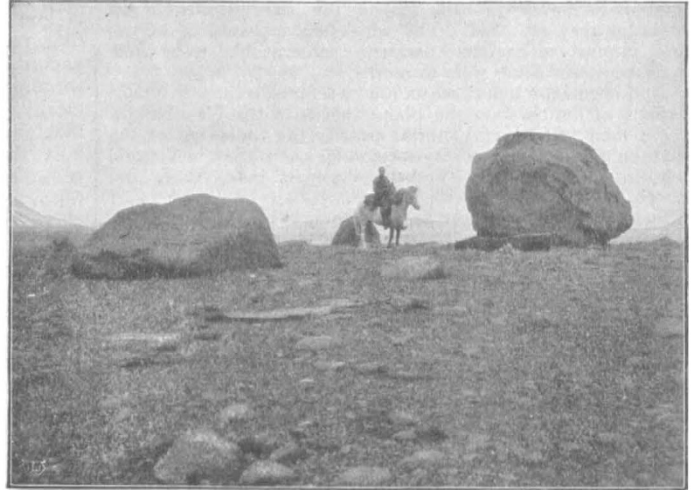


FIG. 2.—Immense Erratics. (From Bisiker's "Across Iceland.")

are some honourable exceptions, and we are always delighted to welcome a book that really contains anything new. Mr. W. Bisiker's book belongs to this class. The author made it his object to explore and map out the district of Kjalvegur in Central Iceland, one of the most beautiful parts of the interior, which had never been surveyed in detail, and Mr. Bisiker's admirable map of the district is, therefore, of permanent geographical importance. The book also contains numerous photographs, which give a very good idea of the various geological and physico-geographical characteristics, and there are some good illustrations of the mode of travelling in Iceland. In addition, Mr. Hill has given some interesting notices of the distribution of plants in Kjalvegur, with a list of the plants which were found, among which is *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, which had not previously been found in Iceland.

TH. THORODDSEN.

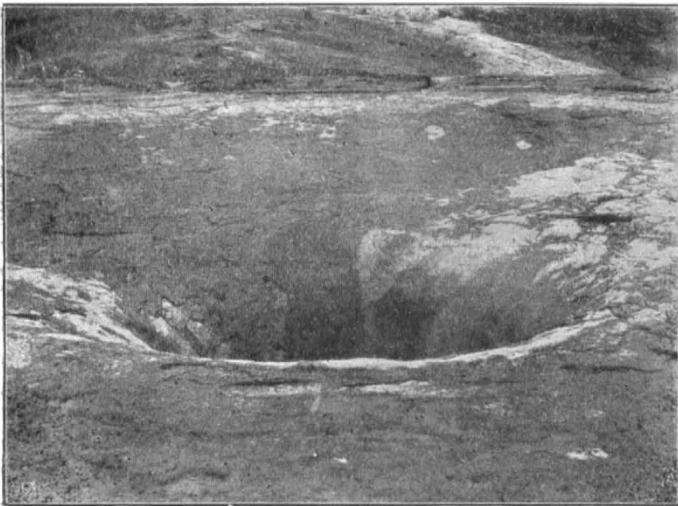


FIG. 1.—The Funnel or Crater of Geysir. (From Bisiker's "Across Iceland.")

travels in Iceland are also the best, and that the books of Hooker (1809), Mackenzie (1810) and Henderson (1814-15) are far superior to nearly all later works. At that period, the traveller had time to study the literature and the people, and to investigate for himself the language of the country and the history and customs of the inhabitants. At the present day, people travel much

¹ "Across Iceland." By W. Bisiker, F.R.G.S. With an Appendix by A. W. Hill, M.A., on the Plants Collected. Pp. xii + 236. (London: Edward Arnold, 1902.) Price 12s. 6d.

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ROYAL COMMISSION ON LONDON LOCOMOTION.

IT was announced on Saturday last that the King had been pleased to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the means of locomotion and transport in London. The Commission is also asked to report upon the following points:—

- (a) As to the measures which they deem most effectual for the improvement of the same by the development and inter-connection of railways and tramways on or below the surface, by increasing the facilities for other forms of mechanical locomotion, by better provision for the organisation and regulation of vehicular and pedestrian traffic, or otherwise;
- (b) As to the desirability of establishing some authority or tribunal to which all schemes of railway or tramway construction of a local character should be referred, and the powers which it would be advisable to confer upon such a body.