pendicularly to the height of 200 feet, and having its sum­mit covered with short rich pasture. The holm is thirty yards distant from the island, and a communication has been effected and is continued in the following way. A daring islander climbed the perpendicular face of the holm, and drove two strong posts into the ground near the edge of the side next to Noss, and a rope having been conveyed from the larger islet, was fastened to these posts, and the chasm was passed. The *craigsman* scorned to take advan­tage of his success, and attempting to return by the rocks, lost his footing and was dashed to pieces. The rope is an­nually removed before winter, and the communication is re-opened generally in July. The following is the mode of doing it. A stone is fastened to the *double* or *bight* of a small cord, the ends of which are secured, the stone is flung till the thrower succeeds in getting the attached string be­yond the posts on the holm. When this is accomplished, a stronger line is substituted, and a still stronger one, and the process of substitution is repeated, till a rope of the de­sired strength has been drawn round the posts, and secured to corresponding stakes on Noss. A wooden box called “ the cradle of Noss” is then slung upon the rope, and a person getting into this, easily pushes himself backwards and forwards. Dangerous as all this seems, accidents, it is affirmed, seldom happen. Immense numbers of wild fowl frequent the holm, and their eggs, feathers, and young ones, and the pasture afforded to about a dozen sheep, are deem­ed a recompense sufficient for the trouble and risk encoun­tered in annually erecting this aerial bridge. Almost op­posite to Bressay, on the west side of the Mainland, lie the two islands of Burra, separated by a narrow channel, which in one place is so contracted that a wooden bridge is thrown across it to facilitate communication. The soil of these islands is in general of the finest quality, and they produce what in Zetland is regarded as a large quantity of grain. About the middle of the seventeenth century a Dutch squadron was driven by stress of weather on the west side of Burra. Two vessels were lost, but the rest of the fleet succeeded in making a harbour. To the north and west of Burra, and separated from the Mainland by a narrow but troubled strait, lies Papa Stour, an island two miles in length. There are several large caves in this island, open to the sea, which are frequented by numerous seals. One of these caves is lighted from above, by an aperture fifty feet long by twenty broad. Here too may be seen, rising perpendicularly to a great height from its ocean bed, the Stack of Snalaa, a magnificent rock, on the summit of which, from time immemorial, the eagle has had his eyrie. In the bay of St Magnus, tower up the magnificent Drongs, the perforated rocks so finely delineated by Dr Hibbert. Placed far amid the melancholy main is Foula, the most westerly of the Zetland Islands, and with every probability supposed to be the *Thule* of the Romans. At a distance it presents the appearance of five conical hills, the loftiest of which reaches a height of 1300 feet, an immense eleva­tion in appearance, there being no gradual rise, as in inland mountains. “ On reaching the highest ridges of the rocks,” says Dr Hibbert, “ the prospect presented on every side is of the sublimest description. The spectator looks down from a perpendicular height of 1100 or 1200 feet, and sees below the wide Atlantic roll its tide. Dense columns of birds hover through the air, consisting of mews, kittywakes, lyres, sea-parrots or guillemots : the cormorants occupy the lowest portions of the cliffs, the kittywakes whiten the ledges of one distant cliff, gulls are found on another, and lyres on a third. The welkin is darkened with their flight ; nor is the sea less covered with them as they search the waters in quest of food. But when the winter appears the colony is fled, and the rude harmony produced by their various screams is succeeded by a desert stillness. From the brink of this awful precipice the adventurous fowler is, by means of a rope tied round his body, let down many fathoms ; he then lands on the ledges where the various sea-birds nestle, being still as regardless as his ancestors of the destruction that awaits the falling of some loose stones from a crag, or the untwisting of a cord. It was formerly said of a Foula-man, ‘ his gutcher (grandfather) gaid be­fore, his father gaid before, and he must expect to go over the sneug too.’” Twenty miles S.S.W. from Sumburgh Head, the southern extremity of the Mainland, lies the Fair Isle, two miles in length, and about three-fourths of a mile in breadth. On this island the duke of Medina Sidonia, the admiral of the armada, was wrecked while attempting to reach home after his disastrous expedition had failed. The crews of his ship reached the shore, but the islanders are said to have murdered them almost to a man, from a con­viction that a famine could not otherwise be warded off. The duke was spared, and having wintered in Zetland, he afterwards reached Spain by way of France.

The natural history of Zetland differs little from that of Orkney, to which we refer. The plants in both clusters of islands are, generally speaking, the same ; and a similar re­mark applies to the zoology.

The geology of Zetland has been discussed at great length both by Professor Jameson and Dr Hibbert ; and appended to Neill’s Tour in these islands is a valuable paper on the subject by Professor Traill. Owing to the variety of the rocks, and the easy access to them which the ocean has thrown open, Zetland presents an interesting field to the mineralogist. Primitive clay-slate, intermixed with a few quartz and hornblende beds, abounds in the southern parts of the Mainland. Ronas Hill, and the greater portion of Northmavine, consist of a hard red granite. In Foula the rocks are all micaceous schistus. Bressay and Ness are composed of sandstone, and much of the shores of Yell and Unst are of serpentine.

It is difficult to give any thing at all approaching to an estimate of the trade of Zetland. Its exports are princi­pally salted fish, oil, tallow, butter, skins, stockings, cattle, sheep, and ponies. The imports are of a very miscella­neous description ; and as Zetland produces about one third less grain than its inhabitants require, large quantities of meal and flour are annually introduced.

The fisheries, namely, the whale-fishing at Greenland and Davis Straits, and the herring and haaf or deep-sea fish­ings at home, employ many hands, and bring much wealth into the country.

Of the state of agriculture in these islands it is impossible to speak in very favourable terms. Shirreff in his Survey says, there is reason to believe that the undivided and con­sequently uncultivated waste lands amount to more than 400,000 acres. This immense tract is pastured in common by the tenants of the adjoining arable lands, which do not exceed 25,000 acres ; and in many places the arable land is *runrig* or interrupted. Little improvement can in such circumstances be expected. Still a few spirited individuals have set an example. The results of their exertions have been most favourable, and are visible ; and it is to be hoped that others will be prompted to imitate them. Till the era of the reform bill, Zetland had no representative in parliament, the landholders having no vote for the county-member. This anomaly is now happily removed ; and though unwill­ing to attach undue importance to mere political changes, the writer of these remarks cannot but think, that the alter­ation produced on the relations of landlord and tenant con­sequent on the passing of the bill, the inducements now held out to the former to grant leases of some duration, and the more frequent intercourse among themselves and with stran­gers which an extension(in this case a creation) of the fran­chise invariably produces ; all this will operate favourably both on the commerce and the agriculture of the islands. Owing to their remote situation and their poverty, the lower