Utdrag fra

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Travels through Norway and Lapland, during the years 1806, 1807, and 1808.
KLÖWEN at SENJEN, the 29th of June. We proceeded in the night through the Sound between green bushy hills, with Senjen on the one hand, and the main-land on the other, and about six o'clock in the morning we anchored at the beautiful trading station of Klöwen. Senjen is here rocky enough, but not high. I ascended the nearest hills over great masses of snow, in which they lay almost entirely enveloped. These hills were only six hundred and ninety-two English feet in height*; and yet they were almost the highest in a wide circumference. The northern part of this large island differs very much in this respect from the southern. In the south there are only heights, and no distinguished points; but towards the north there are true Alpine Horns. The small Fieldts round Klöwen are sufficiently steep, and are covered along the declivities with woods of birch and Scotch fir. The firs become all visibly feeble towards the height, and at the top they do not exceed the height of from ten to fifteen feet; the branches are drooping, and the tops are bare. They seem very near to their limit, and we can scarcely place it at much above six hundred and thirty feet; somewhat less in truth than at Lödingen, but still not so much as to render the influence on vegetation in the valleys very remarkable.

The formations of these heights, and their stratification, coincide almost entirely with those at Cassness; above there is fine slatey gneiss, interspersed with garnets, with isolated scaler of mica, fine granular felspar, and fine granular quartz; but below, at the sea, and in the neighbourhood of the Gaard, the mica is continuous, the felspar almost entirely fails, and the quartz no longer appears common, but garnets more so. This is again mica-slate, and the gneiss rests above it. A fine granular marble, with blue stripes, and several feet in thickness, also presses through between the strata as at Cassness. The strata stretch N. N. W. and S. S. E. (h. 11) and dip very little towards the west. Southwards, at the shore, the lime-stone bed becomes thicker; and in one precipice, which advances into the sea, the white bed attains a thickness of ten feet. Above the bed lies a bed of ex-

h. 6. a. m. Klöwen, Bar. 27. 11. 4. North wind, clouds at 2500 feet heighth.
h. 10. m. m. Klöwensfieldt, Bar. 27. 4. 3. 6. 25. North wind, 560 feet,
h. 12. Klöwen. . . . . . . . . . . 8. 25. gentle N. clouds
h. 4. Klöwen..............27.11.4.8. Clouds at a heighth of 3000 feet
cellent divergent fibrous tremolite of an inch in thickness. It is seen upon the surface of the numerous blocks which have tumbled down the precipice into the sea, and it is beautiful to see the manner in which we can here follow the large stars, and fasciculi, and the manner in which they are linked together, and follow one another. Immediately above the tremolite there is a very firm and dark stratum, which for the most part is nothing but massive garnet, with but little mica, and no felspar or quartz. This stone has a strong effect on the magnetic needle; not only attracting, but also possessing polarity. The north-pole of the needle sometimes stands towards the east, and then veers round to the south, or it remains closely attached to the bottom of the compass; the south pole follows it with similar movements. It would be here an endless and very useless labour to determine the position of all the poles; for they appear to be changed by every fissure which traverses the garnet bed. Strata of mica-slate repose above, as at the Gaard, with small garnet crystals in them.

The Gysund between Senjen and the main-land is the only passage which connects Tromsöe and Finmark with the southern regions; for the sailing round Senjen on the sea side would be very tedious, useless, and attended with danger. Hence this sound is always very cheerful as well as Klöwen, near to which all ships and boats must pass. In winter, it is said, that about three hundred boats pass this place on their way to Lofodden. These may contain nearly fourteen or fifteen hundred men, and this affords a scale for ascertaining the numbers who frequent the fishing station of Lofodden from the north.

LENVIG, the 30th of June. The Sound on both sides is only surrounded by hills; and Gräsholm, a round prominent cape, is even full of plains, and thickly covered with birches and alders. At the foot of these hills, where the Sound is narrowest, lies Gebostad, a fishing station, and also an inn. Here about five hundred rein deer annually swim over from the main-land to feed in summer on the Alps of Senjen. Senjen cannot support them the whole winter through, and on that account the Finns transport them towards winter to Sweden. They are but poor and miserable beings; the rein deer scarcely suffice to support them, and defend them from the cravings of hunger. And yet, when their whole stock consists merely of a few skins or rein deer horns, and cheese, they go down immediately to the public-house, and consume all their property in brandy on the spot. If we wish to be informed re-
specting the manners, customs, and dispositions of these people, we must not, therefore, take those we find in the public-houses, and among the merchants, as a specimen; for in such a case we might be easily led to believe the sentence pronounced by the Norwegians respecting the Finns not altogether unfounded. "They are the scum of the human race," said a grave Norwegian one day to us, as three Finns came reeling towards us at Gebostad. No, indeed, that they are not; but they are children whose ideas never extend far beyond their rein deer, and whose pleasures are limited to the merest enjoyments of the moment. The contempt with which they are treated by the Norwegians is inconceivable; they will hardly be prevailed on to allow them to set a foot in their houses; and they even endeavour to shun the remotest connexion with them. "I care no more for him than a Finn," was even in Helgeland an expression of the most sovereign contempt; and we have frequently heard it said that "a Finn is not worth more than a dog."

Adjoining nations are always jealous of, and inimical to one another. The Norwegian-boasts of his advantage over the Swede, and the latter again believes himself superior to the Norwegian, and greatly superior to the Russian. The Poles, Russians, and Germans, entertain similar opinions respecting each other. Every nation reckons itself highly favoured in comparison with others; but their contempt seldom goes so far as to induce them to believe that humanity is only to be found amongst them, and that all the rest of the world are only to be considered as a sort of inferior creatures; for these nations have frequently been at war with one another, and frequently been conquered and conquerors. The Laplanders, however, have never attempted to oppose the attacks of the Norwegians. They have never been successful in the smallest attack; and seldom even is the least trace of opposition to be found among that peaceful people. Hence the great reluctance which the Norwegians have to reckon them as men: and in fact, if any one would take the trouble to prove to them that the Laplanders never were men, they would willingly believe him. Unfortunate the people subject to such masters.*

* Linnaeus agrees with our author, in stating the Laplanders to be fond of spirits. "Lappones et rustici nonnulli septentrionales, sepius nimiam spiritus frumenti copiam ingerunt," (Flor. Lap. p. 166. London, 1792); but it is curious to contrast the different estimate formed by the young Swedish philosopher of their condition. "O felix Lappo, qui in ultimo augulo mundi
In four hours we crossed the Sound from Gebostad to Lenvig, where we were received in a friendly manner by the clergyman M. Heyberg. The view of the mountains of Senjen became always more and more grand and sublime; and when we reached Lenvig, the view of the horns of Medfiord and Oyfiord, opposite the Sound, exhibited the appearance of high Alpine vallies on projecting horns, like the Alpine vallies of Lugnetzer on the points of the Hinter rhein. These are not the mountains which surround Lenvig in its vicinity. The mountains of Senjen in question rise far beyond the limits of snow, whereas the hills of Lenvig scarcely leave the region of trees beneath them; but the former are not many hundred feet higher, and scarcely sixteen or eighteen hundred feet in height. The mica-slate predominates here also along the shore: the mica did not appear altogether continuous, but fine scaley foliated; but there was no felspar between, and no garnets. Several beds of very white fine granular, almost friable dolomite, lie in it; the very rock of Campo longo: and above these there was scopiform fibrous tremolite, with green mica resembling talc. In the limestone there are great streaks (Flammen) of thirty feet in length, and one in thickness, of nothing but irregular promiscuous crystals of tremolite. In the drusey cavities there appeared prisms of epidote, and not unfrequently red metallic octahedrons.* The strata stretch (N. N. W, and sic bene lates contentus et innocens. Tu nec times annonae caritatem, nec Martis prælia, quæ ad tuas oras pervenire nequeunt, sed florentissimas Europa; provincias et urbes unico momento sape dejectum delent. Tu dormis hic sub tua pelle ab omnibus curis contentionibus rixis, liber, ignorant quid sit invidia. Tu nulla nosti nisi tonantis Jovis fulmina. Tu dudis innocentissimos tuos annos ultra centenarium numerum cum facili senectute et summa sanitate. Te latent myriades morborum nobis Europæis communes. Tu vivis in sylvis instar, nec sementem facis, nec metis, tamen alit te Deus optimus optime. Tua ornamenta sunt tremula arborum folia, graminosi que luci. Tua potus aqua crystallina pelluciditatis, qua nec cerebrum insania adficit nec strumas in Alpibus tuis producit ........Te non obruit scorbutus, nec febris intermittens, nec obesitas, nec podagra, fibroso gaudes corpore et alaci, animo que libero. O sancta innocencia, estne hic tuus thronus inter Faunos in summo Septentrione, in quo vilissima habita terra? (p. 277.)" If this view is not philosophical, it is at least highly poetical. But have not the improvements of society served to multiply our enjoyments, and consequently advance us in the scale of happiness? And yet how difficult it is to prevent tho most civilized European nations in the neighbourhood of the American savages from squatting down among them!—T.

* What mineral is to be understood here?—J.
S. S. E. (h. 10.) and dip seventy degrees towards the east. It is the same all
the way up the sound which surrounds Senjen, and even before we reach it
the gneiss on the coasts appears only on the heights, and the mica-slate seems
to be almost predominant in extent. In the stratification of both formations
there is in fact something definite; and their order is not dependent on acci-
dents which do not fell within any general rule. The mica-slate of Senjen
is particularly characterised by the frequent beds of lime-stone, and the
layers of tremolite in them. In the mica-slate, on the coast of Bergen, we
find also beds of lime-stone; but they are small, and upon the whole not
frequent, and tremolite is there altogether unknown.

The Præstegieldt of Lenvig is very extensive. On one side it stretches
over a great part of Senjen, and runs out as far as the sea between Senjen and
Hvalöe; for Hellesøe, one of the outermost islands, is an annexation to
Lenvig. On the other side, its boundaries reach inland along the Fiord the
whole way to Sweden. Yet in 1801 it was not inhabited by more than
one thousand five hundred and fifty souls; of whom five families were
Laplanders.

This population has not been increased since on the coast, and M.
Heyberg even fears that during the present year it will be lowered. The
people have brought from Lofodden, a slow, infectious disease, occasioned by
the unfavourable weather, which has brought a number of men to the grave.
Add to this, that from the length of the winter, most of the cattle at the
Gaards have perished from hunger, and the men follow them through poverty
and want. The snow has not even yet left the arable land, and the meadows,
and in the midst of summer they are obliged to look out for provender to
feed their cattle under the roof. It is true, most of the snow fell in the
Fogderies of Senjen and Tromsøe, and it lasted incessantly from Christmas
to April. It was affirmed in Gebostad, that the snow lay to the depth of ten
ells (twenty feet); and in Lenvig, at most, only twelve feet. But even that
is an extreme; for more does not fall in the highest Norwegian vallies; and
on the coast of Bergen there has never been seen more than four feet of
snow, even in the interior of the Fiord.*

* As the well-informed minister, Neils Herzberg, informed me, who was born on that coast,
and who has long made meteorological phenomena his study.
If the population and the prosperity of the coast be diminished by such unforeseen, and, fortunately, passing calamities, on the other hand, better, and we may almost venture to say, splendid prospects begin to open in the interior of the country; for here, and only here, in these distant regions, under the sixty-ninth degree of latitude, have the foundation of new colonies been attended with success. This has been effected by the zeal and the perseverance of one man. The Foged Holmboe in Tromsøe had long been in the possession of a well-merited fame in the Nordlands, for his economical knowledge, and its successful application in different parts of that province. It did not escape him, that it might be very possible to turn the immense woods in the interior of the extensive Malangerfiord to account; and that not only the trees for many centuries have come in vain there to maturity, but also the other productions of the vegetable kingdom. His plan for cutting deals and logs from the woods for exportation, as in the southern part of the country, did not succeed, notwithstanding he was supported by the powerful Chamberlain Berndt Ancker in Christiania; for it was reasonably dreaded that Nordland could not support such an exportation, which was also prohibited on that account by old edicts. This active man was, however, much more successful in bringing land under the plough. In the year 1796 several families from the south actually made their appearance, for the most part, from Guldbrandsdalen. Even the Nordlanders, fortunately for the new undertaking, refused to leave the coast. The strangers were only acquainted with agriculture. The sea life could not so easily seduce them; for they would, like children, have been obliged to learn the first elements, and even the courage, to brave the Nordland waves. They were conveyed into the great valley, through which the great Monsenelv tumbles along into the Fiord, not above fifteen English miles from Lenvig, and deep in the interior of the broad Malangerfiord. The colonists soon found here that their hopes had not been excited in vain. They built Gaards along the river, they cleared the woods, and the culture of grain succeeded admirably. They were then joined by more of their countrymen. They ascended farther up the country, twenty English miles from the former settlement, to a broad and level valley watered by the Bardonelv; and there also their pains were rewarded with success. In the year 1800, only five years after the first settlement, thirty families, consisting of one hundred and ninety-six individuals, lived in these wastes, where formerly scarcely a Laplander set foot. They maintained
three hundred and thirteen head of oxen and cows, five hundred and eleven sheep and goats, juni thirty-nine horses. * In the year 1807 there were thirty families on the banks of the Monsenelv, and sixteen families in the valley of Bardon. The grain had never yet failed, nor been destroyed by frost since the period of their settlement. Hitherto they have stood in need of no foreign assistance for their support. Their diligence has not confined itself to the dwelling-places at first taken in by them: new situations are annually brought under the plough, and new Gaards erected, even up the mountains, to the borders of the kingdom. At present, they are occupied in changing a Rydningsplads (a cleared spot) into a Gaard at the Rosto Jaure. Rosto Jaure sends its waters westwards, to the Northern Ocean, and eastwards towards Sweden and to the Baltic, and consequently the new habitations lie in fact on the greatest height between both kingdoms and both seas. The manners of these men have improved in this situation, and they are very justly esteemed the best in the whole parish. They are not corrupted by the brandy which is so inimical to every thing good on the coast, and opposes so strongly the improvement and prosperity of the inhabitants. At the beginning of winter, when their field and forest labours are ended, they find sufficient employment in their houses, in converting the wool of their sheep and the hides of their cows into articles of cloathing: they are not stimulated by the uncertain profits of sea-fishing, and they thence escape those prejudicial consequences which are but too much felt by the inhabitants of the coast of Nordland. Their enthusiasm also retains them in this confined and insulated life; for like all men who live in retired situations, they are particularly disposed to the reception of high flown religious ideas; and the enthusiast Hans Niels Houg of Tunöe at Frederickstadt never found more numerous and fervent adherents than here, when he visited the colony in the year 1800. He unites a pietistical Moravian doctrine of the immediate operation of God in human affairs with exortations to domestic industry, and a secluded life in a family circle; a doctrine which here, at least, has improved the condition of men. An intelligent preacher knows both how to make the proper impression and to turn it to utility. It is a pity, however, that this people has not received a proper and well-qualified preacher of their own; for they stand very much in want of such a source of comfort,
exhortation, and instruction among them. Their present preachers live at too
great a distance from them; they are too little known to one another, and
therefore cannot altogether feel mutual confidence and trust. Such indivi-
duals ought to be kept altogether separate from the inhabitants of the coast.
If there was a man among them like Simon Kildal, or M. Normann in Transöe,
the importance and influence of this colony would perhaps be felt throughout
all Norway. Even at present, experience shews how little the usual regu-
lations respecting Prästegieldts can be here applied, for the inhabitants of
Monsenelv only frequent the church of Lenvig. Those of Bardonjord, on
the other hand, notwithstanding they are also within the bounds of Lenvig,
go the more easy and commodious road towards Salangfiord, and still farther
towards Astafjord, to the church of Ibbestad.

Foged Holmboe is dead, and even before he died, the government saw
themselves under the necessity of renouncing his services; but Bardonjord
will remain an enviable monument to his memory, which neither the
treasury assets nor time will easily destroy.

TROMSÖE, the 2nd of July. Senjen, almost the greatest island of all those
which lie on the northern coast, terminates not far from opposite Lenvig.
We had scarcely proceeded round the Gaard of Wang on Senjen, when we
saw the open sea before us, through the sound which separates Hvalöe from
Senjen. This sound receives, singularly enough, from the fishermen here, the
appellation of Vangs Hafsöie (Vangs view into the sea), and we could not
learn here that it had any other name. A light wind from the north-
west soon drove us through the straits, and along the coast of Hvalöe to beyond
Malangerfiord. We might expect that the high and rocky Alps of Senjen
should be continued along Hvalöe; but this is not the case, at least, on the
southern side of the island. The mountains are all round in section, like
large cupolas, without rocks, and of long extent, and we should, perhaps,
be induced to account them low, if we did not see the trees disappear
before reaching their tops, or even the half of their heighth. This would give
these mountains a heighth of about two thousand feet. But what rocks and
masses on the east side of the Malangerfiord! We imagined we were again
in view of the gigantic shapes of Kunnen. Andenäss, the outermost cape,
rises up like a pyramid, on which the dark rocky masses form a wonderful
contrast with the deep snow which every where surrounds the base of this
collossus; and these rocks are connected, with a range of others of almost
equal height, which are lost deep in the interior of the Malangerfiord. We
could only pass here with the utmost exertions; for the current from the
Tromsund came with such force against us under the rocks as the Rhine
does at Basle. Four hours were scarcely sufficient to enable us to clear
about two English miles, from Andenäss to Bensjord. The ebb flows back
into the great ocean. We may easily conceive that in all the Fiords, the
stream of the tide carries us into the Fiords, and that the ebb carries us out
of them. In the same definite manner in the straits (Sunde) which run
nearly from south to north, the tide enters from the south, and fills the Fiord
in the interior, and the ebb returns again from the north; for the general
motion of the tide in the great ocean is not in the higher latitudes from east
to west, but rather from south to north, probably because the larger tides of
lower latitudes flow where the tides, on account of the smaller elevation to
which the moon rises, must also be smaller.

With these rocks along the Malangerfiord, the Fogderie of Senjen on the
main-land also terminates, and borders with Tromsøe. These bounds, since
the settlement of Monsenelv and Bardenjord, have become of more impor-
tance; for Senjen only is the property of the state. All Tromsøe, which was
not already settled by Norwegians, all the woods, mountains, and fields,
every thing which could be turned to advantage, were sold by King Frederick
the Fourth to an individual, who is here called Baron Petersen, with almost the
same jurisdictions as those exercised by the counts in the counties (Grafs-
chaften) of Jarlsberg and Laurvig. Some say Baron Petersen was a Dutchman:
he possessed also a great deal of property in Helgeland; but he appears to
have completely settled himself in Tromsøe after getting possession of it, for
most of his relations still live here. He probably was better acquainted with
these provinces than those who had the valuing of them formerly at Copen-
hagen. It is supposed that the first saw-mills in these latitudes were intro-
duced by him. The boundaries of these possessions were hitherto always
pretty indefinite. As the spreading of the colonists in Bardenjord made it
necessary, however, to know with certainty where the royal property termi-
nate, and where the property of the private individual began, a commission
was appointed in 1806, by whom the boundaries through the woods were
accurately laid down with what are called Rösen. They run now on the east
side of the Malangerfiord, and from thence in a straight line through the
wood to Mittel Rosto Jaure, on the Swedish borders. This considerable
property did not long remain in the hands of one man; it was soon brought by daughters into other families; and it is now divided among three masters, who, by way of distinction, are here called the *Proprietors*. They all three live in the province and in the midst of their property, and one of them, M. Maursund, at Bensjord, where we landed.