

**A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF
ORKNEY,
ZETLAND, PIGHTLAND-
FIRTH AND CAITHNESS**

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A Brief Description of Orkney, Zetland, Pightland-Firth and Caithness by John Brand

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JOHN BRAND

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ORKNEY,
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FIRTH AND CAITHNESS**

HACO'S EXPEDITION

AGAINST

SCOTLAND, 1263.

THE Norwegian Account, literally translated from the Original MSS. by the REV. JAMES JOHNSTONE, A.M., and originally printed for the Author in 1782.

*250 Copies, on vellum note paper, parchment cover,
each numbered and signed. Price 6s.*

A BRIEF
DESCRIPTION OF ORKNEY,
ZETLAND,
PIGHTLAND-FIRTH AND CAITHNESS.

A Brief
DESCRIPTION
OF
Orkney, Zetland,

Pightland-Firth & Caithness

WHEREIN,

After a short Journal of the Author's Voyage
thither, These Northern Places are first
more Generally Described; Then a Parti-
cular View is given of the several *Isles* thereto
belonging, Together with an Account of
what is most Rare and Remarkable therein:
with the Author's Observes thereupon.

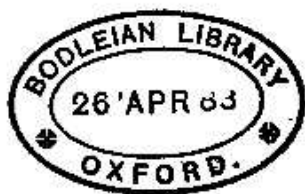
BY

REV. JOHN BRAND

Reprinted verbatim from the Original Edition of 1701.

WILLIAM BROWN
149 PRINCES STREET, EDINBURGH,
1883.

George A. H. Scotland
3-534



THE first edition of the following "*Description of Orkney, Zetland, Pightland-Firth and Caithness*," appeared in the year 1701, and obtained such a measure of popularity as to lead to a second edition two years later. The author, a clergyman of the Church of Scotland, visited the districts of which he writes, as one of a Commission appointed by the General Assembly of his Church to inquire into the state of religion and morals in these parts.

He evidently was a man of education and intelligence, and, not content with limiting his investigations to matters ecclesiastical, set himself to acquire all sorts of information relative to a portion of the kingdom at that time somewhat inaccessible. Antiquities, traditions, and superstitions, commerce, manners, and customs, ornithology, zoology, and climatic peculiarities, all these and much more came within the range of his inquiries; the result being a most readable and entertaining volume.

The mingling of native shrewdness and caution with the credulity common to his time renders his relation of much that was told to

him very amusing, and gives peculiar zest to the "*observes*" which he sees fit to make upon matters deemed worthy of special attention. The largely increased interest in these northern isles displayed during recent years, and the popularity and scarcity of this "*Description*" have led to the present edition, which is reprinted *verbatim* from that of 1701, and which, it is hoped, will prove not unacceptable.

EDINBURGH, 11th March 1883.

PREFACE

To the

READER.

I SHALL not insist on an Apology, why I trouble the Sweating Press, tho I might use and plead the common Topicks taken from the Advice and Importunity of others, and to prevent the Publishing of some of these Remarks, excerpt from my Papers, by some, into whose hands, they had fallen, after they had lien by me several Months.

There are several Grave Persons in these Isles of good and solid Judgment, both Ministers and Others, who being better acquainted with the Places of their ordinary Residence, then it can be supposed I had occasion to be, might have Published something more valuable on this Head, and set their Remarks in a clearer Light. As likewise some of my Dear Brethren of the *Commission*, might have done it to greater Advantage. Yet the Engagements that lay on me, to Transcribe the most Remarkable Occurrences, and the Solicitation of some thereupon, to Pub-