

presents from the inhabitants of *Tula* to each member of the Royal family, upon PAUL's accession to the throne. These offerings were, however, refused by the *Emperor*, upon some pretext of dissatisfaction experienced by him from the people of the place. The true cause, however, was known to be his steady determination of oppressing and insulting every individual, or class of individuals, patronized by his mother. Whatsoever might cast odium upon her memory; whatsoever might sully the lustre of her fame; by interrupting the progress of her plans for public improvement; by dismissing her statesmen and her officers; by poisoning the sources whence she dispensed happiness amongst her people; by overthrowing her establishments; by blighting the tender but thriving shoots of science and of the arts, which she had planted; by converting good to evil, and joy to grief; was the hourly occupation of her unnatural son. In the few years of his frantic tyranny (for every one saw, that of his government there would be a speedy termination) he proved a greater scourge to *Russia* than can be counterbalanced by another long and glorious career, like that of CATHERINE, distinguished by wisdom and power and conquest and beneficence¹.

(1) Such was, at least, the character of her public administration. Her private vices were those of the people over whom she reigned.

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Already every trace of her brilliant reign had disappeared. The *Russians*, on the accession of PAUL, fell back into the barbarism which characterized the empire before the age of their First PETER. The polished nations of *Europe* will be surprised to learn, that immortal as the name of CATHERINE appears in their annals, it was almost forgotten in *Russia* within four years after her death: it remained among the number of privations enjoined by the long list of public proscriptions, and was heard only in the howling of the wind that drifted the snows of *Siberia*. At the same time, her favourites were displaced; her ministers rejected; her officers dismissed; her monuments overthrown: even the *verst-posts*, which bore some marks of her taste, were demolished; and near to their ruins stood a series of wooden *Harlequinades*, chequered to suit the foolish fancy of the *Imperial idiot* upon the throne.

The Reader will find them strikingly pourtrayed in the "*Secret Memoirs of the Court of Petersburg*," a work attributed to the Count *De Segur*. Yet, who shall relate the butcheries of the *Orlofs*, the *Passicks*, and *Baratinskies*, of RUSSIA? All that Shakspeare has fabled of the cruelties of RICHARD THE THIRD seem to have been realized under the reign of CATHERINE; whether with or without her connivance, has not been ascertained. The "*quick conveyance*" of her husband, of the *Holstein Guards*, of Prince *Ivan*, might be the work of her favourites; but can we believe that *Alexius Orlof* was alone implicated in the fate of the innocent daughter of the Empress ELIZABETH?

Tula, in its present condition, is not likely to prove of any advantage to the empire; because the inhabitants are unable to raise a sufficient quantity of water for the works. The machinery is ill-constructed, and it is worse preserved. Every thing seemed to be out of order. Workmen, with long beards, stood staring at each other, not knowing what to do; while their intendants and directors were either intoxicated or asleep. Notwithstanding all this, they boasted of being able to send out of the manufactory, in the common course of business, without any particular order from Government, thirteen hundred muskets in a week. But then the name *musk* is almost all that connects the sham appearance with the real weapon. It is wonderful how any troops can use them: besides being clumsy and heavy, they miss fire five times out of six, and are also liable to burst whenever they are discharged.

The streets of *Tula* are paved: its shops and public places cause an appearance of activity and of industry, in despite of the neglect shewn to the public works. The number of merchants, including shopkeepers, is estimated at four thousand: and of this number some are very rich. Its commerce, independently of the *hardware manufactory*, consists in European merchandize,

CHAP. in Greek wines, and in other productions of *Turkey*. The *Imperial manufactory* of arms employed six thousand workmen; and the number of inhabitants was stated at thirty thousand. The town stands in a pleasing valley, on the borders of the river *Upa*. There are few woods in the neighbourhood, yet they produce sufficient fuel for the consumption of the place. This may be attributed to the very great economy introduced by the use of *stoves*; for the heating of which, a few billets, kindled early in the morning, suffice; an equal warmth being afterwards diffused, during the whole of the day and following night. If they be properly constructed, there is no method of heating apartments attended with so little expense and so many conveniences. In *England*, stoves are generally made of cast iron; these are not merely unwholesome, but, in small rooms, they are very dangerous. Why the *Russian* and *Swedish stoves* have not become common in our country, where every article of fuel is so amazingly expensive, may be explained by those who prefer more costly, and perhaps more cheerful, hearths. The generality of houses in *Tula* are of wood; but the number of dwellings built with stone is considerable, and it increases daily. Many new buildings afforded proof of an increasing population. We observed women

Economy
of Fuel.

employed in repairing the pavement of the streets, which is kept in good order. The dress of the young females displays their persons to advantage. A white shift covers the arms and body in front, and is fastened behind with tape. It is drawn tight over the breast, and there held by a small button. CHAP.
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The *iron mines* in the neighbourhood of this place are very considerable: they occupy an extent of more than ten miles, in a country somewhat hilly, covered by thick woods. The whole of the soil around them is impregnated with iron, but the richest ore is found towards the west. It lies scarcely concealed by a superincumbent surface, not more than fourteen inches thick, consisting of sand mixed with mould, and sometimes of sand alone. From these mines the celebrated forges of *Demidof*, distant thirty-eight miles from *Tula*, derive their ore. Iron Mines.

As soon as we left *Tula*, we quitted the main road from *Moscow* to *Cherson*, and turned off due south, towards *Woronetz*. After ascending the heights above *Tula*, we were carried into a wide and desolate plain, covered only by a thin sod, on which herds of cattle were grazing. This deviation was not made, on our part, without Road from
Tula to
Woronetz.

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apprehension. We had reason to fear that known roads might not suit a carriage ill-constructed for an adventurous journey; being lofty, with narrow axle-trees, and more calculated for cities than deserts. To our great satisfaction, however, and for the comfort and assurance of other travellers who may choose to follow our route, the whole distance to *Woronetz* may be passed over like a bowling-green, and the lightest vehicle would be exposed to no hazard of injury. This vast plain afforded us the finest road in the world, not excepting even those of *Sweden*, being all the way a firm hard turf, exactly resembling that which covers the South Downs in *Sussex*, and with the additional advantage of being for the most part level, extending like an ocean, in which the eye discerns no object to interrupt the uniformity of the view. Over the first part of the journey from *Tula*, small copses, in patches, might be distinguished; and in these we noticed some dwarf oaks, the first seen since we entered *Russia* from the *Swedish* frontier; excepting a single tree in a garden at *Moscow*, shewn there as a rare plant, and cut into a barbarous form, like the yew-trees in old-fashioned English shrubberies¹. Among those

(1) The practice of cutting evergreens so as to resemble the shape of animals is as old as the time of the Younger *Pliny*, and probably much

copses we found the *Potentilla Anserina*, which we had also seen at *Tula*; the *Asperula odorata*; and a species of *Geum* that appeared new to us. CHAP.
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The view of *Tula* from the elevated plain above it, over which the road passes towards *Woronetz*, is very fine. There is not a more pleasing prospect in *Russia*. The town itself, with its numerous white buildings, domes, towers, and rising spires, is a noble object. Trees appeared skirting the suburban downs, and spreading here and there into the valley, while cattle were grazing in the surrounding pastures. At the same time, our ears were greeted with the cheerful sounds of industry issuing from different manufactures; with the ringing of bells; the lowing of the herds; and a loud chorus of peasants, singing their national airs, who accompanied their voices, either with the clapping of hands, or with the wild notes of *rustic pipes*, constructed of the same materials as the *sandals* on their feet*. Numerous caravans were moreover passing from the *Ukraine* and from the *Don*; and the whole of this lively scene exhibited so striking a contrast to what we had long been accustomed to witness

much older. In one of his Letters to *Apollinaris* (lib. 5. ep. 6.) he mentions such ornaments of his Villa in *Tuscany*.

(2) See the *Vignette* to Chapter IX.

CHAP. X. in the frigid regions of the *North*, that we seemed suddenly transported to a different zone.

Dedilof.

The rapture, however, was not of long duration. It is impossible to imagine a place more miserable than the town or village of *Dedilof*, the first place of relay, distant only twenty miles from *Tula*. It consisted of several timber huts, coarsely thatched with straw. The interstices of the trunks of trees, which, lying horizontally, formed the walls of the huts, were filled with mud. *Dedilof* stands in a wide and open district; one half of it being upon the top, and the other half near the bottom, of a hill. At first sight, it appears like a number of dunghills, or heaps of straw; and it is only by a very near approach that the traveller can be convinced of it being the residence of human beings; much less that it should figure in the Russian maps as a town. It is from seeing such places that we may conceive what sort of cities and towns afford the names which we find in the *Russian Atlas*, so profusely scattered over the eastern provinces of the empire². The wretched state of *Dedilof*

(1) Thirty *versts*.

(2) "Several of these towns are even nothing more than so many stakes driven into the ground, containing their name, and delineating their site; yet they figure in the map as if they were the capitals of so many provinces." *Secret Mem. of the Court of Petersburg*, p. 83.

must, perhaps, be attributed to causes which may desolate the fairest cities of the world. It has experienced calamities, both of fire and water; and has been so often reduced to ashes, that its inhabitants dread even the sight of a tobacco-pipe. Seeing the author kindling his pipe, the *Starosta* of the place came to him, to request that he would not use it, especially in the open air, as a casual spark might again involve the inhabitants in flames. Near to the upper part of the village is an immense pool filled with water, which was formerly land, and covered with houses. Suddenly, subterraneous waters, penetrating the soil, rendered it so loose, that the ground, with all the houses, in one night gave way, and the place was transformed into a small lake. As the whole district is swampy, rendering the soil naturally loose and spongy, and water is found immediately below the surface, there is reason to apprehend, sooner or later, that all the land about it will experience the same alteration. This is rendered the more probable by an event which occurred a few years ago. At a small distance from this pool, or lake, is another, caused by a similar catastrophe. The inhabitants of *Dedilof* are peasants, living in the greatest poverty: their sole occupation is tillage.

CHAP.
X.Change of
Climate.

We were now traversing the southern latitude of our beloved country, and in a direct line towards the south. As we drew nigh to *Woronetz*, we observed many of our English indigenous plants; the large *thistle*, the *kilk-weed*, *dandelion*, *white clover*, *wood-strawberry*, *plantain*, and the *dock-weed*. Sudden and loud thunder-storms, with hail and rain, majestic rolling clouds, passing gusts of wind, and transitory sun-beams, reminded us of an English spring. Such accidental resemblances are by no means, however, the necessary accompaniments of a similarity in latitude. *Naples* and *Constantinople* are nearly on the same parallel of latitude; but the climate of the latter is by many degrees the colder of the two. The mild aspect of the Plain of *Woronetz* may be attributed to the want of forests; the removal of which, in all countries, raises the temperature of the climate. A well-known passage in *Horace* describes the mountain *SORACTE* as being white with deep snow¹; but the climate of *Italy* is now so altered, that such a sight is perhaps never observed.

Boghoroditz.

The next day, *June the fifth*, we passed through

(1) " Vides, ut alta stet nive candidum

SORACTE."—— *Horat. Lib. I. Ode 9. v. 1.*

the town of *Boghoroditz*. On an eminence above this place, *Bobrinsky*, son of the late EMPRESS, by *Orlof*, has a magnificent seat, with an estate of the finest corn land in *Russia*, covering an extent of sixteen square miles, and containing, as it is reported, seventy thousand peasants. Here, over an extensive tract of land, nothing is seen but corn. It is the richest country in the empire. The roads are so excellent, that the waggons of the peasants, although laden with stones, pass and repass upon wooden wheels without any iron tires.

It is uncertain when the little town of *Boghoroditz* was built. The inhabitants began to hold their archives under the Tsar FEODOR ALEXO-
VITZ. The shopkeepers, the *Streltzi*, and the *Puschari*, with about one hundred invalid soldiers, have composed, since that time, its inhabitants. The culture of the land is their sole resource, and the fertility of the soil has rendered it remarkably productive. It is said, that the peasants here have even a small superfluity of the produce for sale, which they carry to *Kaluga* and to *Tula*. This place also affords plenty of honey to those towns. A.D. 1584.

From *Boghoroditz* we crossed boundless plains, without a single inclosure, until we came to
Celo Ní-
kitzkoy.

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Celo Nikitskoy. The country around this place has, of late years, been much cultivated. Formerly it resembled the rest of those deserts which the *Russians* call *steppes*, so frequent south of *Woronetz*. The soil here, notwithstanding its recent desolate condition, consisted of nearly two feet of good black vegetable earth, lying upon marl. The plants we observed in flower on this day (*June fifth*) are all known in *England*; the *Bird's-foot Trefoil*, the *Purple Mountain Milk Vetch*, the *Germander*, the *Globe Flower*, and the *Wood Anemone*. *NIKITSKOY* was once in a low and swampy spot, and exceedingly unwholesome; but the inhabitants moved their village to the more elevated situation it now holds; and being too lazy to use the materials of the houses they had abandoned for their new settlement, it was deemed expedient to set them on fire. The flames, communicating to the peat, whereof there is abundance near the place, continued burning for six months with great vehemence, in despite of all the efforts made to extinguish them. The inhabitants now suffer greatly, owing to a scarcity of fuel; yet they make no endeavour to collect the peat, and to dry it for their hearths. We saw here a curious funeral ceremony. The lid of the coffin, formed of one entire piece of wood scooped like a canoe, was not put on till the deceased was laid in his

grave. They buried him in all his wearing apparel; even with the *labkas* on his feet (which were before described). *Mead* was carried to the grave, to be drunk there, in a bowl with a number of small wax bougies stuck around the rim. The women kept up a kind of musical ululation; howling their loud lamentations in strains truly dolorous¹. The rest of the attendants, instead of joining in the *dirge*, or in the other ceremonial rites, were occupied in crossing themselves, and in prostrations towards the *east*, bowing their heads until they touched with their foreheads the other graves near to the place of interment. The lid of the coffin was borne first, covered with linen cloth; after this followed the lower part, containing the body; so that it seemed as if *two* coffins were carried to *one* grave.

We journeyed hence to *Bolshoy Platy*. Soon after passing this last village, we observed, towards our left, the novel and pleasing appearance of a fine wood: here we found that beautiful plant the *Convallaria multiflora* in full bloom, near six feet in height, and flourishing luxuriantly. Afterwards we came to *Effremof*; written

Bolshoy
Platy.

Effremof.

(1) *Homer's* account of the *dirges* sung by women at the funeral of *Hector* proves the antiquity of this custom.

CHAP. X. improperly *Ieremow*, in the *Berlin* edition of the great *Map of Russia*. It is a small insignificant town, upon a high hill; at the foot of which flows a river falling into the *Don*, written *Metscha*, and *Mecza*, but pronounced *Mecha*; or *Méha*, to mark the aspirate more strongly. In a country so uniform as that we were now traversing, much interesting information cannot be expected. The nature of the soil, its produce, the manners and the dresses of the people, afford but few remarks, and these are unimportant. STERNE has humorously observed, that nothing puts a writer of Travels to so much difficulty as the sending him over an extensive plain. To journey many leagues and say nothing, might seem like inattention; but to write observations of no moment, is less pardonable than any omission.

Nicolai-
jevka.

We came to a place which it would be difficult to express by any rule of orthography that might convey an idea of the Russian mode of pronunciation¹. Afterwards, leaving the government of *Tula*, we entered that of *Orlof*, as we were informed; but in the *Berlin Map* it is laid

(1) It may be written *Nicolaijevka*: then, if the *ij* be pronounced as our *y*, and the *w* as an *f*, it becomes *Nicolayefka*, and this is perhaps near the mark.

down as the government of *Orel*. The female costume here is very singular. The caps of the women are triangular, having the vertex of the triangle in front; so that the base extends behind, like two horns, which gives them a droll appearance: they wear also a frock which barely reaches to their knees. In their ears they have large hoop rings, not unlike those lately worn by ladies in *London* and *Paris*. They had also pendants of pieces of metal attached to a handkerchief or cap, which covered the back part of their head.

Proceeding towards *Celo Petrovskia Palnia*, we were much surprised by a spectacle similar to one that *Bruce* witnessed in *Africa*. We observed, at a considerable distance, vertical columns of sand, reaching, as it appeared, from the earth to the clouds, and moving with amazing rapidity along the horizon. Our servant, a Greek, and a native of *Constantinople*, related an instance of a child in the *Ukraine*, who was taken up by one of such tornadoes, and, after being whirled by it, had every limb broken in its fall. He affirmed that he was an eye-witness of this extraordinary accident. Passing this village, we afterwards arrived at *Eletz*, or *Ieletz*, a large paved town of considerable extent, situate between the river whence its name has been

Celo Pe-
trovskia
Palnia.

Eletz.

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derived, and the *Sossna*. This place was entirely destroyed by fire in 1745, and since rebuilt. It stands upon a lofty and steep hill, and maintains a considerable commerce in cattle and in corn. Agriculture here is in a very flourishing state, and the environs abound with wood. The inhabitants consist of merchants, artisans, *Puschari* and *Streltzi*. Its merchandize is derived from *Moscow* and from the *Ukraine*; and it carries on a great internal trade, in the sale of *honey* and *leather* to the people of the town and neighbourhood. The number of persons belonging to the *Crown*, paying tribute, amounts to two thousand three hundred and twenty-three. We observed several *forges* at work; and found that the number of smiths, and other artificers in *iron* alone, equalled two hundred. *Eletz* is renowned for the celebrity of its *forges*. Part of the *iron* is derived from a *mine* near the village of *Visnist-denez*; the whole district around which place, for several versts in extent, exhibits a *ferruginous* soil. Peasants raise the surface with spades, until they reach the *ore*; but as the superficies forming the roof of the *mine* consists of clay and sand, the sides of the apertures they make are very liable to fall: therefore they form the opening so narrow, that the work is carried on with difficulty; the operation being entirely in

shafts, without any level, or even inclined plane. There are also in the vicinity of *Udgin*, upon the eastern banks of the *Don*, mines of iron which are now worked; but as they have hitherto neglected the analysis of their ores, and, instead of making any selection, mix the whole together without the smallest attention to quality, the metal turns out to be brittle, defective, and altogether bad. In the forges of *Tula*, where more caution is used in this respect, the iron is of a very superior nature.

In the streets of *Eletz* we observed large heaps of stone, for the purpose of building, whereof the substance was porous, and perforated in all directions by a deposit of marine animals. It resembled the kind of *limestone* found on the banks of the *Moscow*, but was more marked by impressions of organized bodies. Visiting the high banks of the river near the town, we found large masses of a similar deposit, lying in regular strata¹. Hereafter we shall take occasion to shew, that such appearances may be observed in all the great *Oriental Plain*, inclined from the *Aral*, the *Caspian*, and the *Sea*

(1) We found here the *Veronica Serpyllifolia*, a *Cineraria*, which we believed to be the *Sibirica*; and a new species of *Gypsophila*, growing with *Geum Rivale* and *Ranunculus Auricomus*.

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of *Azof*, towards the *Black Sea*; authentic monuments of a vast ocean, once covering the whole of *TAHTARY*, whose diminished waters are still effecting a further retreat, by the channels of *Constantinople* and the *Dardanelles*.

A musical instrument, more common among antient than modern nations, amused us in the streets of *Eletz*: it consisted of *two reeds*, put together into the mouth. The performer was a blacksmith's boy, who played several tunes. The *reeds* were each about six inches in length, and not thicker than a quill. Such were the *tibiae* used in processions, as represented upon antient *bas-reliefs*, in the *fresco* paintings of *Herculanæum* and *Pompeii*, and upon terra-cotta vases found in *Grecian tombs*.

From *Eletz* we continued our journey, through *Zadonetz*. the village of *Ezvolj*, to *Zadonetz*. In all this route we were continually met by caravans from the *DON*, the *CRIMEA*, and other parts of the *South of Russia*. These caravans formed a train of waggons, thirty or forty in number, laden with *dried fish*, *brandy*, *wool*, *corn*, &c. Sometimes they consisted of *cattle* only; *cows* of an ash colour, *horses*, *goats*, *sheep*, and *hogs*, all moving in the same promiscuous herd, accompanied by *Malo-Russians*, *Cossacks*, and by other inhabitants of

MALO-RUSSIA and the UKRAINE. At a short distance from *Zadonetz*, we crossed the Don by a ferry. This river exhibited a broad, clear, and rapid current. The town stands upon a hill above it, and originally formed one of a line of forts, erected from this place to *Zaritzin*, to prevent the incursions of the *Tahtars* and *Cossacks*. It has now a superintendant, or *Gorodnitch*; and appears, like the other towns through which we passed, to be in a thriving condition. In all of them new houses were building, and the appearance of activity promised improvement.

From *Zadonetz*, our journey conducted us through the sweetest country imaginable, covered with woods full of flowers, fruit-trees, and a number of plants, plainly indicating an approach to warmer climates. Apple and other fruit trees sprouted wild, among young oaks, and other vegetable productions not found nearer to the North Pole. The modern name of the *Tanaïs* will perhaps not meet the Reader's attention so readily, in the compound word *Zadonetz*, as if written *Zadonsk*; in which manner it appears in the best maps. We have imitated the mode of pronunciation as nearly as possible. *Donetz* and *Donsk* are both names of the Don. Farther to the south, and nearer to the mouths of the river, an appellation given to a tributary stream

CHAP. X. is sometimes *Danaetz* or *Danaets*, and *Tdanaets*; hence the transition to *Tanaïs* is not very equivocal; nor can much doubt be entertained concerning the origin of the appellation bestowed by the Antients upon the river. In what a variety of languages has this word *Don*, with its roots and ramifications, been used to signify a river, a lake, or cities near the mouths of rivers! *Don*, *Donets*, *Dun*, *Den*, *Dan*, *Danau*, *Tan*, *Tane*, *Ain*, *An*, *En*, &c. &c. Thus we have *Jordan*; *Tanis*, a name of *SAÏS*, on the *NILE*; *Tan y bwlch*, in *Wales*; *Danube*; *Thames*; *Ain*, and *Colerain*, in the north of *Ireland*; *Eden*, in the same country; *Tyne*; and many others.

Celo
Chlebnoy.

Bestuzevka.

As we advanced through *Celo Chlebnoy*, we beheld, at a distance upon our right hand, the *Don*, rolling in a very majestic and devious course, while the full moon cast her light upon its waters. We halted for the night at a place called *Bestuzevka*, almost a solitary hut in the midst of wide plains; and we were somewhat struck by the singular manner in which a peasant cautioned us not to sleep there. but by all means to proceed another stage. Trifling circumstances of this kind often excite the suspicious fear of travellers; and in this lonely situation we were puzzled by conjectures,

whether an attempt were made to lead us into, or out of, a snare: it ended, however, like many such adventures, in nothing. CHAP.
X.

The next morning, *June the seventh*, we travelled very expeditiously through *Celo Staroy Ivoinskoy*, to the town of WORONETZ, situate upon a river of the same name, near to the spot where it falls into the Don. Woronetz.



CHAP. XI.

FROM WORONETZ, TO THE TERRITORY OF THE DON COSSACKS.

Present state of Woronetz—Climate and productions—Garden of PETER THE GREAT—Inundation and Product of the Rivers—Increase of Buildings—Arsenal—Commerce, internal and external—Wine of the Don—Change of Manners, and of Features—Neglect of Drowned Persons—Tumuli—Malo-Russians—Plains South of Woronetz—Celo Usmany—Podulok Moscovskoy—Mojocks, Ekortzy, and Iestakovo—Locova Sloboda—Paulovskoy—Plants—Animals—Trade—Rash conduct of a young Peasant—Kazinskoy Chutor—Nizney Momon—Dobrinka—Metscha—Kasankara, first Stanitza of the Don Cossacks.

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XI.

IN the reign of PETER THE GREAT, when that monarch came to *Woronetz* to build his first

ship of war, there were scarcely an hundred wooden huts in the place. It is now a very handsome town; and its commerce entitles it to considerable distinction. By means of the *Don*, it possesses an easy intercourse with the BLACK SEA. Every year, vessels go laden to *Tcherchask* with corn; accomplishing their voyage in about two months. In winter they receive merchandize, by sledges, from the *Crimea* and from *Turkey*. Its merchants travel into *Siberia* for furs, and then carry them even to the fairs of *Frankfort*. The Russian *Isvostchick* is seen at a *German fair*, and the same person may be found in the remotest parts of *Siberia*. Sometimes they pursue their course to the coasts opposite to *England*, and buy English hardware, cottons, Japan ware, &c with which they travel to all parts of *Russia*.

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XI.

Present
State of
Woronetz.

WORONETZ, from its remarkable situation, is particularly qualified to become a great capital. It is placed so as to enjoy the advantages both of warm and of cold climates, and it holds an intercourse with all parts of the empire. Nature is so bountiful here in the summer, that plants found in very southern latitudes grow almost spontaneously. The *Water-Melon*, rarely in perfection anywhere, is as common at *Woronetz* as the *cucumber* in *England*, and it flourishes in the open air, with spicy and aromatic herbs.

Climate
and Pro-
ductions.

Yet the inhabitants experience very great extremes of temperature; having sometimes, according to the thermometer of *Réaumur*, thirty degrees of cold in the winter, and twenty-eight degrees of heat¹ in the summer. They use the precaution of double casements to their windows, as at *Moscow* and *Petersburg*, and have very large stoves in all their apartments. In the "*Journal des Savans Voyageurs*," published at *Berne* in 1792, a commentator attempts to explain the cause of the extraordinary difference observed in the productions of the climate and soil of *Woronetz*, when compared with those of other countries in the same latitude; by saying that the nature of the soil necessarily supplies that which the climate would not otherwise afford². The earth is strongly impregnated with *nitrat of potass* in all the environs of *Woronetz*; and it is to the presence of this mineral that the extraordinary fertility of the *Ukraine* has been attributed. The whole country south of *Tula* abounds with it; insomuch that it sometimes effloresces on the soil; and several fabrics for extracting it have been established. The immediate soil below the town of *Woronetz* is sand; upon

(1) Equal to ninety-five of *Fahrenheit*.

(2) See Note to p. 116. *Voyages chez les Peuples Kalmouks et les Tartares*.

a steep mound or bank of which it has been built. It lies in the fifty-fourth degree of northern latitude. The vineyards of *Europe* terminate many degrees nearer to the equator, and yet the wild vine flourishes at *Woronetz*. The inhabitants neglect its cultivation; importing their wine, at a great expense, from the country of the *Don Cossacks*, from *Greece*, and from the *Crimea*. It frequently happens in the province of *Champagne*, in *France*, that the grapes do not attain their maturity; sugar is then used as a substitute in the preparation of the *Champagne wine*¹. At *Woronetz*, where every facility for

(2) The *Champagne wine* has been imitated in *England*, with success, by using gooseberries before they ripen, and by supplying the want of the saccharine acid with loaf-sugar. If the process be properly attended to, there is very little difference. Both are artificial compounds. The common *Champagne wine* drunk in this country is made with green grapes and sugar. The imitation of it, with green gooseberries and sugar, is full as salutary, and frequently as palatable. (Note to the First Edition.) Since this Note appeared, a French translation of these Travels has been published at *Paris*, with Additional Notes "par le Traducteur." Alluding to these observations respecting the *Champagne wine*, he says, "C'est sans doute par un sentiment de patriotisme, et pour dégoûter ses compatriotes du vin de *Champagne*, que le Docteur *Clarke* se permet de hasarder de pareilles assertions. Croit-il que le vin de *Champagne* se fasse avec du sucre et des raisins verts ou des groseilles, et qu'un semblable mélange puisse passer, même en *Angleterre*, pour un analogue des vins d'*Aï* et d'*Epernai*?"

It so happens, that the author's information respecting the *Champagne wine* does not at all depend upon any conjectures he may have formed: it is the result of inquiries which he made upon the spot, and of positive communication, (relative to the chemical constituents "des

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establishing extensive vineyards has been offered by Nature, the cultivation of the vine has been entirely neglected. *Gmelin* endeavoured to make the inhabitants sensible of the importance and advantage the town might derive from the

vins d'Ai et d'Epernai," from *Messrs. Moett and Company*, the principal persons concerned in their fabrication. It was in the town of *Epernai*, whither the author repaired for information upon this subject, that, in answer to some written questions proposed to *Mons. Moett*, the following statement was given by that gentleman touching the admission of sugar into the composition of their wine :

" RÉPONSE à la 3^{me} question : " *sur les Corps étrangers, tels que le sucre que peuvent entrer dans la fabrication du vin ?*—

" Peut-être regarderoit-on en *Champagne* comme une indiscretion, la réponse à cette question, puisque la révélation de ce qu'on appelle LE SECRET DU PROPRIÉTAIRE pourroit nuire à la réputation *des vins de Champagne* ; mais les hommes instruits et éclairés doivent connoître les faits et les causes, parcequ'ils savent apprécier et en tira les justes conséquences.

" Il est très vrai que dans les années froides ou pluvieuses le raisin n'ayant pas acquis assez de maturité, ou ayant été privé de la chaleur du soleil, les vins n'ont plus cette liqueur douce et aimable qui les caractérise. dans ce cas quelques propriétaires y ont supplée par l'introduction dans leur vins d'une liqueur très eclaire DONT LA BASE EST NÉCESSAIREMENT D^U SUCRE ; sa fabrication est un secret ; cette liqueur meslée en très petits quantité aux vins verts, corrige le vice de l'année et leur donne absolument la même douceur que celle que procure le soleil dans les années chaudes. Il s'est élevé en *Champagne* même des fréquentes querelles entre des connoisseurs qui prétendoient pouvoir distinguer au goût, la liqueur artificielle de celle qui est naturelle, mais c'est une chimère. Le sucre produit dans le raisin, comme dans toute espèce de fruit par le travail de la nature, est toujours du sucre, comme celui que l'art pourroit y introduire, lorsque l'intemperance des saisons les en a privé. Nous nous sommes plus très souvent à mettre en défaut l'expérience de ces prétendus connoisseurs, et il est si rare de les voir rencontrer juste, que l'on peut croire que c'est le hazard plusque leur goût qui les a guidé."

growth of vines; but hitherto no attention has been paid to his advice. The delicious wine of the territory of the *Don Cossacks* is sold here, but at very high prices. They serve it with a plate of ice, a piece of which is put into each glass when the wine is drunk. It is light and pleasant, effervescing like the wine of *Champagne*, but having more the flavour of *Burgundy*.

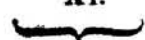
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PETER THE GREAT endeavoured to establish a *Botanic Garden* in the neighbourhood of *Woronetz*, upon a very grand scale. This we visited; and found a complete wilderness of oaks and other forest-trees, the underwood growing so thick under the larger trees as to render a passage through it impracticable. This garden was expressly formed for the growth of useful plants, fruit-trees, vegetables, and whatsoever else might be found likely to answer the purposes of culture in such a climate: but after all the pains bestowed upon its institution, it fell into neglect; like many other designs calculated by that wise monarch for the benefit of his people, when his power ceased of enforcing the care of them. *Gmelin* relates¹, that, in his time, the Governor of *Woronetz* exerted all possible means to restore this garden

Garden of
Peter the
Great.

(1) *Journal des Savans Voyageurs*, p. 114.

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Inundation
and Pro-
duct of the
Rivers.

to its original order; and the consequence was, that a variety of fruit-trees, particularly the vine, the chesnut, and the filbert, produced abundant crops. *Saffron* flourished in great plenty, and many other plants peculiar to warmer climates. The *cherry*, the *apple*, and the *pear* tree, grew wild in the forests around the town; but their better cultivation, as at present, was entirely neglected by the people. We found two plants, very rare in England, thriving among the weeds of the place; the "Spreading Bell-flower" (*Campanula patula*), which grows in *South Wales* and near *Marlborough*; and also the "Mountain Bugle" (*Ajuga pyramidalis*). The other plants which we collected in the neighbourhood of *Woronetz* are given in a Note¹. Stagnant waters, left by the annual inundation of the river, render the place very unwholesome during certain seasons of the year. The inhabitants, both in spring and autumn, are subject to tertian and quartan fevers: these become epidemic, and attack hundreds at the same time. The want of proper remedies for such disorders, and the constant use of salted provisions, frequently cause the ague to degenerate into a continual fever, a

(1) *Polygonum Fagopyrum*—*Adonis æstivalis*—*Cucubalus Behen*—
A new species of *Euphorbia*—*Salvia nutans*—*Verbascum Phœnicum*—
Cheledonium minus—*Ranunculus Illyricus*—*Viola tricolor*.

dropsy, or a consumption. Both the *Woronetz* and the *Don* supply the inhabitants of all this country with an astonishing quantity of fishes; *carp* being the most abundant: but they have also *tench*, *sterlet*, *bream*, *bleak*, *trout*, *lamprey*, *perch*, and *pike*. The last absolutely swarm in their rivers, and grow to a prodigious size; but it is only the poorer class of people who use it for food. When Nature is profuse in her offerings, the love of novelty induces us to contemn, and even to reject, her bounty.

The change of season, as at *Moscow*, does not take place at *Woronetz* with that uncertainty which characterizes our climate. Winter regularly begins in *December*, and ends in the middle of *March*. According to *Gmelin*, the autumn resembles a moderate summer. Vegetation is so rapid during spring, that upon the *ninth* of *June* we saw a pear-tree which had put forth a strong scion above a yard in length. We found the climate so different from that to which we had been lately accustomed, that we were compelled to alter our clothing altogether². The beams of the sun were to us intolerable; and a south-east

(2) It is not necessary to mention the precise height of the mercury in the *thermometer*, because the Reader will find it stated in the *Appendix*, according to the most accurate daily observation throughout the journey.

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wind, like a *Sirocco*, blew frequently and even tempestuously; causing insufferable heat, during the time we remained. The only method we had of cooling our apartments was, by shutting the windows, and drawing curtains over them. Perhaps the sudden transition we had made from colder countries might have rendered us more peculiarly sensible of the oppressive heat of the atmosphere.

Increase of
Building.

New buildings were rising in all parts of *Woronetz*; and the suburbs appeared so extensive, that it was very difficult to form any correct idea of the probable future extent of the place. It was evident that a junction would soon take place between the town and its suburbs; and we were informed that a village or two would also be included. It stands upon the very lofty, steep, and sloping bank before mentioned, having the appearance of a rampart; so that, when viewed from the river below, this bank looks like a prodigious artificial fortification. Doubtless it might be rendered a place of very great strength, as there are no eminences that could command the works on its weakest side. Small lanterns, dispersed about upon posts, serve to light the town. The streets are very wide, without being paved. The *arsenal* erected by

Arsenal.

PETER THE GREAT still remains, although in a

ruinous condition. We visited the little sandy island below the town whercon he built his first ship of war, when he projected the conquest of the *Black Sea*. It is now covered with store-houses, caldrons, and tubs, for the preparation of *tallow*: this is a great article of trade here: it is sent to *England*, and to *America*, in vast quantities. The principal merchant, happening to be upon the spot, asked us, to what use the *English* could possibly appropriate all the *grease* he sent to their country. The stench from the bones and horns of animals, slaughtered for the purpose of preparing the tallow, made this place exceedingly offensive. It formerly exhibited a more pleasing spectacle, when PETER, acting in the double capacity of a *king* and a *carpenter*, superintended his works upon this island. He built a small wooden hut, and a church, opposite to the arsenal, on the side of the river, immediately below the town; and the greatest monarch in the world, surrounded by a few hovels, in a land of savage people accustomed only to their rafts and canoes, was daily seen in the midst of his workmen, upon a little mound of sand, building his first ship of war.

Iron is one of the principal articles of trade in the town, and occupies the chief commerce

Commerce
internal &
external.

of the shops. They also manufacture *cloth* for the army; and have a building for the preparation of *vitriol*. Large balls of whiting are piled up before their doors, as in *Moscow*, *Tula*, and other places. The *cloth factory* was established by PETER THE GREAT, and is the most considerable in *Russia*. PETER resided here in the year 1705; and at the same time was also engaged in building *Petersburg*. In the preparation of *tallow*, they consume the cattle of the country, and, boiling them down, make two sorts. The *first sort* is exported to *England*; the *second* used in *Russia*, in making soap. Ten *pounds* of the best quality sells sometimes in *Petersburg* as high as sixty-three *roubles*. The carriage from *Woronetz* to *Petersburg* costs about eighty *copeeks* per *pound*. If the merchants contract with *English* dealers in *Petersburg* to the amount of one hundred thousand *roubles*, they receive from them fifty thousand in advance, to enable them to buy cattle. This practice of purchasing cattle to boil into *tallow* has, of late years, enormously advanced the price of *meat*. Fourteen years ago, a *pound* of *beef* sold in *Woronetz* for twenty-six *copeeks*; a *pound* of *mutton* for thirty: now the *pound* of *beef* costs two *roubles*, and the *pound* of *mutton* sixty *copeeks*. In return for the *corn* carried annually to *Tcherkask* and to *Azof*, they bring back *raisins*, *figs*, *Greek wines*,

and the *wine* of the *Don Cossacks*. The *salt* consumed in *Woronetz* is supplied from a remarkable *salt lake* in the neighbourhood of *Saratof*, so impregnated with the *muriate of soda*, that fine crystals of it form upon any substance placed in the water. *Sugar* is very dear; it is brought only from *Petersburg*. The necessities of life, however, are, generally speaking, cheap. The carriers of *Woronetz* go every three years to *Tobolsky* in *Siberia*, where there is a rendezvous for all caravans bound to *Kiatha*, on the frontier of *China*. From *Tobolsky* they form one immense caravan to *Kiatha*. Afterwards, returning to *Tobolsky*, they disperse, according to their several routes. From *Siberia* they bring *furs*; from *Kiatha*, Chinese merchandize of all sorts, *tea*, raw and manufactured *silk*, *porcelain*, and *precious stones*. The *Chinese*, upon their arrival at *Kiatha*, also furnish them with the productions of *Kamchatka*, brought from *St. Peter and St. Paul*. Thus laden, many of the caravans set out for *Francfort*, and return with *muslin*, *cambric*, *silks*, the *porcelain* of *Saxony*, and other goods from the manufactures of *England*.

Four men, with their captain, offered to take us by water to *Tcherchask* for two hundred and fifty *roubles*, including the necessary purchase of boats, anchors, sails, oars, &c. But the river

CHAP.
XI.Wine of
the Don

is so shallow during summer, that we should have been two months in getting thither; the distance being fifteen hundred *versts*. The best wine of the *Don* is made upon the river, about three hundred *versts* before arriving at *Tcherchask* from *Woronos*. Fourteen bottles sell there for one *rouble* and fifty *copeeks*. They are apt to make it before the grape ripens; and perhaps this may be the case with all wine exhibiting effervescence¹. Their *white wine* proves better than the *red*, when the fruit is suffered to ripen; but this very rarely happens.

Change of
Manners.

Approaching the Southern part of the empire, the strong characteristics of the Russian people are less frequently observed. Happily for the traveller, in proportion as his distance is increased from that which has been erroneously considered the civilized part of the country, he has less to complain of theft, of fraud, and of dissimulation². In the more Northern provinces, he is cautioned to beware of the inhabitants of

(1) See the Note upon *Champagne wine* in a former page of this Chapter.

(2) "The Russian peasant, without property, without religion, without morals, without honour, is hospitable, humane, obliging, gay, faithful, and brave the farther you penetrate into the country remote from cities, the better you find him; the most savage is always the best." *Secret Mem. of the Court of Petersb.* p. 266.

the *Ukraine*, and the *Cossacks*, by an unprincipled race of men, with whom the *Cossack* and the *Tahtar* are degraded in comparison. The chambers of our inn were immediately over the town jail; and it is quite unnecessary to add of what nation its tenants were composed. The *Russian* finds it dangerous to travel in the *Ukraine*, and along the *Don*, because he is conscious the inhabitants of these countries know too well with whom they have to deal. The *Cossack*, when engaged in war, and remote from his native land, is a robber, because plunder is a part of the military discipline in which he has been educated; but when a stranger enters the district where he resides with his family and connections, and confides property to his care, the inhabitant of no country is found either more hospitable, or more honourable. Concerning the inhabitants of the country called *Malo-Russia*, a French gentleman, who had long resided among them, assured us he used neither locks to his doors nor to his coffers; and among the *Cossacks*, as in *Sweden*, a trunk may be sent unlocked, for a distance equal to five hundred miles, without risking the loss of any part of its contents. Mr. *Rowan*, banker of *Moscow*, was compelled, by the breaking of his carriage, to abandon it in the midst of the territory of the *Don Cossacks*; and it was afterwards brought

CHAP. XI. safe to him at *Taganrog*, with all its appurtenances, by the unsolicited and disinterested labour of that people¹. Who would venture to leave a carriage, or even a trunk, although encased, doubly locked, and duly directed, among the *Russians*

Change of
Features.

From the time we left *Tula*, a remarkable change was visible in the features of the people: this we were unable to explain. The peasants had frequently the straight yellow hair of the inhabitants of *Finland*, and the same light complexion; neither resembling *Russians*, *Poles*, nor *Cossacks*. At *Woronetz* the *Gipsey* tribe was very prevalent; and a mixed race, resulting from their intermarriage with *Russians*.

Neglect of
drowned
Persons.

The horrid practice of burying persons alive sometimes takes place in *Russia*, from the ignorance of the inhabitants. Instances of suspended animation, occasioned by the vapour of their stoves, or by accidents in water, are always considered lost cases; and the unhappy sufferer is immediately committed to the grave, without any attempt towards recovery. They send

(1) Of this fact we were assured by Mr. *Howan* himself, to whom we were indebted for many instances of politeness and attention during the time we resided in *Moscow*.

only for a police-officer, to note down the circumstances of the disaster; and, without the smallest effort towards restoring respiration, proceed in the ceremony of interment. A poor woman in bathing, during our stay at *Woronetz*, fell beyond her depth. She struggled some time with the stream, and, being carried by it about three hundred yards, was taken out by some peasants before she had either sunk or lost her power of motion. When laid on the earth, she groaned and moved; but the water which had been swallowed rendered her face black, and she became apparently lifeless. She was therefore immediately pronounced to be really dead. No endeavour on our part, accompanied by persuasion and by offers of money, could induce the spectators either to touch the body, or to suffer any remedy to be attempted towards her recovery. They seemed afraid to approach what they considered as a corpse. In vain we explained to them the process by which persons, so circumstanced, are restored to life in England. They stood at a distance, crossing themselves, and shaking their heads; and in this manner the poor woman was left upon the shore, until it would have been too late to have made use of any means for her recovery. If she were not afterwards buried alive, her death was certainly

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owing to a shameful and an obstinate neglect of remedies, which, in her case, promised every success. The police-officer gave in his memorial, and her body was committed to the grave.

We left *Woronetz*, June 12th; crossing the river at the bottom of the town, and entering plains as before. The swamps below *Woronetz* at once explain the cause of the annual fevers to which its inhabitants are liable: they exhale, during warm seasons, vapours as unwholesome as those which arise from the fens of *Italy*.

There are few finer prospects than that of *Woronetz*, viewed a few *versts* from the town, on the road to *Paulovskoy*. Throughout the whole of this country are seen, dispersed over immense plains, mounds of earth covered with a fine turf; the sepulchres of the antient world, common to almost every habitable country. If there exist any thing of former times, which may afford monuments of primeval manners, it is this mode of burial. They seem to mark the progress of mankind in the first ages after the dispersion; rising wherever the posterity of *Noah* came. Whether under the form of a Mound in *Scandinavia*, in *Russia*, or in *North*

*America*¹; a *Barrow* in *England*; a *Cairn* in *Wales*, in *Scotland*, or in *Ireland*; or of those *heaps* which the modern *Greeks* and *Turks* call *Tépe*; or, lastly, in the more artificial shape of a *Pyramid* in *Egypt*; they had universally the same origin. They present the simplest and sublimest monument that any generation of men could raise over the bodies of their forefathers; being calculated for almost endless duration, and speaking a language more impressive than the most studied epitaph upon Parian marble. When beheld in a distant evening horizon, skirted by the rays of the setting sun, and, as it were, touching the clouds which hover over them, imagination represents the spirits of departed heroes as descending to irradiate a warrior's grave². Some of those mounds appeared with forms so simple, and yet so artificial, in a plain otherwise level, that no doubt whatsoever could be entertained concerning their origin. Others, more antient, have at last sunk into the earth, and left a hollow place, encircled by a kind of fosse, which

(1) See the *Journal of a Tour into the Territory North-west of the Alleghany Mountains*, by Thaddeus Mason Harris; Boston, 1805; for a very curious account of the Sepulchral Mounds in America; the history of which is lost, as the author expresseth it, "in the oblivion of ages."

(2) See the *Vignette* to this Chapter.

still marks their situation. Again, others, by the passage of the plough annually upon their surface, have been considerably diminished. These *Tumuli* are the Sepulchres referred to by *Herodotus*, in the earliest accounts which history has recorded of this mode of burial'. The tombs of the *Scythian kings* are said, by him, to exist in the remotest parts of *Scythia*, where the *Borysthenes* is first known to be navigable; and they are further described as being constructed precisely according to the appearance they now exhibit.

*Malo-
Russians.*

We frequently met with caravans of the *Malo-Russians*, who differ altogether from the inhabitants of the rest of *Russia*. Their features are those of the *Polonese*, or *Cossacks*. They are a more noble race; stouter and better looking than the *Russians*, and superior to them in every thing that can exalt one class of men above another. They are cleaner, more industrious, more honest, more generous, more polite, more courageous, more hospitable, more truly pious, and, of course, less superstitious. Their language only differs from the *Russian*, as the dialect of the *southern provinces* of *France* does from the dialect spoken near *Paris*. They

have in many instances converted the desolate *steppe*² into fields of corn. Their caravans are drawn by oxen, which proceed about thirty *versts* in a day. Towards evening, they halt in the middle of a plain, near some pool of water; when their little waggons are all drawn up into a circle, and their cattle are suffered to graze around them; while the drivers, stretched out upon the smooth turf, take their repose, or enjoy their pipes, after the toil and heat of the day. If they meet a carriage, they all take off their caps and bow. The meanest *Russians* bow to each other, but never to a stranger.

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South of *Woronetz* we found the country perfectly level, and the roads (if a fine turf lawn may be so denominated) the finest, at this season, perhaps in the whole world. The turf upon which we travelled was smooth and firm, without a stone or a pebble, or even the mark of wheels, and we experienced little or no dust. Nothing could be more delightful than this part of our journey. The whole of these

Plains
south of
Woronetz.

(2) *Steppe* is the name given, in the *South of Russia*, to those plains, which, though capable of cultivation, have never been tilled. They are covered with wild plants; and sometimes, perhaps improperly, called *deserts*. In *America*, similar plains are called *Prairies*.

immense plains were enamelled with the greatest variety of flowers imaginable. The list of plants we collected is much too numerous for the text'. The earth seemed covered with the richest and most beautiful blossoms, fragrant, aromatic, and, in many instances, entirely new to the eye of a British traveller. Even during the heat of the day, refreshing breezes wafted a thousand odours, and all the air was perfumed. The skylark was in full song; various insects, with painted wings, either filled the air, or were seen couched within the blossoms. Advancing near to the *Don*, turtle-doves, as tame as domestic pigeons, flew around our carriage. The pools were filled with wild-fowl; dogs, like those of the *Abruzzo* Mountains, guarded the numerous herds and flocks passing or grazing. Melons of different sorts flourished in the cultivated

(1) *Androsace Septentrionalis*—*Centauria myriocephala*—*Stipa pennata*—*Cerastium*—*Lithrum Virgatum*—*Asclepias Vincetoxicum*—Larkspur, *Delphinium Ajacis*—*Vicia Pannonica*. Also the following, well known in England: Meadow Clary, *Salvia pratensis*—*Gnaphalium dioicum*—Wood Crane's-bill, *Geranium sylvaticum*—*Geum Urbanum*—Mouse-ear Scorpion Grass, *Myosotis Scorpioides*—*Cucubalus Orites* (grows on Newmarket Heath)—*Sisymbrium amphibium* (along the banks of the Cam)—Yellow Rocket, Bitter Winter Grass, *Erysimum barbaria*.

although uninclosed grounds near the villages, covering several acres of land.

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At *Celo Usmany* we were employed in collecting plants. The *Echium rubrum*, falsely called *Italicum* by *Gmelin*, we first noticed about this place, and it was afterwards very common. It grows chiefly among corn. The women of the *Don* use it in painting their cheeks; the root, when fresh, yielding a beautiful vermilion tint. The peasants also extract from it a gum. It is engraven in the "Journal des Savans Voyageurs." *Gmelin* recommended its transplantation, and the application of its colouring properties to objects of more importance. We observed also the *Spiræa filipendula*, which is found upon the Hills near *Cambridge*, and some varieties of the *Centaurea*; also the *Onosma echioides*, *Veronica Austriaca*, *Pedicularis tuberosa*, and *Salvia pratensis*. It is from the root of the *Onosma* that the *Tahtar* women obtain their rouge. *Celo Usmany.*

Usmany is entirely inhabited by *Russians*: and whenever this is the case, towards the south of the empire, a village resembles nothing more than a number of stacks of straw or of dried weeds. The female peasants were seated upon the turf, before their huts, spinning.

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— Their machines are not quite so simple as those used in many parts of Italy. They consisted of wooden combs, placed upon a stick driven into the ground, to contain the flax, and not rising higher than the knee: while the right hand is employed in spinning, the left manages the spindle. This manner of living affords a striking contrast to the Government that oppresses them; for we observed an air of liberty in these wild and wide plains, ill suited to the reflections we had before made on the general condition of the *peasants*. The severity of the winter here is hardly reconcileable with the appearance of a country abounding in plants which are found in warm climates: yet the snow annually affords a sledge-road, the whole way from the *Gulph of Finland* to the *Sea of Azof*.

Podulok
Moscov-
skoy.

From *Celo Usmany* we travelled, over similar plains, to *Podulok Moscovskoy*, where we passed the night in a wretched village, the miserable inhabitants of which were not even able to light a candle. Nothing could be more revolting than the sight of their hovels, open to all the inclemencies of the weather, and destitute of every comfort or common convenience of life. They were said to be settlers from *Tver*.

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XL

*Mojocks,
Ekortzy,
and Iestakovo.*

The next morning, (*June 13th*), we passed the village of *Mojocks*, and came to *Ekortzy*: here we halted to take some refreshment under a pent-house, upon a *khabitka*; the heat of the sun being almost insupportable. The people were kind; and a coarse meal became, on that account, agreeable. We perceived, as it has been before remarked, that the farther we advanced from the ordinary hordes of the *Russians*, the more politeness and hospitality we experienced; this being, however, exactly the reverse of the information given to us by the inhabitants of *Moscow*. The *deserts*, as they were described, instead of proving a bare and sandy waste, presented verdant lawns, covered with herbage, though sometimes dry, and scorched by the rays of a very powerful sun.

Near to *Ekortzy* we added the *Verbascum Phœnicium* to our herbary: and between *Ekortzy* and *Iestakovo*, upon a high, bleak, chalky soil, we found the rarest plants which occurred during our whole route; *Draba Alpina*, and *Polygala Sibirica*. Professor *Pallas* could hardly credit the evidence of his senses, when he afterwards saw them among our collection in the *Crimea*. Near the same spot we also observed that beautiful plant, the *Clematis integrifolia*, exhibiting colours of blue and gold; with

others, which, being less remarkable, are given in the subjoined Note¹.

Locova
Sloboda.

The first regular establishment of *Malo-Russians* occurred after leaving *Iestakovo*. It was called *Locova Sloboda*. The houses were all white-washed, like many of the cottages in *Wales*: this operation is performed annually, with great care. Such distinguished cleanliness appeared within the dwellings, that a traveller might fancy himself transported, in the course of a few miles, from *Russia* to *Holland*. Their apartments, even the ceilings and the beams in the roof, are regularly washed. Their tables and benches shine with washing and rubbing, and reminded us of the interior of cottages in *Norway*. Their court-yard, stables, and out-houses, with every thing belonging to them, exhibited neatness, and proofs of industry. In the furniture of their little kitchens, instead of the darkness and smoky hue of the Russian houses, we observed everywhere brightness and cleanliness. Their utensils and domestic vessels were all scoured and well polished. They had poultry, and plenty of cattle; and their gardens were filled with fruit-trees.

(1) Other varieties of *Verbascum*,—*Alyssum incanum*, and *montanum*.
—*Sideritis montana*. Varieties of *Genista*, and *Vicia Cassubica*.

The inhabitants, in their features, resemble *Cossacks*; and both these people bear a similitude to the *Poles*; being, doubtless, all derived from one common stock. The dress of unmarried women is much the same among the *Mulo-Russians* and the *Don Cossacks*. They both wear a *kelt*, or petticoat, of one piece of cloth fastened round the waist. Sometimes, particularly among more aged females, this petticoat consists of two pieces, like two aprons; the one fastened in front, and the other behind. The necks of the girls are laden with large red beads, falling in several rows over the breast. The fingers, both of men and women, are set off with rings, containing glass gems. A simple *bandeau*, or gilded cap, is sometimes seen on female heads; and from behind hang rows of antique coins, or false pieces sold to them for that purpose, imitating the antient coin of their own and of other countries. The hair of unmarried women is suffered to fall in a long braid down the back, terminated by a ribbon with a knot. Their language is pleasing, and full of diminutives. But the resemblance of this people, in certain circumstances of dress and manners, to the *Scotch Highlanders*, is very remarkable. The cloth petticoat, before mentioned, is chequered like the *Scotch plaid*, and answers to the *kelt* which is still worn in *Scotland*. They have also, among their musical instru-

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ments, the *bag-pipe*, and the *Jew's-harp*: the former, like that used in *North Britain* and in *Finland*, is common to the *Cossacks* as well as to the *Malo-Russians*. Another point of resemblance may be found in the love of spirituous liquors. The *Malo-Russians* are truly a merry race, and much given to drinking: but this habit prevails among all barbarous nations.

Paulov-
skoy.

From hence we proceeded to *Paulovskoy*, situate upon a high sandy bank, on the eastern side of the *Don*. It is a small town, and at a distance makes a pleasing appearance; but consists of little more than a church and a few scattered wooden houses. The river, broad and rapid, here makes a noble appearance: barges, laden with corn, were moving with its current towards the *Sea of Azof*. Close to its

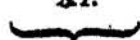
Plants.

banks we found a variety of beautiful plants. The *Stipa pennata*, celebrated in *Russian* songs, waved its feathery locks, as in almost all the *steppes*. In the branches of the *Artemisia campestris*, insects had caused excrescences, which are used by *Tahtar* nations in kindling their tobacco-pipes. The Climbing Birthwort (*Aristolochia Clematitis*), a rare *British* plant, although found at *Whittlesford* in *Cambridgeshire* and at *Stanton* in *Suffolk*, appeared among *Southernwood*, *Woody Nightshade*, *Water Crow-*

foot, and *Flea-bane*. The rest were all strangers'.—On the eastern banks are extensive low woods, hardly rising above the head: these are so filled with nightingales, that their songs are heard, even in the town, during the whole night. There is, moreover, a kind of toad, or frog, which the Empress ELIZABETH transported to the marshes near *Moscow*. Its croaking is loud and deep-toned, and may be also termed musical; filling the air with full hollow sounds, very like the cry of the old English harrier. This kind of reptile is not known in the north of *Europe*. The noise it makes is in general loud enough to be heard for miles, joining with, and sometimes overpowering, the sweeter melody of nightingales. This circumstance gives quite a new character to the evening and to the night. Poets in *Russia* cannot describe silence and solemnity as characteristics of the midnight hour; but rather a loud and busy clamour, totally inconsistent with the opening of *Gray's Elegy*, and the *Night Thoughts* of *Young*.

PETER THE FIRST founded *Paulovskoy*, and named it in honour of *St. Paul*. It was designed

(1) *Campanula Sibirica* — *Dracocephalum Ruyschiana* — *Oenothera simplicissima* — *Anthemis tinctoria*.

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as a frontier town against the *Tahtars* and *Turks*.

The territory of the former then extended to *Bachmut*, on the southern side of the *Donetz*; and that of the *Turks*, to the place where now stands the fortress of *Dimitri*, upon the *Don*.

There was here a *Botanic garden*, as at *Woronetz*; but of this not a trace now remains. The underwood about the place was, in *Gmelin's* time, a forest: it is daily diminishing, but it

Animals.

contains many animals common in the surrounding *steppes*; as *bears*, *wolves*, *foxes*, *martens*, *hares*, *weasels*, *ermine*s, and *squirrels*. Among the *birds*, not frequent elsewhere, may be mentioned the *pelican*: vast flights arrive annually from the *Black Sea* and the *Sea of Azof*, accompanied by *swans*, *cranes*, *storks*, and *geese*. They alight at the mouths of the *Don*, and proceed up the river: in autumn they return by the same route. *Pelicans* construct their nests of rushes, lining the interior with moss, or any soft herb. Such nests are found only upon the small islets of the river, and in places where moss may be procured. They lay two white eggs, about the size of those of the *swan*, and employ the same time in hatching. If disturbed while sitting, they hide their eggs in the water; taking them out afterwards with their bill, when they believe the danger removed. They live altogether upon fish, and consume a prodigious quantity. The

Russian naturalists give a curious account of this bird's mode of fishing, assisted by the *cormorant*. The *pelican* extends its wings, and troubles the water; while the *cormorant*, diving to the bottom, drives the fish to the surface. Then the *pelican*, continuing the motion of its wings, advances towards the shore, where the fish are taken among the shallows. Afterwards, the *cormorant*, without further ceremony, helps himself out of the *pelican's* beak'.

The principal trade carried on here is in Trade. tallow and fruit: the latter article, particularly the *Water-Melon*, is carried to *Moscow* and to *Petersburg*. They plant it in the open fields, where it covers whole acres of land. In the *steppes* near the town, we observed about thirty women hoeing a piece of uninclosed ground, for the culture of this delicious vegetable. That a plant, rarely in perfection anywhere, should thrive upon the rivers in this part of *Russia*, and in such a latitude, is very remarkable. Perhaps its flavour does not depend upon latitude. At *Naples*, although so highly esteemed, the *Water-Melon* seldom ripens. In *Egypt* it is even worse. Indeed, the only place where we have seen the *Water-Melon* attain its full

(1) *Journal des Savans Voyageurs*, p. 144, -

CHAP. colour, size, and maturity, is at *Jaffa*, upon
 XI. the coast of SYRIA.

Rash Con-
 duct of a
 young Pe-
 sant.

We found ourselves among *Russians* at *Paulovskoy*, and narrowly escaped with our lives. The author, being asleep within the carriage, was awakened by some person gently opening the door; and could discern, although in the night, a man extending his arm in a menacing manner. Making a sudden effort to seize him by the hair, the fellow eluded the attempt, and escaped: an alarm was immediately given, but he could not then be discovered. Soon after this, the author, putting his head out of the carriage window, to call the servant, a large stone, thrown with great violence, struck the frame of it close to his head; sounding so like the report of a pistol, that at first he believed a pistol had been discharged close to him. Upon this a second search was made, and a man in consequence detected, pretending to sleep in one of the *hhabithas*, in the court-yard of the inn. This fellow, whether guilty or not, we compelled to mount the barouche-box, and to sit there as sentinel. Soon afterwards, all of the party who were in the house came running into the yard, saying that the front of the inn was beset by some persons from without, who had hurled stones through the windows, and

broken every pane of glass. Determined to sell our lives as dearly as possible, we drew our sabres, and proceeded in a body towards the residence of the Governor, a very worthy man, who instantly rose from his bed, and set on foot an inquiry after the offenders, which continued the whole of the night. At the same time, soldiers were stationed with the carriage, and the patrol of the town was doubled. Towards morning, they brought in a young man, whom they stated to have detected in the act of making his escape from the out-houses of our inn. During his examination, the cause of all this disorder was made known. He proved to be a lover of one of the girls of the house; and as she had refused to come out to him when he had sent for her, his jealousy convinced him that he was slighted upon our account. In a fit of desperate fury, he had therefore resolved to wreak his vengeance upon some of the party, if not upon all: and in this undertaking he had been aided by certain of his comrades. The poor fellow was more an object of pity than resentment, and we interceded for his pardon; but the Governor insisted upon making an example of him. The police-officers led him away, sulky, and, as it seemed, nothing loth, to be flogged. As he went, he still vowed revenge; declaring, that he was not alone in

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the business; for that fifteen of his confederates had made an oath, to be revenged, not only upon the girl, but upon all her family, for her inconstancy to him.

*Kuzinskoy
Chutor.*

The Governor provided us with a powerful escort; and early in the morning we continued our journey. The roads have been all changed, since *Gmelin*, and other travellers, visited this part of *Russia*. We proceeded from *Paulovskoy* to *Kazinskoy Chutor*, a village inhabited by *Malo-Russians* and *Russians* mingled together. The distinction between the two people might be made without the smallest inquiry, from the striking contrast they exhibited of filth and cleanliness. In the stable of the post-house we found about twenty horses, kept with a degree of order and neatness which would have done credit to any nobleman's stud in *Britain*. The house of the poor superintendant villager was equally admirable: every thing appeared clean and decent: there was no litter; nor was any thing out of its place. It was quite a new thing to us, to hesitate whether we should clean our boots before walking into an apartment, on the floor of which we would rather have placed our dinner than upon the table of any *Russian* prince.

This village is situate in the most wild and open *steppes*. Amongst the short herbage we noticed the *land-tortoise*. Its flesh is esteemed a great delicacy; as it is in the *Archipelago*, and in all *Turkish* cities. Boat-loads of them are carried from the *Greek Isles* to the markets of *Constantinople*. After leaving *Kazinshoy*, we passed through several very large villages, scattered over valleys, each of which appeared to consist rather of several hamlets than of one, and arrived at *Nizney Momon*. Nothing occurred worth observation, except the plants we collected¹. The heat was intense. The country similar to that before described. We found our vinegar a pleasing and salutary ingredient in bad water, and a most delicious solace, when exposed to the scorching rays of the sun, with parched lips, and mouths full of dust. It was impossible to resist the temptation of drinking it without water; and to the practice of doing so may be attributed, perhaps, the weak state of health into which the author afterwards fell. We considered it, at this time, the most valuable part of our baggage; and afterwards, in

*Nizney
Momon.*

(1) Of these, some are known in our country; viz. *Goat's-beard*, *Tragopogon pratense*, and *Potentilla argentea*. Others, more rare, are, the *Gladiolus inbricatus*, not found even in our botanic gardens; *Astragalus Onobrychis*, *Hesperis matronalis*, and *Campanula Sibirica*. We observed also a new species of *Lycanis*.

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Kuban Tahtary, derived from it the only means of sustaining the fatigue and languor caused by the heat of the climate and by bad air.

Dobrinka. The next place we came to was *Dobrinka*: and here, for the first time, we found an establishment of *Cossacks*; although but few appeared, and even these were mixed with *Malo-Russians*. The church was new; a large and handsome white building, erected by the Emperor PAUL. Others of the same nature appeared in most of the neighbouring villages. That of *Dobrinka* makes a conspicuous appearance, several miles before the traveller reaches it. If happiness could be found under the *Russian Government*, it might be said to have its residence in *Dobrinka*; a peaceable and pleasant spot, full of neat little white cottages, tenanted by a healthy, and apparently contented, society, whose members live in the greatest tranquillity, removed from all the spies, tax-gatherers, police-officers, and other petty despots of the country. We were received into one of their court-yards, with a hearty welcome and smiling countenances, very different from the lowering brows, and contracted suspicious eyes, to which we had been so often accustomed. At sun-set, all the cows belonging to the inhabitants came, in one large troop,

lowing, into the village. No driver was necessary; for, as the herd entered, they separated into parties, and retired of their own accord to their respective owners, in order to be milked. The *Malo-Russians*, with their numerous families, were seated upon the ground, in circles before their neat little habitations, eating their supper; and, being all merry together, offered a picture of contentment and of peace not often found within *Russian* territories¹.

About four in the afternoon of the next day, *Metscha*, having been detained for want of horses at *Metscha*, we arrived at *KASANKAIA*, one of the largest *stanitzas* of the *DON COSSACKS*, and the first within their territory. As we are now entering upon the description of a very interesting part of our journey, we shall be particularly careful to note every observation that may occur, relating to a country rarely visited, and, upon that account, very little known; where every thing is interesting, because every thing presents what travellers from other countries have not seen before. The independent mode of life of the people; their indolence at home; their activity in war; their remote situation

Kasankaia,
first *Stan-*
nitza of the
Don Cos-
sacks.

(1) We observed here a plant which grows on the Hills near Cambridge, the *Hedysarum Onobrychis*.

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XI. { with regard to the rest of *Europe*; the rank they
hold in the great scale of society; the history of
their origin; their domestic manners, and cha-
racter; all these require consideration.



Mode of Travelling across the Territory of the Don Cossacks.

CHAP. XII.

TERRITORY OF THE DON COSSACKS.

Appearance of the Cossacks at Kasankaia—House of the Ataman—Ideal Dangers of the Country—Voyage by Water—Amusements and Dances of the People—Departure—Steppes—River Lazovai—Visit to a Camp of Calmucks—Of their Brandy distilled from Mare's Milk—Personal Appearance of Calmucks—Arts, Armour, and Weapons—Recreations and Condition of Life—Acenovskaia—Of the Suroke, or Bobac, of the Steppes—The Biroke and Suslic—Nature of Villages named in Russian Maps—Stragglers from the Army—Distinction between Cossacks of the Steppes and of the Don—Kamenskaia—Iron Foundries of Lugan—Etymology of the word TANAÏS—Numerous Camps of Calmucks—Approach to Áxay.

THERE is something extremely martial, and even intimidating, in the first appearance of a

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CHAP. COSSACK. His dignified and majestic look ; his
XII.

Appearance of the
Cossacks at
Kasankaia.

elevated brows, and dark mustachoes ; his tall helmet of black wool, terminated by a crimson sack, with its plume, laced festoon, and white cockade ; his upright posture ; the ease and elegance of his gait ; give him an air of great importance. We found *Cossacks* in considerable number at *Kasankaia*, lounging before their houses, and conversing in such large parties, that it seemed as if we were entering their capital. Their dresses were much richer than any thing we had observed in *Russia*, although all were uniform. Each person's habit consisted of a blue jacket, edged with gold and lined with silk, fastened by hooks across the chest. Beneath the jacket appeared a silk waistcoat, the lower part of which was concealed by the sash. Large and long trowsers, either of the same material as the jacket, or of white dimity, kept remarkably clean, were fastened high above the waist, and covered their boots. The sabre is not worn, except on horseback, upon a journey, or in war. In its stead is substituted a switch, or cane, with an ivory head : this every Cossack bears in his hand, as an appendage of his dress ; being at all times prepared to mount his horse at a moment's notice. Their cap or helmet is the most beautiful part of the costume ; because it is becoming to every set of features. It adds