

por in which they had remained, between the discontinuance of artificial warmth and the decisive arrival of the hot weather, and annoyed us beyond imagination. They are the mosquitoes and plague of the north. No one, but those who have suffered, could believe them capable of producing so much torment.

One night we put up at Mjölbolstet, a solitary post-house in the midst of a gloomy forest of fir, which lay upon the borders of an arm of the gulf of Finland. The post-master ushered us into a little hole in a wooden shed, opposite to the posthouse, the latter being occupied by his family. We had the consolation of finding that we had the place to ourselves, from which we could never have expected to emerge, if, notwithstanding the treachery of our *yorbode* some time before, we had not formed a high opinion of Swedish morality. The windows, which looked into the depth of the forest, were as immoveable as the building; this was somewhat satisfactory. It is always a pleasant thing to strengthen favourable impressions with judicious precautions. The sides of the room were completely encrusted with flies, who at this moment were recruiting themselves for the mischief of the next day; and mice and *tarrakans*, or beetles, shared the possession of the floor. In two corners of this dolorous hole stood two cribs, each furnished with a bed of straw, a bronze-coloured blanket well charged with fleas, and a greasy coverlid. Cribs

are the usual bedsteads in the north. Here we endeavoured to invoke that sweet power which

“ ————— seldom visits sorrow ; when it doth,
It is a comforter.”

Alas ! our wretched taper, and the bustle of bringing in our luggage, had excited an alarm amongst our tormentors, who besieged us in battalions. These busy many-eyed marauders, with their gossamer wing and incessant hum, opposed the approach of sleep, and fairly kept her aloof for two long dreary hours. Weary, yet incapable of repose, something was to be done. I resolved upon revenge, and accordingly made an irritable effort to surprise three of my enemies, who in a row were audaciously washing their little slender black hands upon one of mine ; I gained nothing by my rage but (such is the association of ideas) the recollection of an admirable representation, which I once saw in a private room, of an ideot attempting to do the same thing, and the wild delight which he displayed in succeeding, by a gentleman who closely and chastely copying nature, the only model capable of making any actor great, may be ranked amongst the first comedians of his time, I mean Mr. Matthews.

The impression of that surprising display of imitative power, so completely occupied me, that in spite of my opponents, I succeeded in closing my eyelids, and never opened

them until the full day broke in great glory. Upon rising I found some brother travellers, who arrived after we had retired to rest, had slept on the earth under their carriage, and were in the act of shaking themselves and setting off for Abo. I must confess, agreeable as solitude frequently is to me, I was glad to retire from this species of it. As the sultry sun was flaming in the meridian, we passed a large portion of a forest on fire. This circumstance was not the effect of accident nor of a natural cause, which in these regions is frequently followed by the most direful consequences, and to which I shall have occasion to allude hereafter. By some smart touches of the whip we saved our servant, horses and carriage, from being a little toasted on one side. What we saw arose from the farmers clearing the ground, who confine the flames to the proper boundary by making an interval of felled trees. In the evening we passed by, at some distance, another forest which was in the same predicament, and had a very sublime and novel effect.

The country about Borgo, a garrison town most miserably paved, and where our passports were demanded, is undulating and fertile, but the cottages in that part of Swedish Finland are very miserable, and the peasantry wretchedly clothed. The men, the women, and the children, had no other covering than ragged shirts; although the sun was too intense to induce any one to pity them on ac-

count of their exposure to the weather, yet their appearance was that of extreme penury. The roads were still excellent, and enabled us to proceed with our accustomed velocity. The time did not admit of our attempting to see the celebrated Swedish fortress of Sveaborg, which occupies seven islands in the gulf of Finland, and is capable of protecting the fleets of Sweden against the Russians. The batteries, basons, and docks, are of hewn granite, and said to be stupendous. I was reconciled afterwards to my not having attempted to see this place, as I found some English travellers, of great respectability, were about this time refused permission to view it, and that too with some degree of rudeness.

About three miles from Louisa, another garrison town, we reached the frontiers of Sweden, and in a custom and guard house beheld the last remains of that country. A Swedish soldier raised the cross bar, such as I described in Denmark; we passed over a bridge which crosses a branch of the river Kymen, and divides Sweden from Russia. The *exclusive right of painting* this little bridge, had very nearly inflamed these rival nations to the renewal of all those horrors, which have so long and so prodigally wasted the blood and treasure of both countries. It has been contended, that aggregate bodies of men are governed by other rules of conduct, than those which ordinarily influence mere individuals: for my part I regard a nation only as a man magnified, constantly

displaying all the anger, inveteracy, caprice, and petulance of the solitary being. This marvellous dispute, after a stormy discussion, with the sword half-drawn, was settled in the following manner, viz. Sweden was to use what sized brush and what colours she preferred, upon one half of the bridge, and on the other Russia the like materials in the way that best suited her fancy; but it is useless to talk about a few piles and planks; they were the ostensible, but the *real* cause of the difference was, and ever will be, the *vicinity* of the countries, for, unhappily! nations are more disposed to mutual attachment, if they cannot see each other.

Russia has exercised the privilege of her brush with a vengeance, not only upon her half of this said bridge, but upon all her public buildings, which she has distinguished by a *magpye* colour. This predilection is said to have arisen from the result of the late unfortunate Emperor's reflections upon mankind, whom he arranged under two classes, the good and the bad, thinking no doubt with the Spanish proverb, that heaven will be filled with those who have done good actions, and hell with those who intended to do them, and accordingly he ordered the fronts of all public railings, offices, &c. to be striped with white and black. Sancho Pança, a man of no little wit and sagacity, thought life susceptible of being represented by an intermediate colour; upon returning from an important commis-

sion, he was asked by his master, whether he should mark the day with a black or a white stone. "Faith, sir," replied his trusty servant, "if you will be ruled by me, with neither, but "with *good brown ochre*," the colour best suited to describe it. I heard another reason assigned for this magpye appearance when I reached the capital.

A new race of beings, in green uniform, stout, whiskered, and sun-browned, raised the bar of the barrier on the other side of the bridge, stopped the carriage, and conducted us to the guard-house, a square wooden building, with a projecting roof, resting upon little pillars of wood, under the shade of which several soldiers were sleeping. This building was of course embellished after the fashion of the bridge, and had a most frightful appearance: we were ushered into a small shabby room, in the windows were some flower pots, and upon an old table the poems of Ossian in French, open, and by their side a vast snuff-box and most filthy handkerchief; presently a little old Russian major entered, in a white linen dressing-gown, and in French demanded our passports, with which he was satisfied, and immediately made out our order for post-horses, without which no one can travel in Russia, called a *podoragina*; upon presenting the paper to us, he demanded six rubles and forty copecs, which he informed us constituted a part of the revenues of his imperial majesty; we told him that we had no Russian money whatever, but offered to pay

him in Swedish rix dollar notes: "If you have any of them," said he, "I must seize them," and went into another room; but he uttered this without severity: perhaps the consideration that he was speaking to a couple of Englishmen softened his tone and look. In a moment we found ourselves like two ill-starred mice, who unexpectedly find themselves within the basilisk beam of a cat's eye.

Our station from the last post-house in Sweden, extended to the seventh verst post in Russian Finland, and we never entertained an idea that any law so pregnant with inconvenience existed in Russia, for making Swedish money found within its barrier forfeitable, more especially as there is no bank upon the confines of either country. The Major presently returned with a pile of notes, exclaiming, "See what a quantity I seized "a few days since from a Danish gentleman!" We endeavoured to give a turn to the conversation, in which his urbanity assisted, and at length we paid him in Dutch ducats, one proof at least of the safety and convenience of this valuable coin. Before we parted, we observed that he entered our names in a register as arrivals on the second of July: at first we were surprised, for, according to my journal, it was the fourteenth; but a moment's recollection informed us that we were in a country in which the Julian calendar, with the old style, obtains, before which our calculation always precedes, by an advanced march of twelve days. Both old and new style

are superior to the poetical absurdity of the French calendar, which must be at perpetual variance with the immutable law of climates and geography : for instance, when a merchant is melting away under the fiery sun of the French West India Islands, his correspondence will be dated Nivose, or the month of snow.

After making our bows to the little Major, and secretly wishing, for his civility, in the language of his favourite author, that he might be “ the stolen sigh of the soul” of some fair Finn girl, and that “ her fine blue eyes might roll to him in “ secret,” but not for ever, a circumstance, by the bye, which age, form, and feature, had rendered not very likely to happen, we were most vexatiously detained on the opposite side of the way by the custom-house officers, who, under a broiling sun, ransacked every article of our luggage; even the private recesses of the writing-desk were not sacred. The scrupulous fidelity with which they performed their duty, was, on this occasion, as, alas! on many others of more importance, the reason of our leaving virtue to be its own reward; for, provoked with the trouble they caused us, we gave them nothing but black looks, and a few private *inverted blessings*.

We now began to reckon our stations by versts: a verst is about three quarters of an English mile, and is marked upon a post, painted like the bridge, somewhat resembling, only that

the verst-post is square and much taller, a barber's pole. The rapidity of our travelling, and the frequent appearance of these memorials of our velocity, were the only cheering circumstances that we met with. Upon the road we saw several peasants bare-headed, cropped, fair, with shorn beards, and booted. We met with little or no delay for horses: the peasant, to whom they belonged, attended us to take them back. After passing through a country the most wretched and rocky imaginable, a country formerly wrested by the Russians from the Swedes, in which the gloomy sterility of nature was only once relieved by the waterfalls which attracted our notice at Hagfors, and a large camp of several Russian regiments, who had a very fine appearance, we reached, at eleven o'clock at night, the draw-bridge of Fredericksham, the gates of which had been some time closed. After repeatedly knocking, a little beardless officer presented himself, and very politely requested to have our passports and post-order, with which he disappeared. Here we waited in suspense for three quarters of an hour: all owing to the provoking integrity and detention of the custom-house officer at the barrier. At length we heard some massy bolts move, the gates unfolded, and we entered the town through a long arch under the ramparts, and anxiously looked out for an hotel: it was then as light as the day, but as silent as the tomb. At length we halted before a house, which our little officer, as well as we could understand him, informed us was the only inn in the

town. Here we found no person moving : after trying at the door for some time in vain, I peeped into the front room, and beheld a spectacle *à la mode de Russe*, to me completely novel ; it was a collection of nine or ten men and women all lying, with their clothes on, promiscuously upon the floor, like pigs, heads and tails together. An officer passing by informed us that this was a private house, and that the inn, in Russ called a *kabac*, was the next door ; but that it was locked up and empty, the host having gone to enjoy the breezes of the sea side for a few days. This circumstance plainly demonstrated one of two things ; either that this part of Russia is not much frequented by travellers, or, as I frequently experienced, that an inn-keeper, however poor, is very indifferent whether he affords them any accommodation.

We had been travelling all day under a fervid sun, were covered with dust, and parched with thirst ; our Abo ham was glowing to the bone, our last bottle of claret was as warm as milk from the cow, and our poor exhausted horses were licking the walls of an adjoining building to cool their tongues. In this dilemma I beheld an elegant young officer, uncovered, in a dark bottle-green uniform (the legionary colour of Russia), and an elderly gentleman, upon whose breast two resplendent stars shone, coming towards us : these stars were two propitious constellations. The principal personage addressed us in

a very kind and conciliatory manner in French. Upon our explaining our situation, he said, "I am very sorry this fellow is out of the way, but it shall make no difference. When Englishmen enter Russia it is to experience hospitality, not inconvenience; trust to me, I will immediately provide for you:" he bowed, gave directions to an officer who followed at a distance, and passed on. This amiable man proved to be the Count Meriandoff, the Governor of Russian Finland, who, fortunately for us, had arrived about an hour before from Wibourg. An officer soon afterwards came to us, and conducted us to a very handsome house belonging to a Russian gentleman of fortune. Our kind host, who spoke a little English, introduced us into a spacious drawing-room, where we went to rest upon two delightful beds, which were mounted upon chairs. Our poor servant, after the manner of the Russians, ranked no higher in our host's estimation than a faithful mastiff, and was left to make a bed of our great coats on the floor of the entry, and to sleep *comme il plait à Dieu*.

The next day we had a peep at the town, which is small but handsome, from the square in which the guard-house stands, a building of brick stuccoed, and painted green and white, almost every street may be seen. It was here, in the year 1783, that Catherine II. and Gustavus III. had an interview. Upon this occasion, to impress the Swedish monarch with the magnificence of the Russian empire, and to render

their intercourse less restrained, a temporary wooden palace was erected, containing a grand suite of rooms, and a theatre, by the order of the Empress. The town appeared to be filled with military. The Russians of consequence generally despise a pedestrian. I was uncommonly struck with seeing officers going to the camp, and even the parade in the town, upon a droska, or, as they are called in Russ, a drojeka, an open carriage, mounted upon springs, and four little wheels, formed for holding two persons, who sit sideways, with their backs towards each other, upon a stuffed seat, frequently made of satin; the driver wore a long beard (which we now began to see upon every rustic face), a large coarse brown coat, fastened round the middle by a red sash, was booted, and sat in front, close to the horses' heels, whose pace was, as is usual in Russia, a full trot.

We here exchanged our Swedish money at Mr. Broom's, and found the exchange against us. After having been so long strangers to the sight of any coin, we were surprized by seeing his Russian clerk, habited in a long blue coat, fastened round the middle by a sash, enter the room, perspiring under the weight of a coarse bag of five-copec pieces, a monstrous coin, fit for some infantine republic that might wish to excite a distaste for riches amongst her virtuous citizens, worth about threepence English. It may be as well to run over the coin of the country now :

COPPER.

One-fourth of a copec, called a polushka, very few in circulation.

One-half of a copec, called a denishka.

One copec.

Two copecs.

Five copecs.

Ten copecs.

SILVER.

Five silver copec piece, rare.

Ten ditto.

Fifteen ditto.

Twenty ditto.

One-fourth of a ruble, worth twenty-five copecs.

One-half of a ruble, worth fifty copecs.

A ruble, worth one hundred copecs.

The agio between silver and bank notes, is now about twenty-five per cent.

GOLD.

A half imperial, worth five rubles.

An imperial, worth ten rubles.

NOTES.

The bills are for five, ten, twenty-five, fifty, and one hundred rubles.

The Russians calculate always by rubles. A ruble is now worth about two shillings and eight pence English.

A silver ruble is equal to a paper ruble, and twenty-five copecs.

It is rather remarkable that the silver rubles, which were coined in the last and present reigns, have no impression of the heads of the last or present Emperors.

CHAP. XI.

RUSTIC URBANITY—WRETCHED VILLAGE—NO. 1—WIBOURG—GREEK RELIGION—A CHARITY SERMON—RELIGION AND EXTORTION—A WORD OR TWO TO FORTIFIED TOWNS—STARVED HORSES—VOLUNTEER JACKET—APPEARANCE OF PETERSBURG—COSSAC—RE-KNOWNED STATUE.

WHILST the peasants were adjusting our horses, four abreast to the carriage, in the yard of our kind and hospitable host, I was amused with seeing with what solemn and courteous bows the commonest Russians saluted each other; nothing but an airy dress and a light elastic step were wanting to rank them with the thoughtless, gay, and graceful creatures of the Bouvelards des Italiens: here the Russian exterior was more decisively developed; but I should wish to postpone a more particular description of it until we reach the capital; it is now sufficient to observe, that the men in complexion and sturdiness resembled the trunk of a tree, and that the women were remarkably ugly: I saw not a female nose which was not large and twisted, and the dress of the latter, so unlike their sex in other regions, was remarkable only for filth and raggedness. Travelling is very cheap in Russian Finland:

we paid only two copecs for each horse per verst, except for the last post to Petersburg, when we paid five copecs. In Russian Finland the comfort of sending an *avante-courier* to order horses ceases. On the road we met with several *kibitkas*, such as I have described.

After we left Uperla, those extraordinary detached rocks, and vast stones, which hitherto had lined the sides of the roads and were scattered over the fields, began to assume a redder tint, and to show a greater portion of friability than their hard and savage brethren which we had left behind, and gradually disappeared in deep sand : the country presented a scene of extreme wretchedness. To the squalid inhabitants we might have said in the beautiful language of Cowper :

“ ————— Within th’ enclosure of your rocks,
Nor herds have ye to boast, nor bleating flocks ;
No fertilizing streams your fields divide,
That show, revers’d, the villas on their side ;
No groves have ye ; no cheerful sound of bird,
Or voice of turtle, in your land is heard ;
No grateful eglantine regales the smell
Of those that walk at evening where ye dwell.”

We halted at a village of old crazy hovels, composed of trunks of trees, rudely thrown across each other, and perched upon granite rocks ; every one of these forlorn abodes was out of the perpendicular, whilst, from a little hole which feebly admitted the light, the smoke issued. The inhabitants were

nearly naked, and looked like a race of animals formed in the anger of heaven. Instead of the green refreshing blade, parched hoary moss covered the earth; where the limpid brook ought to have rippled, a narrow, slimy, brown stream, of reeking offensive water, crawled indolently and unwholesomely along. Not a tree was to be seen; not even a melancholy fir! Time, that bids the barrenness of nature bear, that enables the shepherd and his flock to find shelter and rich pasture in the altered desert, has passed over these regions without shedding his accustomed beneficence. These people, or, as they are called, the Finns, I found always distinguishable in the capital from the proper Russian, by their squalid and loathsome appearance.

Yet even in this inhospitable spot, are to be found what many a traveller in England has frequently lamented the want of, viz. the exposition of every diverging road carefully, and intelligibly, marked out by a directing post. Although the peasantry of the country, in these immediate parts, are so wretched, a considerable portion of Russian Finland is considered to be as fertile in corn as any part of the Polar empire.

We were prevented from reaching Wibourg on the day we set off from Frederickshamn, on account of our being detained, for want of horses, at Terviock, which forms the

last stage to the former place. Here, as it was too hot to admit of two sleeping in a chaise, I entered a sorry post-house ; the room contained only a crib and a sheet, as aged, and as brown, and as filthy, as the post-master's face and hands, who, after having given me to understand that I might use the bed after he had done with it, very composedly jumped into it with his clothes on, and soon made this black hole resound with one of the loudest, and least tuneable, nasal noises, I ever heard. Sleep sat heavy upon me, and with my pelisse for a bed, and my portmantua for a pillow, I closed my eyes upon the floor, which appeared to be the favourite promenade of flies, fleas, and tarrakans. Necessity, like

“ Misery, acquaints a man with strange bed-fellows.”

At three in the morning, I was awakened by the jingling of the bells of our horses, which the peasants very merrily galloped up to the door. The sun was up, and threatened very speedily to destroy the refreshing coolness of the air. At five we passed the bridge, and were at the gate of Wibourg, the capital of Russian Finland. It is a large, handsome, fortified town, a place of considerable commerce, and has been much improved since the terrible fire which happened in 1793. Like mice, who find no difficulty in getting into a cage, but know not how to return, we were admitted within the gates of this town with perfect facility, but were

detained no less than nine hours for a new post order, which must be signed by the governor or his deputy. It was Sunday, and whilst this was negotiating, I visited the Greek church, which stands in a corner of the area where the parade is held, and is an elegant structure of wood, painted light yellow and white, with a roof and dome of copper, painted green. It had a very light and pleasing effect. Every Russian, before he ascended the steps which led to the door, raised his eyes to a little picture of the Virgin, fixed to the cornice, and having uncovered his head, inclined his body, and crossed himself with his thumb and fore-finger. The Virgin was framed and decorated with a projecting hood of silver. If she had not been produced by the coarse and crazy imagination of the painter, it might have been supposed that one of the nymphs, which we saw between Fredericksham and this place, had sat for the model. She was a brunette of the deepest mahogany, and bore no resemblance whatever to any branch of Vandyke's holy family.

In the Greek church images, musical instruments, and seats, are proscribed. Even the Emperor and Empress have no drawing-room indulgence here. No stuffed cushion, no stolen slumbers in padded pews, inviting to repose. Upon entering the church, these people again crossed and bowed themselves, and then eagerly proceeded to an officer of the church, who was habited in a rich robe; to him they gave one

of the small pieces of money, and received in return a little wax taper, which they lighted at a lamp and placed in a girandole, before the picture of the saint they preferred amongst the legions enrolled in the Greek calendar. Some of them had a brilliant homage paid to them, whilst others were destitute of a single luminary. In the body of the church were inclined tables, containing miniatures of some of these sanctified personages in glass cases, adorned with hoods, of gold, silver, and brass, looking very much like a collection of medals. The screen, composed of folding-doors, at the back of the altar, to which a flight of steps ascended, was richly gilded and embellished with whole-length figures of saints of both sexes, well executed. In one part of the service the folding doors opened, and displayed a priest, called a Papa, in the shrine or sacristy, where lovely woman is never permitted to enter, for reasons that an untravelled lover would wonder to hear, without caring for, and which I leave to the ladies to discover. The priest always assumes his pontificals in this place, whilst it constitutes a part of the privileges of a bishop to robe in the body of the church. The sacerdotal habit was made of costly silk and rich gold lace; and the wearer, who appeared to be in the very bloom of life, presented the most mild, expressive, evangelical countenance, I ever beheld, something resembling the best portraits of our Charles I.; his auburn beard was of great length, fell gracefully over his vest, and tapered to a point. Seen, as I saw him, under the fa-

your of a descending light, he was altogether a noble study for a painter. After reading the ritual in a low voice, during which his auditory crossed themselves, and one man, near me, in a long and apparently penitential gown of sackcloth, repeatedly touched the basement with his head : the congregation sung in recitative, and with their manly voices produced a fine effect. This will suffice for a description of the Greek church ; as to its abstract mysteries, they are but little known, even to its followers, who recognise the authority of their own priests only, and renounce the supremacy of the Roman pontiff.

From this place we proceeded to a reformed catholic church, where the preacher was delivering, with apparently great pathos, a charity sermon, in German : every avenue was thronged almost to suffocation ; whenever the orator had made a successful appeal, his hearers testified their approbation in savage acclamations, and the proper officers seized these impressive moments to collect from the congregation the fruits of their bountiful dispositions, received in a little silk bag, fastened to the end of a long stick, from which depended a small bell, shaken whenever charity dropped her mite.

I had good reason to believe that our landlord, who was a thorough-paced Italian, had been a devotee here, and wished to supply by extortion the vacancy which a sudden impulse of

beneficence had occasioned in his purse, for the fellow had the impudence to charge us ten rubles and fifty copecs for a breakfast, a plain dinner, and a bottle of claret. "Gentlemen," said he, in reply to our remonstrance, (which by the bye was a successful one) "why do you object to high charges? they are the inevitable consequences of approaching the capital." There are some who, thinking with less respect than I do of the Russians, would have thought that they had inoculated this native of the south with knavery, but I was satisfied from his tone, look, and gesture, that he took it in the natural way; so wishing that we might never see his face, nor that of a fortified town more, we mounted our carriage and proceeded to the gate leading to Petersburg, where we were again detained at the guard-house three quarters of an hour, because it was necessary that the deputy governor should once more see his own wretched scrawl at the bottom of our post-order, not then even perfectly dry.

In what a situation would English travellers in their own country have been, with all their accustomed irritability and impatience, if the sound sense of a single vote had not overpowered the fortifying phrenzy of a certain illustrious engineer! How many governors, gates, and guards, would have been wished at the devil a thousand and a thousand times? The gratitude of those who are fond of loco-motive facility, should long since have raised a monument to Wolfran Corn-

wall. However, our stoppage reminds me to mention a characteristic which I had forgotten : before all the guard-houses in the north there is a raised platform of wood, upon which are little posts ; against these the soldiers on duty recline their pieces.

Thank heaven ! we are out of the town, although the road is very sandy and hilly. We travelled all night, and in attempting to ascend a long and steep hill, our cattle began to flag. There is a very material difference between the Swedish and Russian Finn horses ; the latter are much larger but very weak ; indeed they appeared to be nearly in the situation of the hack of an eccentric genius, who resolved to see whether his beast could not serve him without food ; for seven days the poor thing fasted, but just as his master had taught him to live without eating, *he died*. Upon observing the stoppage, our peasant (for in Russia only one takes charge of the post-horses) descended, and breaking a sapling fir, would have belaboured his miserable animals most unmercifully, had we not interfered : famine or excess of labour had fixed them to the earth, and they had less motion than the firs of the dark and hideous forest in which the accident befel us. I would not have answered for the perfect patience of Job, had he been obliged to drive four in hand in Russian Finland.

In spite of the military jokes and sparkling philippics of Mr.

Windham in the senate, I was resolved to see if a volunteer uniform had really nothing of value in it, but to excite a jest. I speedily mounted my jacket, and with the peasant walked forward to the next post-house, distant about two miles and a half. It was in the dead of a cloudy night; as we approached the house, I saw upon a dreary heath six or seven sturdy peasants lying on each side of a great blazing fir-tree, fast asleep :

“ Allow not Nature more than Nature needs ;
“ Man’s life is cheap as beasts.”

The moment the post-master opened the door and beheld my regimentals, he bowed most respectfully, and upon the peasant’s explaining the condition of our horses, he awakened the peasants by their fire, and dispatched four of them to assist in drawing the carriage, and the remainder to catch the horses in the adjoining woods for the next post; he then very civilly placed three chairs in a line, and gave me a pillow, looking tolerably clean, and thus equipped, I was preparing to lay down, when a *marchand de liqueur* who lived in an opposite hotel, uncovered, with a large beard, a great bottle of quass in one hand, and a glass in the other, entered the room, and after crossing himself and bowing before me, he pressed me to drink; all these marks of distinction, to which let me add four good courier horses for the next stage, were the happy fruits of my volunteer jacket. Thus satisfied, I enjoyed two hours of delicious sleep, until the jingling bells of our poor post-

horses announced the arrival of the vehicle, and of all the cavalcade.

The following day we beheld the shining cupola and spires of the capital, about ten versts from us, just rising above a long dark line of fir forests. At twelve o'clock we reached the barrier, a plain lofty arch of brick stuccoed white, from each side of which a palisado ran, part of the lines of this vast city. There is no custom-house here, but we were detained nearly an hour, owing, as we afterwards found, to the officer of the guard, a very fine looking young man, and I dare say very brave withal, being somewhat of a novice in the mystery of reading and writing: our passports appeared to puzzle him dreadfully, at length a serjeant, who doubtless was the literary wonder of the guard-house, was sent for, and in two minutes relieved his officer and the Englishmen at the same time. A fair-complexioned cossac of the Don, habited in a pyramidal red velvet cap, short scarlet cloak, with a belt of pistols, a light fuzee slung across his shoulders, and a long elastic spear in his hand, mounted upon a little miserable high-boned hack, was ordered to attend us to the governor of the city, and with this *garde d'honneur* we posted through the vast suburbs of Wibourg, and at length ascended the Emperor's bridge of pontoons or barges; here the most magnificent and gorgeous spectacle burst upon me, and for a time overwhelmed me with amazement and admiration.

The sky was cloudless, the Neva of a brilliant blue, clear, and nearly as broad as the Thames at Westminster bridge; it flowed majestically along, bearing on its bosom the most picturesque vessels and splendid pleasure-barges; as the eye rapidly travelled several miles up and down this glorious river, adorned with stupendous embankments of granite, it beheld its sides lined with palaces, stately buildings, and gardens, whilst at a distance arose green cupolas, and the lofty spires of the Greek churches covered with ducat gold, and glittering in the sun. Immediately before us extended the magnificent railing of the summer gardens, with its columns and vases of granite, a matchless work of imperial taste and splendour.

In the capacious streets of this marvellous city, we passed through crowds of carriages drawn by four horses at length, and a variety of rich equipages, and of people from all parts of the world, in their various and motley costume. At the governor's office we presented our passports, and the cossac left us. The cossacs have a curious appearance upon their little shabby horses, which have the reputation, however, of being remarkably fleet and hardy; their riders hold their spear, which is from fifteen to eighteen feet long, vertically resting upon their stirrup. It is said that they have the faculty of calculating from the appearance of trodden grass, the number of men and of cattle that have passed over it, and even to ascertain the period of their passing. The cossacs are never trained to attack in

squadrons : they are always placed in the rear of the army, and act only in a desultory manner, upon the retreat of an enemy. At the governor's we were questioned by the officer upon duty, as to our motives of travelling, names, &c. &c. ; a description of his room will serve to give a general idea of the arrangements which constantly occur in the Russian houses : the apartment was divided by a partition of wood, of about three-fourths of the height of the room, indented at the top and ornamented with little crescents ; behind this screen was his bed, and in a corner, suspended near the top of the cieling, was the framed and glazed picture of his favourite saint, before which a lamp was burning ; this economy of space gave him the convenience of two rooms.

Amidst the tumult of ideas which the scenes around us excited, we drove into the yard of Demouth's hotel, I believe the best in Petersburg ; it is kept by some civil Germans, and stands on the side of the Moika, a beautiful canal, having a rich iron railing and an embankment of granite. It may be as well now to caution the traveller against the free use of the Neva water, which, like that of the Seine, is very aperiënt.

Our hotel was upon a scale with all the surrounding objects, and very crowded ; it was with great difficulty that we obtained two uncomfortable rooms, which, according to the custom of the place, we were obliged to hire for a week certain. One of

these apartments was divided as I have described, and afforded a place to sleep in for the servant. The walls were covered with a complete crust of our old tormentors the flies, which in Russia, at this season of the year, are little inferior to the plague of Egypt. After discharging the dust of Finland in a copious ablution, and partaking of a good dinner, at which, for the first time since we left Stockholm, we tasted vegetables, I sallied forth, but the day was far gone.

After hesitating some time, amidst such a blaze of novel magnificence, what object I should first investigate, I resolved to present myself at the base of the statue of Peter the Great. All the world has heard of this colossal compliment paid by the munificence of Catherine II. and the genius of Falconet, to the memory of that wonderful man, who elevated Muscovy to the rank of an European empire. Filled, as I was, with admiration of this glorious work of art, I could not help regretting that the artist had so much reduced and polished the granite rock, which, with great grandeur of conception, forms the pedestal of the statue. The horse, in the act of ascending its acclivity, is intended to illustrate the difficulties which Peter had to encounter in civilizing his unenlightened people. Had this rock retained the size and shape which it bore when, as if propelled by some vast convulsion of nature, it first occupied its present place, with only a few of its asperities removed, it would have encreased the dignity and expression of

the horse and his rider, and would have astonished every beholder with a stupendous evidence of toil and enterprize, which since the subversion of the Roman empire has no parallel. A gentleman, who saw this rock in Carelia, before its removal, describes it to have been forty feet long, twenty-two broad, and twenty-two high. It is of granite and onyx, and has a mixture of white, black, and grey colouring; if I may judge of it by a seal, which the learned Dr. Guthrie presented to me, it is susceptible of a very fine polish. In six months the rock was removed from its native bed to the spot where it now stands, partly by land and water, a distance of eleven versts, or forty-one thousand two hundred and fifty English feet, and cost four hundred and twenty-four thousand six hundred and ten rubles. So indefatigable has been the labour of the chisel upon its enormous magnitude and rugged coating, that its history is its greatest wonder. The genius of Falconet was evidently jealous of the rude but stupendous powers of nature, and was fearful that *her rock* might engage more attention than *his statue*; hence he reduced the former, until he rendered it disproportioned to the colossal figures which it supports; but he has thereby succeeded in bringing his work nearer to the eye of the beholder. Had he been content to have divided the homage with nature, he would not have been a loser. The head of Peter, which is very fine, was modelled by Madame Collot, the mistress of Falconet. The figure and the drapery are admirable, and the horse is worthy of being ranked next to his *Venetian*

brethren, those matchless works of art, which now adorn the gates of the Thuilleries. The spot where this statue is raised is always very much thronged, on account of its being central, and leading to one of the bridges.

I bestrode one of the little droshkas which I have described; my driver, who emitted a most pestiferous atmosphere of garlic, with a tin plate upon his back, marked with his number, and the quarter to which he belonged, (a badge which is used by all the fraternity, to facilitate their punishment, if they behave ill), drove me with uncommon velocity. His horse had a high arch of ash rising from his collar, more for ornament than use. I was much struck with the prodigious length and breadth of the streets, and with the magnitude and magnificence of the houses, which are built in the Italian style of architecture, of brick stuccoed, and stained to resemble stone. They are mostly of four stories, including the basement, in the centre of which is generally a large carriage gate-way: the roof slopes very gently, and is formed of sheets of cast iron, or of copper, painted red or green; and behind there is a great yard, containing the out-houses, and ice-houses, and immense stores of wood. The vast number also of chariots, each of which was drawn by four horses, the leaders at a great distance from the shaft horses, very much augmented the effect. The postillion is always a little boy, habited in a round hat, and a long coarse coat, generally brown, fastened round the

middle by a red sash, and, strangely reversing the order of things, is always mounted on the off horse, and carries his whip in his left hand. The little fellow is very skilful and careful, and it is pleasant to hear him, whenever he turns a corner, or sees any one in the road before him, exclaim, or rather very musically sing, "paddee! paddee! paddee!" The coachman, or, as he is called, the Ishvoshick, is dressed in the same manner, and wears a long venerable beard; behind the carriage are one or two servants in large, laced, cocked hats, shewy liveries, military boots and spurs. What an equipage for St. James's-street on a birth-day! The beard of the Russian charioteer would here produce as strong a sensation, as did the neat, formal, little bob wig of Lord Whitworth's coachman in the streets of Paris. The carriage and horses in attendance are standing the greater part of the day in the court yards, or before the houses of their masters; the horses are fed in harness, and the little postillion is frequently twenty-four hours in the stirrup, eats, drinks, and sleeps on horseback, and the coachman does the same upon his box. A stranger immediately upon his arrival, if he wishes to maintain the least respectability, is under the necessity of hiring a coach or chariot and four, for which he pays two hundred rubles a month. Without this equipage a traveller is of no consideration in Petersburg.

CHAP. XI.

ADVANTAGES OF THE IMPERIAL CITY—THE VILLAGE ARCHITECT—
 THE SUMMER GARDENS—KISSING—HORSES WITH FALSE HAIR—
 SWEETNESS OF RUSSIAN LANGUAGE—BEARDED MILLINERS—IN-
 CORRUPTIBILITY OF BEARDS—GREAT RICHES AMASSED BY COM-
 MON RUSSIANS—THE CAUSE OF HUMANITY AND JUSTICE—MUSIC
 AND ARGUMENT BETTER THAN THE WHIP—A NEGRO'S NOTIONS—
 SLAVERY—THE NEW KAZAN—THE KNOT.

PETERSBURG is worthy of being the capital of an empire as large as the half of Asia, more than twice the size of Europe, and covered with a population of forty millions of people. Its boundaries measure about twenty English miles, but the circumference of the ground actually built upon is considerably less. The vast space of its streets and areas will ever give it superiority over every other European capital; but its principal beauty arises from its being the result of *one mighty design*.

In almost every other city, the buildings at once display the progress of its prosperity and taste. In some dark and

narrow lane a palace rears its head; or, in an handsome street, the eye is suddenly offended, by beholding the little squalid abode of a *marchand de liqueur*. Most towns, in their progress, have resembled the house of the Cornish fisherman, who at first thriftily built his little abode of one story; becoming prosperous, he resolved upon raising it, and accordingly sent for a neighbouring carpenter: the village architect, to whom I suppose the names of Holland, Wyatt, and Cockerell, were as foreign as that of Palladio, upon being informed of the object of his employer's wishes, the builder very judiciously begged him to stand up, took measure of his height, and raised his simple chateau one story higher, in which the owner and his wife could very comfortably walk without stooping. In process of time, the fisherman became rich by privateering, the house must be enlarged, the roof was removed, and two rooms, twice the height of those below, occupied the place of the garret, which was promoted one story higher.

In the capital before us, time has been actively and ardently employed in filling up one grand outline. What death prevented Peter the Great from executing, successive sovereigns, and particularly Catherine II., and the present Emperor, with great taste and encouragement, have nearly accomplished. So rapidly has this city risen, that a traveller might think that one mind had planned, and one hand had executed the whole. Very few of the antient wooden houses remain; and those

which have not yet fallen a prey to time, are lost in the splendour of the buildings that surround them.

Of the magical celerity with which buildings are constructed in Petersburg the reader may judge, when he is informed that five hundred noble houses were erected in the last year; yet, though building so rapidly advances in the city, its population, by the last estimate, it appears has rather declined, whilst that of the country has encreased. I have before stated the amount to be forty millions, in which two females are averaged to one male.

To all great national works, the government and the genius of the country have been propitious. Unbounded power presents an Emperor of Russia with the lamp of Aladdin; at his nod a temple of ice rears its chrystal front, or a rocky mountain floats upon the deep.* At Petersburg there is no public to consult, the public buildings are therefore the result of one man's will. In England the public is every thing, and the variety of its taste appears in the variety of its buildings.

Petersburg is divided into three grand sections by the Neva, and a branch of it called the Little Neva, which issues from the Ladoga lake, and disembogues in the gulf of Cronstadt: this division resembles that of Paris by the Seine. The first

* The pedestal of Peter the Great, which was floated up the Neva on vast rafts.

section is called the Admiralty quarter, situated on the south side of the river, and comprises the largest and most superb part of the city, and is the residence of the Imperial family, the nobility, a principal part of the merchants and gentry, and nearly the whole of the trading community : this part is formed into a number of islands by the intersections of the Moika, the Fontanka, the Katarina, and Nikolai canals. The second section is named the Vassili Ostrof, situated on the north-west of the river, where there are many public buildings and elegant streets; this part coincides with the Fauxbourg St. Germaine of Paris : and the third is called the Island of St. Petersburg, standing on the north side of the river, and is distinguishable for the fortress and some good streets.

The country about the city is very flat and sterile; but the gardens in the suburban part have been much improved by the introduction of vast quantities of vegetable mould, which has been brought from distant parts of the country, and also by ship ballast. The morning after our arrival was spent in delivering our letters of introduction; and such is the spirit of hospitality here, so frequently and so justly extolled, that it became necessary to chronicle down the invitations that flowed in upon us from all quarters.

In our walk upon this occasion, it was with astonishment that we beheld the bank and pavement of hewn granite,

which we first saw in the English line in the Galcerenhof: figure to yourself a parapet and footpath of the hardest rock which nature produces, of great breadth and thickness, gracing the southern side of the river, and running parallel with a line of magnificent palaces and splendid mansions for near two English miles!

In the evening I visited the summer gardens that face the Neva, the palisade of which, unquestionably the grandest in Europe, is composed of thirty-six massy Doric columns of solid granite, surmounted by alternate vases and urns, the whole of which, from the ground, are about twenty feet high, connected by a magnificent railing, formed of spears of wrought iron tipped with ducat gold. The decorations over the three *grand entrances are also exquisitely wrought, and covered with gold of the same superior quality.* As near as I could ascertain by my own paces, the length of this magnificent balustrade must be about seven hundred feet. The pillars would certainly be improved were they thinner or fluted. It is customary to attend a little more than ordinary to dress in this promenade, as the Imperial family frequently walk here. The walks are very extensive, umbrageous, and beautiful, though too regular; they are all of the growth of Catherine the Second's taste and liberality. Here only the chirping of the sparrow is to be heard; not a thrush, linnet, or goldfinch, are to be found in Russia. Amongst the women,

who were all dressed *à la mode de Paris*, there were some lovely faces; but, to prevent incense being offered upon a mistaken altar, let me hint that they were Polish beauties: to each of the groupe one might have said,

“ ——— You are the cruell'st she alive,
If you will lead these graces to the grave
And leave no copy.”

A young officer of the Imperial guards approached one of them and kissed her hand, and, as he raised his head, the lady kissed his cheek: it is the custom in Russia. Is it possible, thought I, that this spot, in no very distant day, owned a Swedish master? Can a little paltry bridge make all this difference between the belles of the two countries? But I will leave this point undecided. Be it as it may, the salutation was the most graceful I ever witnessed: it was politeness improved by the most charming gallantry—bows, curtsies, and salams, are icicles to it. Whilst France furnishes us with caps and bonnets, and Egypt with dusky side-boards, may the Russians fix the universal mode of friendly meeting between the sexes for ever and for ever!

This captivating characteristic, and, as the sun descends, the gentle sound of lovers whispering in the shade, and the beauty of the spot, entitle the Summer Gardens to the name of the Northern Eden. Where the parties are not familiar,

the lady *bows*, never curtsies: the attitude is very graceful. As I am upon the subject of kissing, and quit it with reluctance, I beg leave to state, that in Easter every Russian, be his rank in life however humble, and his beard as large, long, and as bristly as ever graced or guarded the chin of a man, may, upon presenting an egg, salute the loveliest woman he meets, however high her station: they say, such is the omnipotence of the custom, that, during this delicious festival, the check of the lovely Empress herself, were she to be seen in the streets, would not be exempt from the blissful privilege.

As I approached the Summer Gardens, to which a great number of equipages were hastening, it was curious to observe the prodigious fulness of the horses' manes and tails, which are never cropped: to the former the Russians pay a religious attention; they even carry it so far as to adorn them, as many of the British fair decorate themselves, with false hair. To show the various prejudices of mankind, it is only a short time since that mares were rode. On the appearance of a friend of mine some years since mounted upon one of them, the men expressed their astonishment, and the women tittered. Geldings are prohibited as useless animals. In the streets it is very common to see pairs of Russians, who in their dress much resemble the boys of Christ's Hospital, walking *hand in hand*, never arm in arm.

The Russian language sounded very sweet to my ears, and peculiarly so as it flowed from the lips of Madame Khremer of the English line. There is something very musical in the following expression: "*Pazar vleita, padeta suda,*" Pray, sir, come and sit by me. French is chiefly spoken amongst the well-bred Russians, who are said to be imperfectly acquainted with their own language: this is one of the foolish effects of fashion. The Russians always add the christian name of their father to their own, with the termination of *ivitch* or *evitch*, which denotes the son, as *ovna* or *eona* does the daughter.

It requires some interest, time, and trouble, before a stranger can see the palaces and public buildings, I therefore recommend him, through the medium of his ambassador, to be speedy in making the arrangements for this purpose. Whilst these matters were negotiating in our favour, I resolved to make the best of my time in seeing what lay expanded before me. Accordingly a friend of mine ordered his Russian servant to drive us to the fortress: when the man received his orders, he curled up his beard, took off his hat, scratched his head, and expressed, by his manner, some reluctance and disgust, which arose, as we afterwards found, from the horror with which the common Russians regard the citadel, on account of its containing the state dungeons, and of the horrible stories to which they have given birth. As we galloped all

the way, the usual pace in Petersburg, we soon crossed the Emperor's bridge, and passed the draw-bridge and outer court of this melancholy place, which is built of massy walls of brick, faced with hewn granite, of the same materials as the five bastions which defend it. We were set down at the door of the church of St. Peter and St. Paul, remarkable for being the burial-place of the Russian sovereigns, and for its lofty and beautiful spire, two hundred and forty feet high, richly covered with ducat gold. The inside of the church was damp and dreary, and had no beauties of architecture to recommend it. In oblong square sepulchres of stone, raised and arranged in lines on the right of the shrine, and covered with velvet richly embroidered with gold and silver, repose the remains of Peter the Great, his Empress Catherine, the celebrated peasant of Livonia, of Alexey, Anne, Elizabeth, and Peter III. and Catherine II.; and, on the other side of the church, at a distance, is the tomb of Paul, the late Emperor, opposite to a whole length painting of the Saint of his name, covered like the others, but with more cost and grandeur. An inscription in copper informed us, that the unhappy Emperor died on the *eleventh* or *twelfth* of March, 1801. On each side of the church, very carelessly arranged, are banners of war, truncheons, keys of cities, and arms, taken in battle by the Russians: amongst the former were some Turkish colours taken by Count Orloff, or rather, if merit had its due, by the British Admirals Greig and Dugdale, in the celebrated engagement

off Tscheme, when the whole of the vast Turkish fleet, except one man of war and a few gallies, were burnt, so that "the sun at its rising saw no more of its flag."

The view from the belfry is one of the grandest spectacles I ever beheld : below flowed the Neva ; before us lay the whole city expanded, from the Convent des Demoiselles to the end of the Galeernhoff, a line of palaces and superb houses, extending nearly six English miles ; immediately facing us was the marble palace, the palace of Peter the Great ; the hermitage, the winter palace, crowded with statues and pillars ; and the admiralty, its church, and the dome of the marble church ; in the fortress from this height we could discern a number of gloomy prison yards and the gratings of dungeons, than which nothing could look more melancholy ; and also the mint, which appeared a handsome building, where the gold and silver from the mines of Siberia are refined and converted into coin. Here also we had a fine view of the country over the Wibourg suburbs, and in a distant part of the citadel was pointed out the court of the prison in which the unfortunate young princess, who was ensnared from Leghorn by the treacherous stratagems of Orloff, and afterwards confined in this place, is said to have perished. The story of this devoted young personage is still wrapped in some obscurity : After the burning of the Turkish fleets near Tscheme, a beautiful young Russian lady, attended by an elderly lady, appeared at Leghorn ; al-

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though she appeared without shew, or the means of making any, her society was much courted on account of the sweetness and accomplishments of her mind, the attractions of her person, and a certain air of majesty which particularly distinguished her. To some of her most confidential friends she communicated the fatal secret, that she was the daughter of the Empress Elizabeth by a private marriage, and that her pretensions to the throne of Russia were superior to those of Catherine II., to whose suspicious ear the communication was imparted with uncommon celerity. Allured by the deceitful solicitations of a Russian officer, who was an agent of Count Orloff, who promised to espouse her cause, and to gain over the Count, she came to Pisa in the beginning of the year 1775, where Alexey Orloff then resided in great magnificence during the repairs of his fleet. Upon her arrival the Count paid his respects to her with all the deference and ceremony due to a reigning sovereign, affected to believe her story, and promised to support her pretensions. At length, after appearing with her at every fashionable place during the carnival, and paying her the most marked and flattering attentions, he avowed, in the most respectful manner, a tender passion for her, and submitted to her the glittering prospect of her mounting with him the throne to which she was entitled. Intoxicated with the idea, she gave him her hand. A few days after the nuptials, the Count announced a magnificent marine entertainment in honour of the marriage. The young personage proceeded to his

ship in all imaginary naval pomp; as soon as she entered the cabin, gracious heaven, what a display of treachery was developed! Orloff upbraided her with being an impostor, and the more barbarously to degrade her, ordered her delicate hands to be fastened by handcuffs, which had been prepared for the purpose, and quitted the ship, which immediately sailed for Cronstadt, from whence she was brought to the fortress in a covered barge, where she was immolated, and never heard of more. It is supposed that she was drowned in her dungeon, which was rather deep, during one of the inundations of the Neva. In a part of this fortress is a little boat, which is said to be the father of the Russian marine, by having furnished Peter the Great when a child with the rudiments of naval architecture, which he afterwards so passionately pursued at Sarsdam. It was brought from Moscow, and deposited here with great pomp, in 1723, and was called by Peter "*the Little Grandsire.*"

Upon our return from the fortress I took a view of the celebrated street called the Grand or *Nevski* Perspective: it runs in a direct line from the church of the admiralty, from which the principal streets of the admiralty quarter branch like radii, to the monastery of St. Alexander Nevski: its length is about four miles, and its breadth not quite equal to that of our Oxford-street; it is lined with very noble houses, and what will afford the most delight to the liberal and reflecting observer, with elegant churches, in which the devout, without re-

straint, may worship his God after the dictates of his own habits or persuasion. Here sectarian fury never disfigures the temple of the Almighty : the Greek and the Protestant, the Armenian and the Catholic, here quietly pass to their respective places of devotion, and unite in sending up to the throne of heaven the hallowed, though varying, sounds of their grateful adoration, which, blending as they ascend, charm the Divine ear, with the most acceptable homage, the *harmony of religion*.

The late Emperor very materially affected the beauty of this street by destroying the foot-paths which were formerly on each side, and forming a very broad path in the centre of it, which he planted with Linden trees, and guarded by a low railing. The idea was evidently taken from the beautiful Linden walk at Berlin, which originated in the exquisite taste and genius of Frederic, so justly called the Great. The trees look very sickly, and for want of soil and moisture never can flourish, and cannot atone for the violation which is offered to taste. If this great nuisance was removed, the perspective would be one of the finest in Europe. The great bee-hive of the city, called the *Gostinnoi dvor*, is in this street ; it is a vast building, wholly dedicated to trade, containing two piazza stories, and presenting three unequal sides, the longest of which is upwards of nine hundred feet : under this roof is an immense number of shops and stores : the neatness of the shops,

and the dexterity and activity of the shopmen, cannot but impress a stranger. The haberdashers here, as in England, are fine lusty fellows, but add to their athletic appearance a prodigious bushy beard ; this said beard is the pride and glory of Russian manhood :

“ It is the equal grace
Both of his wisdom and his face,”

which the churches of the north and of the east protected with uncommon zeal and contumacy, whilst the razor of ecclesiastical discipline committed sad ravages upon it in the southern and western regions : at one time, as if in derision, this venerable growth of the human visage was cut into a tapering cone, it next assumed the gravity of the scollop, then it alarmed the ladies in whiskers, and afterwards tickled their cheeks with a few monkish hairs upon the upper lip, till at length the holy scythe, pursuing its victory, cleared every hair, until the chin assumed the polish and smoothness of an alabaster statue.

The Russian beard struck terror into the soul of Peter the Great, he dared not attack it. It was not surprising that Catherine wished to see its honours shorn, but amidst her mighty and resplendent conquests, the beard remained not only unassaulted but unassailable ; and if a smooth chin is one of the characteristics of high civilization, I believe the Russian will implore his saint to let him live and die a barbarian.

The following anecdote is an authentic one: A nobleman having laid a wager upon the subject, offered a common Russian, one of his slaves, freedom and two thousand pounds to part with his beard; the reply of the poor fellow was, "I had sooner part with my life." To return to the shops: before the door of each of them, parades a shop-boy, whose duty it is to importune every passenger to walk in and buy: this little fellow seems to partake of the same spirit which so indefatigably moves his brethren, who mount guard before the old clothes and slop shops of Monmouth-street.

The acuteness, frugality, and perseverance, of these people, virtues which never fail to raise for their fortunate possessor a pyramid of wealth, is surprizing. Most of these tradesmen have been *rashoschiks*, or ambulatory venders of little merchandizes in the streets, who, by a judicious application of the golden rule, "take care of the *copecs*, and the *rubles* will take care of themselves," well digested with black bread and a little *quas*, a common antiscorbutic acidulous beverage, produced by pouring hot water on rye or barley, and fermented, have become *marchands des modes*, successful followers of other trades; the fruitful principle of getting and saving has enabled them to purchase houses, and commence money brokers and lenders, in which capacity many of them die immensely rich.

These shopkeepers have also their phrases of allurements.

The haberdasher says: "Walk in my fair one, we have straw bonnets which will very much become that pretty face; oh! how well they would look upon you: how much more your lover would admire you in one." In an adjoining shop the shoemaker is seen sweeping the pretty foot of some fair customer with his long beard, as he adjusts the glossy slipper. Upon tables, before the doors of the upholsterers, in which all descriptions of furniture may be purchased, plaister of Paris busts of Alexander and his lovely consort are presented to the eye: "Sir, I am sure you like the Emperor and the Empress, they are exactly like the originals, you shall have them for twelve rubles; I cannot sell them apart, they must not be separated, they always go together, sir; they are, you may rely upon it, exactly like the originals."

The consummate knowledge which the Russian shopkeeper possesses of the most complicated calculation, and the entangled caprices of thatameleon-coloured goddess who presides over the Exchange, is absolutely astonishing. If he cannot write, he has recourse to a small wooden frame, containing rows of beans, or little wooden balls, strung upon stretched wires, and with this simple machine he would set the spirit of Necker at defiance. It has been the fashion amongst travelers to assert, and they seem to have alternately received and imparted the prejudice, without the trouble and the justice of making their own observations, that the Russians are the

greatest cheats in the universe. If the worthy shopkeepers of London, of Paris, and of Vienna, had never been known to consider that the

“———— value of the thing
Is just as much as it will bring,”

then, indeed, might Mercury, invested with his least favourable attribute, regard the shop-boards of Gostinnoi dvor as his chosen altars. Accustomed to obtain wealth in the detail, and to have their reservoirs filled by partial drops, and not by copious showers, they display that little trick, which may be seen in all other countries under similar influences. It is related of Peter the Great, then when a deputation of Jews waited upon him, to solicit permission to settle at Petersburg, he replied: “My good friends, I esteem you too much to grant
“you that favour, for my people will out-wit you.”

The Russian has an apology for *his* craft: nature furnishes him with it; he is doubly a slave, first to his immediate master, and secondly to his Emperor. It is the policy of the poor fellow, to conceal as cautiously as he can, not from the latter, for he is the fond father of his people, although constitutionally his paramount owner, but from his *immediate* lord, the amount of his profits: he does, what I have heard has been done in another country, where, thank God, petty legalized tyranny has never yet had an inch of ground to rest

upon ! he makes an inaccurate *return of income* to avoid an augmented imposition upon his profits. Men, whilst they have wigs upon their heads, and robes upon their shoulders, may perhaps blame him, but when these grave and impressive habiliments of morality are quietly placed upon their respective pegs, their owners' will, I am confident, pity, smile upon, and pardon, this hard and much injured toiling son of traffic. In so severe a degree does this sort of subordinate, and ever the most grinding and pernicious of all slavery exist, that it is no unusual thing for a peasant to be exchanged for a horse, and even a favourite dog. A certain Russian Countess used to make her Calmuc girls read to her till she slept, and under the pain of severe flagellation, continue to read afterwards, to prevent her being awakened by the effect of *sudden silence*.

I one day saw a Russian, distinguished only from the commonest sort by the superiority of the cloth of his long coat, who had paid fifteen thousand pounds for his freedom, and had amassed, by indefatigable industry, a fortune of one hundred thousand pounds : and not far from my hotel resided a Russian, who in the short space of twelve years, with a fair character, had amassed nearly a million sterling.

I am ready to admit that the petty stratagems of the counter can never be justifiable, and that a propensity to conceal

may increase them. The more assailants morality has, like every other assaulted power, the less is her security, and if she withstand, the greater her triumph; whilst she is expelling knavery at one gate, falsehood may enter at another, and this contentious combination frequently terminates in the restoration and victorious settlement of both. Upon the mausoleums of few, may justly be recorded the beautiful epitaph which appears upon the tomb of the brave and generous Philip de Villiers l'Isle d'Adam, in the imperial museum of monuments in Les Petites Augustines at Paris:

“ Here lies Virtue vanquishing Fortune.”

But do not let us think, that the Russian is naturally worse than his brethren in other parts of the globe. Heaven has scattered our infirmities pretty equally; and I must again repeat, that the little stratagems of our northern brother find considerable palliation in the law, that secures not the fruits of his labour, but exposes him to the iron grasp of rapacious and unrelenting oppression.

The late Catherine thought, that the glory of government did not consist alone in military triumphs; alarmed, as she most assuredly was, yet wholly uninfluenced, by the terrible storms of the French revolution, it was the anxious aim and the cordial desire of her long and splendid reign, to civilize her peo-

ple by gradually unfolding to them, through a soft corrected medium, the glorious light of freedom. Her sagacious mind taught her to know, what Cowper has so exquisitely described, that

“ ————— all constraint
 Except what wisdom lays on evil men,
 Is evil; hurts the faculties, impedes
 Their progress in the road of science; blinds
 The eye-sight of discovery; and begets
 In those that suffer it, a sordid mind
 Bestial, a meagre intellect, unfit
 To be the tenant of man's noble form.”

The modern Semiramis made some, though inconsiderable advances in the abolition of this odious vassalage, and during its continuance, checked its wanton abuses by some wholesome corrections. The same wise and benign desire exists in the breast of the reigning Emperor. Yet the labours of so noble an undertaking are immense. Genius and patience, firmness and perseverance, unextinguishable enthusiasm and heroic philanthropy, must possess the head and heart of that being who accomplishes so glorious an achievement. Alas! baronial pride and hereditary prejudice, and that invincible attachment of man to property, have opposed, and will long oppose, this “consummation so devoutly to be wished.” When once the Russian peer shall talk of his estate by its quantity and quality, and not by the degrading enumeration of so many heads of peasantry; then, and not till then, can civilization make any rapid and extensive progress in this vast empire.

To say that nature has irreversibly doomed the Russian to be a barbarian, is an assertion as disgraceful as it is unjust, and such as nature has herself contravened. Amidst all the oppression that weighs him to the earth, that half associates him with the rugged bear of his forest; and taught, as he is, that his condition can never know amelioration, this poor slave of the north has displayed the most heroic valour in the field, the most gentle moderation in success, and the mildest unrepining philosophy in suffering: such as would have done honour to a Roman. If you ask whether the sensibilities of nature ever softened the Russian breast, read what the poor exiles have expressed in the desolate wilds of Siberia, and it will put the feelings of your own heart to their fullest proof. In those regions of gloom, the poet may catch some of the finest subjects for his muse.

Let us not endeavour to convert the law of climates into the ruthless decrees of immortal vengeance. Well did the poor African say, "Ah! massa, a good Negro is like a chesnut, all "*white* within; and a bad Englishman is like an apple, thought "*perfect* when it has many little black grains in its heart." No! no! the breast of the Russian is not unimpressible. The granite of his inclement region is hard and rugged, harder than any other rock; but under its rough surface gems are sometimes found, and time and toil have proved that it is susceptible of a high polish.

No one who has remarked the Russian with candour, who judges from what he sees, and not from what he has heard or read, will hesitate to pronounce him one of the best tempered creatures in the creation. He will bear the curse and scorn, and frequently the blows of his superior, with mildness. Revenge, almost sanctioned by insults, never maddens his blood; and knowing, perhaps, how hard it is to suffer without resisting, he is scarcely ever seen to strike the animal over which he has power. His horse is seldom propelled by any other influence than a few cherishing and cheerful sounds; if this encouragement encreases not his pace, he does not, heated with savage fury, dissect the wretched beast with the scourge, beat out an eye, or tear out the tongue; no! his patient driver begins to sing to him, and the Russians are all famous singers, as I shall hereafter tell; if the charms of music have no influence on his legs, he then begins to reason with him; "You silly fellow! why don't you go on faster? come, get on, get on, don't you know that to-morrow is a prashnick (a fast day) and then you will have nothing to do but to eat?" By this time the sulky jade has generally had her whim out, and trots on gaily. His horse is the object of his pride and comfort; well observing the wisdom of a Russian proverb, "It is not the horse but the oats that carry you:" as long as the animal will eat he feeds him; and his appearance generally honours, and his grateful services remunerate, the humanity of his master. A Russian, in the ebullition of passion, may

do a ferocious thing, but never an *ill-natured one*. No being under heaven surpasses him in the gaiety of the heart. His little national song cheers him wherever he goes. Where a German would smoke for comfort, the Russian sings. There is nothing cold about him but his wintry climate; whenever he speaks, it is with good-humour and vivacity, accompanied by the most animated gestures; and although I do not think that the Graces would at first pull caps about him, yet in the dance, for spirit and agility, I would match and back him against any one of the most agile sons of carelessness in the *Champs Elysées*.

In his religious notions, the Russian knows not the *meaning* of bigotry, and what is better, of *toleration*. He mercifully thinks that every one will go to heaven, only that the Russians will have the best place. When these simple children of Nature address each other, it is always by the affectionate names of my father, my mother, my brother, or my sister, according to the age and sex of the party. To these good qualities of the heart let me add the favourable and manly appearance of the Russians, I mean the proper Russian: during my stay in their residence I never saw one man that was either lame or deformed, or who squinted, and they are remarkable for the beauty of their teeth. Their dress is plain and simple, consisting of a long coat of woollen cloth, reaching to the knees, and folding before, fastened round the middle by a sash, into which

his thick leather gloves are generally tucked, and frequently it holds his axe ; his drawers are of the same stuff with his coat; and his legs are usually covered with heavy boots, or swathed round with bandages, for they scarcely ever wear stockings, and for shoes he uses coarse sandals made of cloth and the matted bark of linden or birch ; his hair is always cropped : the dress of the common women did not appear to me to vary much from that of our own females of the same degree ; it consisted of a tunic, generally of some shewy colour, with the sleeves of the shift appearing. The milk-women looked very well in this dress; and the manner in which they carry an ashen bow, from the ends of which are suspended little jars covered with matted birch bark, resting upon one shoulder, gives them an uncommonly graceful appearance. When the tradesmen's wives go out, they generally cover the top of their caps with a large rich silk handkerchief, which falls behind ; this appeared to be a very favourite decoration.

Prudence demands some little knowledge of a character before we associate with it, and it is with great pleasure that in this early stage I present the Russian.

What of good he has he owes to himself ; his foibles, and they are few, originate elsewhere : he is the absolute slave of his lord, and ranks with the sod of his domains ; of a lord whose despotism is frequently more biting than the Siberian

blast. Never illumined by education, bruised with ignoble blows, the object and frequently the victim of baronial rapacity, with a wide world before him, this oppressed child of nature is denied the common right of raising his shed where his condition may be ameliorated, *permitted* only to toil in a distant district under the protection of that disgraceful badge of vassalage, a *certificate of leave*, and upon his return compellable to lay the scanty fruits of his labour at the feet of his master; and finally, he is excluded from the common privilege which nature has bestowed upon the birds of the air and the beasts of the wilderness, of chusing his mate he must marry when and whom his master orders. Yet under all this pressure, enough to destroy the marvellous elasticity of a Frenchman's mind, the Russian is what I have depicted him. If the reader is not pleased with the portrait, the painter is in fault.

CHAP. XII.

PEDESTRIANS, HOW CONSIDERED—THE SCAFFOLDING OF THE NEW KAZAN CHURCH—GREAT INGENUITY OF COMMON RUSSIANS—THE MARKET—THE KNOUT—CRUELTY OF THE EMPRESS ELIZABETH—PUNISHMENT OF TWO LOVELY FEMALES.

AS I have described that focus of trade the *Gostinnoi dovr*, I must not omit to mention, that in the continuation of the Perspective towards the admiralty, an Englishman of the name of Owens carries on a prodigious trade, chiefly in English manufactures; his house, which is a very magnificent one, has twenty-five rooms *en suite*, which are filled with the most beautiful merchandize; each room is a separate shop, and attended by persons who are solely attached to it: the promenade, through magazines of music, of books, of jewels, of fashions, &c. is very agreeable, and I believe perfectly novel. The respectable and enterprising proprietor is said frequently to receive one thousand pounds sterling in one day: it is the constant and crowded resort of all the fashion of Petersburg.

In the streets I rarely ever saw a Russian above the lowest

degree walking; the very taylor bestrides his droshka to take measure of his customer, and even many of the officers ride to the parade: this may arise from the great extent of the city, and the distance which one place is from another. If a gentleman is seen on foot he is immediately considered to be an Englishman, who wishes to examine the city; protected by this consideration, and this alone, he is regarded with tokens of courtesy, should a Russian noble of his acquaintance gallop by in his chariot and four. An Englishman is the only privileged foreigner who may, with safety to his own dignity, perambulate the streets, and investigate the buildings of Petersburg.

As I walked down the Linden footpath of the Grand Perspective, I observed almost every passenger, with whatever hurry he seemed to be moving, stop short before a church on the right hand, a little below the shops, take off his hat, bow, and touch his forehead, and either side of his breast, and then proceed. This building was the church of the Mother of God, of Kazan, which, although an inferior building, is, in religious estimation, the most considerable of the Greek churches, on account of its containing the figure of the Virgin. Upon all public occasions, the Emperor and court assist, with great splendor, in the celebration of divine worship here. Behind it was a vast pile of scaffolding, raised for the purpose of erecting a magnificent metropolitan church, in the room of the

one which I have just named. This place of worship, when completed, will surpass in size and splendour every other building in the residence; and, if I may judge from the model, will be little inferior in magnitude and grandeur to our Saint Paul's. The Emperor has allotted an enormous sum for its completion: all the holy utensils are to be set with the richest diamonds; even the screen is to be studded with precious stones. The scaffolding of this colossal temple is stupendous, and most ingeniously designed and executed, and would alone be sufficient to prove the genius and indefatigable labour of the Russians. Most of the masons and bricklayers who were engaged in raising the New Kazan, as well as those who are to be seen embellishing the city in other parts, are boors from the provinces. The axe constitutes the carpenter's box of tools: with that he performs all his work. No one can observe with what admirable judgment, perspicuity, and precision, these untutored rustics work, and what graceful objects rise from their uncouth hands, without doing them the justice to say, that they are not to be surpassed by the most refined people in imitation and ingenuity: from me they have drawn many a silent eulogium as I passed through the streets.

Whilst I was gazing upon the New Kazan, the foundation of which, as well as the pedestals of the columns, are already raised, on a sudden all the hats flew off about me, in compliment to the Empress Dowager, and her lovely daughters the

Grand Duchesses, who, with their attendants, were passing in two very plain carriages of a dark olive colour, drawn each by four horses, with two footmen behind, in liveries of the colour of the carriages, with a red cape, large cocked hats, and military boots: upon the pannels were merely the letter E, and the black eagle. This august family, like that of the sovereign of England, but with less show, frequently ride about the city, and pay friendly visits.

Strolling nearly to the end of the Perspective, I found myself in the market-place, and saw lying near the great market, scales, the apparatus to which delinquents are fastened, when they receive the punishment of the knout, that terrible scourge which Peter the Great and the Empress Elizabeth were perpetually raising over the heads of their subjects, but which the mercy of the present Emperor never, except for crimes of the deepest dye, permits to be exercised with fatal violence. The last man who perished by it, broke into the cottage of a family consisting of five persons, in a dark night, and butchered every one of them with a pole-axe. An act of such wanton barbarity, and so alien to the character of the Russian, did not fail to excite the highest sensations of horror. After a fair trial, the murderer was twice knouted; and, upon receiving his last punishment, was, in the language of the Russian executioner, "*finished*," by receiving several strokes of the thong dexterously applied to the loins, which were thus cut open: the miserable

wretch was then raised, and the ligaments which united the nostrils were terribly lacerated by pincers; but this latter part of his punishment, as I was informed by a gentleman who was present, created no additional pang to the sufferer, for the last stroke of the scourge only fell upon a breathless body. When a criminal is going to receive the knout, he has a right, if he chuses, to stop at a certain kabac, and drink an allowance of liquor at the expence of government.

I question if the cruelty of punishment is to be determined by the quantum of unnecessary agony which it causes, whether the infliction of death by suspension is not almost as barbarous as the knout: sufferers in the former mode have been seen to display, for eight and ten minutes, all the appearances of the most horrible torment. There is no mode of putting a capital offender to death so swift and decisive as decapitation. The scaffold, the preparation, the fatal stroke, the blood, are pregnant with exemplary and repulsive horror: the pang of the sufferer is instantaneous—all the substantial ends of justice are effected with all possible humanity.

In Russia, ladies of rank have suffered the punishment of the knout: the Abbé Chappe D'Auteroche relates the circumstance of an execution of this nature which took place in the reign of the cruel Elizabeth. He states that Madame Lapookin, who was one of the loveliest women belonging to the

court of that Empress, had been intimately connected with a foreign ambassador who was concerned in a conspiracy against Elizabeth, and, on this account, his fair companion was denounced as an accessory in his guilt, and condemned to undergo the knout: the truth was, Madame Lapookin had been indiscreet enough to mention some of the endless amours of her imperial mistress. The beautiful culprit mounted the scaffold in an elegant undress, which encreased the beauty of her charms and the interest of her situation. Distinguished by the captivation of her mind and person, she had been the idol of the court, and wherever she moved, she was environed by admirers: she was now surrounded by executioners, upon whom she gazed with astonishment, and seemed to doubt that she was the object of such cruel preparations. One of the executioners pulled off a cloak which covered her bosom, at which, like Charlotte Cordey as she was preparing for the guillotine, her modesty took alarm, she started back, turned pale, and burst into tears. Her clothes were soon stripped off, and she was naked to the waist, before the eager eyes of an immense concourse of people profoundly silent. One of the executioners then took her by both hands, and turning half round, raised her on his back, inclining forwards, lifting her a little from the ground; upon which the other executioner laid hold of her delicate limbs with his rough hands, adjusted her on the back of his coadjutor, and placed her in the properest posture for receiving the punishment. He then retreated a

few steps, measuring the proper distance with a steady eye, and leaping backwards, gave a stroke with the whip, so as to carry away a slip of skin from the neck to the bottom of her back; then striking his feet against the ground, he made a second blow parallel to the former, and in a few minutes all the skin of the back was cut away in small slips, most of which remained hanging to her chemise: her tongue was cut out immediately after, and she was banished to Siberia.

It is impossible to reflect upon this savage scene, in which the Empress betrayed all the qualities of a ruthless barbarian, without equal horror and indignation. History represents Elizabeth as the most indolent, voluptuous, and sensual of her sex, which her portraits fully confirm. An anecdote is related of her, which proves, if any thing further were wanting, that she was a total stranger to feeling. One of her ladies in waiting, who was far advanced in years, and laboured under a great weakness in her legs, one day very nearly fainted in the presence of the Empress from the fatigue of standing. Elizabeth observing her situation, enquired the cause; and, upon being informed, she coolly replied: "Oh, is it so? then lean a little against those drawers, and I will *make believe* that I don't see you."

The late Empress Catherine exercised her vengeance upon a similar occasion with more lenity, but in a very mortifying

manner. A lovely young woman, who had married the Count M——, one of her discarded favourites, obtained from her husband some singular particulars respecting his intimacy with the Empress, which she very injudiciously related to some of her female friends at Moscow, where she resided. Not long after, just as the lady and her husband were resigning themselves to sleep, they were awakened by a loud knocking at the door of their chamber, which the husband unbolted, when a stout police officer entered with a large rod in one hand, and an imperial order in the other. The husband was commanded to kneel on one side of the bed, and make no resistance or noise, as in the next room there were several brethren of this summary minister of justice in waiting. The lady was ordered, just as she was, to descend from the bed, and lay herself upon the floor; the officer then tied her hands and feet, and gave her a severe whipping: when he had finished the discipline, he loosened her, raised her up, and said, “This is the punishment which the Empress inflicts upon tattlers; the next time you go to Siberia.” The story was soon buzzed abroad, and the poor young lady could not appear for some time after in Moscow without exciting a titter.

In her pleasures, Catherine only reflected upon the unbridled indulgences of the sovereigns of the opposite sex, which she cherished as precedents of indisputable authority. As an *Empress*, she considered herself above those restraints with which

the protective code of society has environed the delicacy and chastity of women, the bright lustre of which cannot be breathed upon without being sullied. It is not likely that I, who belong to a country which female modesty has selected for her favourite residence, and in the diadem of which she has fixed her whitest plume, should advocate the licentiousness of Catherine; yet it is but justice to her memory to say, that she endeavoured to conceal her faulty pleasures under a surface of refinement; that she punished, with efficacious severity, every inclination to depravity in her court; and that she laboured only to make the better parts of her character exemplary.

The present Empress Dowager, though past the meridian of beauty, exhibits very powerful traces of her having been one of nature's favourites. Her complexion is very fine, her face full, her eyes of hazel colour, sweet and expressive; her person somewhat corpulent, but very majestic. Her manners are in a peculiar degree soft, benign, and captivating. She devotes herself to the education of the younger branches of her august family, to the superintendence and encouragement of benevolent institutions, and to a very tasteful cultivation of the arts. One of her pursuits is somewhat singular; she is an excellent medalist. I have seen some of her works in this elegant branch of art, as well as some of her chasing in gold, which would do honour to any artist. Her needle-work is

also very beautiful, and must be admired even by those who have beheld the exquisite performances of a Linwood.

The present Emperor Alexander is about twenty-nine years of age, his face is full, very fair, and his complexion pale; his eyes blue, and expressive of that beneficent mildness which is one of the prominent features of his character. His person is tall, lusty, and well proportioned; but, being a little deaf, to facilitate his hearing, he stoops: his deportment is condescending, yet dignified. In the discharge of his august duties he displays great activity and acuteness, but without shew and bustle: the leading features of his mind are sound discretion and humanity, qualities which cannot fail to render an empire flourishing and a people happy! He is so much an enemy to parade, that he is frequently seen wrapped up in his regimental cloak, riding about the capital alone, upon a little common droshka: in this manner he has been known to administer to the wants of the poor. It is his wish, if he should be recognized in this state of privacy, that no one will take off their hats; but the graciousness of his desire only puts the heart in the hand as it uncovers the head. I have many times seen him in a chariot, perfectly plain, of a dark olive, drawn by four horses, driven by a bearded coachman, a common little postilion, and attended by a single footman. Soldiers are always upon the look out for him, to give timely notice to the

guard of his approach; without this precaution it would be impossible, amidst the crowd of carriages which is to be seen in the residence, to pay him the honours due to his rank. The Emperor is very much attached to the English, numbers of whom have settled in the empire, and have formed, under the auspices of the government, a sort of colony. The Emperor has often been heard to say that "The man within whose reach heaven has placed the greatest materials for making life happy, was, in his opinion, an *English country Gentleman*."

Although the Emperor has never visited England, he is perfectly acquainted with its character and manners, as he is with its language. A very amiable and respectable English gentleman, Mr. G. of the treasury, was, by the wish of Catherine, brought up with him, and was the play-mate and associate of his early years. The incidents of boyish days, so dear to every feeling and generous mind, left their accustomed impressions upon the heart of Alexander; and though time placed him at an immeasurable distance from his early companion, he has never ceased to honour him with the most gracious regard; in the display of which he exhibited the Emperor only in the munificent proofs of his friendship. I heard another instance of the strong partiality of Alexander for England. When an English gentleman, who, a short time before the death of Paul, had frequently played duets upon

the flute with the Grand Duke, was preparing to quit the empire for his own country, in consequence of the sudden antipathy which the former had taken to our countrymen; after the close of the last piece they ever performed together, Alexander thus feelingly apostrophized the flute of his friendly musician, as he held it in his hand: "Adieu, sweet instrument! you have charmed away many an hour of care; often and deeply shall I regret the absence of your enchanting sounds; but you are going to breathe them in the best and happiest country in the world." These are trifling anecdotes to record, but they conduct the reader to the heart.

"Man is most natural in little things."

How much, and how justly, the Emperor is beloved by his people, will occasionally appear as I proceed. The Russians, who have had so many foreign princes to govern them, behold with enthusiastic fondness an emperor born in Russia. The face of the reigning Empress is very sweet and expressive; her person is slight, but very elegant, and of the usual height of her sex; she is remarkably amiable, and diffident, even to shyness. Her mind is highly cultivated, and her manners soft, gracious, and fascinating. Her sister, the Queen of Sweden, if there be any fidelity in the chisel of Sergell, must be a model of female beauty. The Emperor and Empress have no family. They were united at an extraordinary early age, from a wish of Catherine to contem-

plate as many of her posterity, who were destined to succeed to the throne, as she could before she died. The two Grand Duchesses, who are grown up, do honour to the care of their Imperial mother, and excite the attachment and admiration of all who approach them. The youngest of the two was married to the prince of Saxe Weimar, during my stay in Petersburg; and as the ceremony of their nuptial will illustrate the manners and customs of the Russians, I shall hereafter give a brief description of it.

From the place of execution in the market place, I made my way to the Monastery of St. Alexander Nevsky, at the very extremity of the eastern part of the city. In the street were several carts standing, filled with pease in pod, with their roots just as when they were pulled up from the garden, and with their stalks, which the poor people bought, sometimes for themselves, and sometimes for their horses; to both the vegetable, which was eaten shell and stalk together, appeared a dainty. The monastery occupies a vast space of ground, is moated round, and contains a magnificent church, surmounted by a vast copper dome, a chapel, the cells, refectories, and dormitories for sixty monks, a seminary, and the residence of the metropolitan archbishop. The front of the basement of the buildings, which are all connected together, is painted of a deep crimson colour, and, from the immense quantity

and size of the windows, resembles a collection of colossal hot-houses.

In the church, which is very elegant, I saw the shrine of St. Alexander Nevsky, the tutelar saint of Russia, formerly one of its sovereigns, who was raised to that distinguished honour, in consequence of his having most gallantly repulsed the Swedes, or Finns, some centuries since, on the banks of the Neva. The monument, and military trophies which adorn it, as well as the pillars and canopy under which it stands, are of wrought massy silver, made from the first ore of that metal ever discovered in Russia. One of the columns, which forms the back of the space allotted for the Imperial family, is a whole length portrait of the late Empress, well executed. The altar, screen, and decorations, are very superb. There are cloisters round the whole of the buildings, formed almost entirely of double windows, by which in winter every house in Russia, of the least respectability, is protected against the terrible severity of the cold; the joists, and all other avenues of air, being either covered with pasted paper or felt. Every part of the monastery appeared to be very neat and clean, and the mansion of the archbishop handsome. The chanting of some fine deep-toned voices attracted me to the chapel, where the monks, assisted by the priest, were at their devotion. The dress of the former is singularly gloomy; on