

their heads they wore a high hat, covered with black crape flowing down the back: the habit, which fell below the ankles, was black cloth lined with a sombre dark blue stuff, their beards were of a great length, and each monk carried a rosary of brown or black beads. As I was returning, several beautiful monuments in the church-yard attracted my steps; they appeared to be constructed and arranged as in England. While engaged in examining them, an elderly lady, in deep mourning, apparently about sixty years of age, with a pale but dignified face, leaning upon the arm of a graceful youth, clad in the same suit of sorrow, slowly passed by me, and at some distance stopped before a small but elegant tomb, which, from its unsullied whiteness, had the appearance of having been but very lately erected. I noticed them unobserved. They stood under the shade of a wide spreading silver birch, and turning towards the church of the monastery, the youth pulled off his hat, and they both prostrated and crossed themselves, according to the forms of the Greek faith; the female then, clasping her hands, dropped her head upon the pedestal of the monument, and appeared to be lost in profound and affecting meditation. The young man knelt by her side, and, if I mistook not the cause which moved his hand, he wept. Some minutes elapsed, they then arose, tenderly surveying the spot, ascended a hillock of grass, and kissed a little marble urn, which surmounted the monument. My conjecture enclosed in it the heart of some long-

loved husband and father. They then withdrew in the same sad, solemn, and impressive manner, with which they entered, and I approached the object of their melancholy regard. The pedestal which supported the urn was embellished with two medallions; one represented Resignation, with the face of a beautiful female, upon which the most angelic sweetness appeared to triumph over languor and pain; the other depicted Hope, modestly, yet ardently looking to heaven. There was a small inscription between the two heads, in Russ, and underneath, the figures 1804. The Russians, like wise people, always bury their dead in the suburbs. The late Empress never permitted burials in the day; she thought, with some reference to the popular prejudice, that the gloom of the spectacle ought to be confined, as much as possible, to the relatives of the deceased; and I should suppose that her ukase, regulating this awful ceremony, still continues, for I never saw a funeral during my stay in Russia.

The reader will, I am sure, be pleased with the beauty and pathos of the following stanzas, which form a part of the hymn recited over the body previous to its inhumation.

“ Oh, what is life? a blossom! a vapour or dew of the  
“ morning! Approach and contemplate the grave. Where  
“ now is the graceful form! where is youth! where the or-  
“ gans of sight! and where the beauty of complexion!

“ What lamentation, and wailing, and mourning, and  
“ struggling, when the soul is separated from the body ! Hu-  
“ man life seems altogether vanity ; a transient shadow ; the  
“ *sleep of error ; the unavailing labour of imagined existence.*  
“ Let us therefore fly from every corruption of the world, that  
“ we may inherit the kingdom of heaven.”

“ Thou Mother of the Sun that never sets ; Parent of God,  
“ we beseech thee intercede with thy divine offspring, that he  
“ who hath departed hence, may enjoy repose with the souls  
“ of the just. Unblemished Virgin ! may he enjoy the eternal  
“ inheritance of heaven in the abodes of the righteous.”

The superstition of the Russians is very great. Upon the ceremony of blessing the waters in the winter, when a large hole is perforated in the Neva, a woman supplicated a priest to immerse her newborn child ; the priest consented, but in dipping the miserable little sufferer, his fingers were so benumbed, that he irrecoverably dropped it under the ice ; the parent, with a smile of delight, exclaimed, “ He is gone to heaven.”

In one of the churches I saw a woman doing penance for the following crime : She had not long been married before she polluted the bed of her husband, whom she used to keep in an almost constant state of intoxication. One day, whilst

she was indulging herself in her adulterous attachment, her husband unexpectedly appeared perfectly sober: stung with jealousy by what he saw, he sprang upon his guilty rival, and with a knife stabbed him to the heart. The laws of England would have protected the miserable man, but by those of Russia he was knouted and sent to Siberia; and his wife, who was the authoress of this bloody tragedy, was ordered by her priest to prostrate herself six hundred times a day for two years, before the Virgin. Her conscience and her bigotry enforced punctual observance of the prescribed mortifications. By the Russian laws, if the husband is of a tyrannical and violent temper, a woman may commit adultery with impunity.

The Russians are fanatically attached to the very stone, brick, wood, and plaster, of their churches: they have a remark, that whilst the Russians build their churches first and their towns afterwards, the English never think of a temple until they have erected their own dwellings.

It is somewhat singular, that with all their religious enthusiasm, the Russians pay their priests more miserably than we do our curates; but perhaps it may be traced to the extreme ignorance of the former. After wealth and birth, knowledge awakens respect, and perhaps the Russian populace would revolt at the idea of making their ministers indepen-



dent before their minds were cultivated: to their saints they would devote their lives; to their priests they give black bread.

That the Greek faith admits of confession, the following anecdote will prove: A priest came to hear the confession of a great man: "Holy father," says the Count, "have you a good memory?" "Yes." "Then you remember what I told you at my last confession; since that I have had the same temptations from without; the same weaknesses from within; and here is the same number of rubles."

Another reason was now assigned for Paul's having introduced the magpie colour which I have before mentioned: it was that the soldiers, raw recruits, and boors, employed for government, might the more readily distinguish the buildings which belonged to it.

As I crossed the draw-bridge of the Ligova canal, the latter appeared to be almost choaked with barks of a prodigious length, filled with billets of birch-wood, for the immediate use of the kitchen, and for a winter-stock of fuel; this and the rent of houses, and necessary equipages, and bread, constitute the most expensive part of house-keeping in Petersburg, which in most other respects is moderate. These vessels, in which not only wood but charcoal is brought from the shores of the

nearest rivers, or of the Ladoga lake, never return, but are broken up and sold, for building houses for the poor, or for fuel. These barks, unavoidably necessary, sadly disfigure the beautiful canals which form the pride and comfort of this capital; and here, as upon the sides of the Seine, the washerwomen are the principal water nymphs. Most of the canals are finely embanked with granite, and have a rich iron railing running on each side. The Fontanka Canal is eminently beautiful. These intersections of water assimilate Petersburg in some degree to Venice. As I returned through the Grand Perspective, I took a peep at that part of it which is called the *Yamskoi*, answering to the Long Acre of London, where there is a long row of carriage builders' shops; here are droshkaes, calashkies, chariots, sledges, and all sorts of carriages, many of them very neat, some of them very heavy, but none very lasting; yet there is no knavery; those who build them use the best materials the country will afford, and in shape and fashion, where the carriage will admit of it, they imitate us very closely, and a stranger may buy a very comfortable calashka for about five hundred rubles, for which, a little more elegantly and substantially made, if calashkies and rubles ran in England, he would at least pay one thousand of the latter. This depot, or the yards of the coachmakers, amongst whom there is an English one, in the second line of the Galcerenoff, are the best places for a foreigner to purchase a carriage when he is about to quit Russia.

As I walked along I observed, on each side of the street, several stands, each attended by a reverend looking long-bearded Russian, with piroghi, or little pies filled with meat, next to which were eggs, and salted cucumbers, of which the Russians are particularly fond, and in a third were pyramids of berries, much resembling a mulberry in shape, but of a light yellowish colour, called the maroshki ; the cranberry, called the glukoi ; wild straw berries, whortle berries, and cloud berries, said to be excellent antiscorbutics. I cannot say much of the attractive cleanliness and delicacy of the *patissier*, but a Russian stomach is not squeamish ; and for a very few copecs it may be, in the estimation of its owner, substantially and completely filled. The fasts of the Russians are very frequent, and very rigidly observed.

As a *fast* in England always reminds me of a *feast*, I will just give a brief sketch of a Russian dinner, which is seldom later than three o'clock : upon a side-board in the drawing-room is always placed a table filled with fish, meats, and sausages salted, pickled, and smoked, bread and butter, and liqueurs ; these airy nothings are mere running footmen of the dinner, which is in the following order : a cold dish, generally of sturgeon or some other fish, precedes, followed by soup, a number of made dishes, a profusion of roast and boiled meats, amongst which the Ukraine beef is distinguishable, and abundance of excellent vegetables ; then pastry, and a desert of

very fine melons, and sour flavourless wall fruit; the table is covered with a variety of wines, and excellent ale and beer. The master of the house or a cook carves, and slices of every dish are handed round to the guests. One of the most gratifying things that I always saw upon the table, was a large vase of ice broken into small pieces, with which the guest cools his wine and beer. In the yard every Russian house has two large cellars, one warm for winter, and the other filled with ice for the summer. The soup, and coffee, and chocolate are frequently iced. One day at dinner, I sat by a *lovely Russian* lady, that is, born in Russia but of German parents: the explanation will save me a remark embarrassing to gallantry, and which I wish to avoid, respecting the beauty of the *proper* Russian women, at least of those whom I saw. This accomplished woman, in my own language as pure as ever it fell from English lady's lips, requested some salt; upon my presenting it she said, "Whenever you give salt, never fail to *smile*; it is a superstitious custom in Russia." A *smile* is in this country considered as a charm against *poison*. Heavens! surely they have not yet to learn that

"A man may smile, may smile, and be a villain."

They have a beautiful proverbial expression:

"Banter, but never make the cheek red."

Nature has less to do with climate than library gossips suppose, at least I thought so when I committed the following blunder: "You never saw my Sophinka before," said Ma-

dame L——, pointing to a fine little girl at table, about ten years of age; “She is your *daughter*, I presume?” “Ma—  
“dame L——’s daughter!” exclaimed a gentleman, “surely  
“that cannot be, she is more like your *sister*.” The fact was, the child was neither daughter nor sister, but a little visitor. The result was, that the principal part of Madame L——’s enchanting conversation during dinner was withdrawn from me, and addressed to the gentleman whose error was the most fortunate. After a few glasses of delicious wines, champagne included, the lady rises, and the company retires to coffee in the drawing-room. The rooms of respectable houses are never papered, but where the sides are not covered with silk or cotton, they are coloured in a brilliant and beautiful manner to resemble papering. In this act the natives are uncommonly tasteful and rapid.

The hospitality of this place cannot be surpassed: When a stranger is introduced, the family mention the days of the week when they receive their friends, and expect that he will include himself in the number: the invitation is frank and *cordial*, and is seldom repeated; where it is understood there is no occasion for it. The frippery and formality of forced, and frequently treacherous ceremony, is not known here.

At the back of the Gastinnoi-door are the fruit, bird, and poultry markets, in a street of wooden sheds like those at a

fair in England. Apples, pears, rasberries, currants, peaches, excellent melons and pine apples, are temptingly presented to the eye, and are all intolerably dear, even when you are permitted to buy for half the price at first demanded, for the custom of asking double the sum intended to be taken prevails in all this neighbourhood; but as it is well known, it seldom answers. In the bird quarter were pigeons, sparrows, hawks, birds of the rock, and a few others, in greater numbers than variety: upon a beam in this place was suspended the image of a favourite Saint, with a lamp burning before her. In the poultry department very fine geese, ducks, and fowls, were in great abundance. The bank next attracted my attention: it is a large and very beautiful building of brick stuccoed, containing a centre and two wings, and adorned in front by a very handsome and elegant iron-railing. The whole of this neighbourhood is filled with kabacs and public-houses, where dinners are dressed, and beer, and mead, and brandy sold.

At the end of the Grand Perspective, the church of the Admiralty, with its lofty spire, plated with ducat gold, having a vane in the form of a ship, presents itself, and, like a haughty female, ashamed in her proud attire of her mean origin and humble relations, seems scornfully to lift herself above the long gloomy line of low brick buildings which, with the yards behind, constitute the Admiralty, and disfigure this part of the capital. Time has proved that Peter the Great acted wisely

in chusing the situation for his city. The shallowness of the Neva presents an insuperable barrier to the fleets of Sweden, and a noble river, so clear that it is drank without filtration, divides and enriches the quarters of the city with the beauty and purity of its waters: but, with the powerful facilities of building ships at Cronstadt, a large impregnable island at the mouth of the Neva, in the gulf of Finland, and the grand naval arsenal of Russia, I must confess, in my poor opinion, he has not been equally judicious in establishing an Admiralty at Petersburg. So little is the depth of water at the latter place, that whenever a ship of war is launched, she is obliged to be floated down to Cronstadt upon camels. Of the trouble and expence of such a removal let the reader judge, when I inform him that I saw this stupendous machinery mounted upon thousands of wedges of wood, in a meadow, about half a mile from any water in which they could be floated. My astonishment could not have been exceeded, had I beheld a first rate seventy-four upon the top of Saint James's palace! Suppose the clear shell of a larger ship than ever yet was built were cut in two, and each part put into an outer case, but at such a distance from it as to leave throughout a hollow space of from eight to ten feet: such was the appearance of the camels. But how they are removed from the place where they lie in ordinary, supposing any number of men were employed, surpasses my imagination; however, like every thing else in Russia, when they are wanted they make their appear-

ance, and come when they are called to the Admiralty, where each takes its station on either side of the ship which they are destined to carry to Cronstadt. By the means of vast moveable weights, and by opening several apertures in the external sides of this mighty section of a ship to admit the water, they are sunk, drawn close together under the curve of the ship, and braced with cables; a work fit for a race of giants! To see them moved and directed by men, must present the image of the recumbent body of Gulliver covered with Lilliputians. But whilst the frame of man becomes diminutive by the side of his own works, his soul expands, and rises with his labours. The Admiralty is a vast oblong square: the side towards the river is open, and far from being ornamental to the adjoining palaces: that toward the city is defended by earthen ramparts, fortified with cannon, and secured by draw-bridges. The store-houses appeared to be well arranged: there were two ships, one of seventy-four and the other of sixty guns, ready for launching. An Englishman cannot fail being struck with the prodigious waste which occurs in the dock-yards, in consequence of the carpenters using their hatchets instead of the saw in dividing timber. The chips form the perquisite of the workmen; but the government would save an immense quantity of valuable timber would it give an equivalent, and insist upon the use of the saw. In the naval constitution of Russia there is a regulation which cries aloud for reform; it is balloting for rank, and the right of black-balling; terms which



sufficiently explain the nature and abuses of an arrangement so degrading and odious to merit, and detrimental to the service. It appears also injudicious to send a young marine cadet to England to learn navigation, upon a salary of from one hundred and eighty to two hundred pounds per annum, or perhaps to send him at all. Struck with new customs and fashions, he neglects his pursuits, establishes habits of expence, and returns with dissatisfaction to his country upon a pay of twenty-five pounds per annum.

There are several English officers in the service of the Emperor. The late Sovereign made overtures to the celebrated Paul Jones to take the command of one of his ships; as soon as it was known to the British officers, they immediately sent in their resignation. The intermixture of so many English subjects in the naval and commercial departments of Russia, so essential to their advancement, and consequently to the general interests of the empire, must ever preserve a favourable disposition in that country toward the British nation.

## CHAP. XIII.

A CAUTION—THE HOUSE OF PETER THE GREAT—SINGULAR ANECDOTE—POLICE—A TRAVELLER'S DUTY—AN EXTRAORDINARY PURGATION—A BRITISH COURT OF CRIMINAL LAW—NOISY BELLS—FRUITERER—ICE—THE SORROWFUL MUSICIAN—DROLLERY AND DRUNKENNESS—IMPERIAL THEATRE—NORTHERN GRANDEES.

I WAS much inconvenienced by shipping a trunk containing books and wearing apparel at Stockholm for Petersburg, which, I was assured would be there as soon as I should, yet it never arrived till just before my departure. Let me recommend every traveller to avoid this mode of conveyance, not merely for the uncertainty which always attends a Swedish bye-boat during such a voyage, but on account of the difficulty of obtaining possession of property so sent after it reaches the custom-house at Petersburg. If it should contain books, they must be submitted to a censor, and the owner must pay a duty of thirty pounds per cent. *ad valorem* upon the things. Whilst I was at Petersburg, a book called the Secret Memoirs of the Court of Petersburg was prohibited. The author was a French emigrant, and had been cherished by that court whose secret

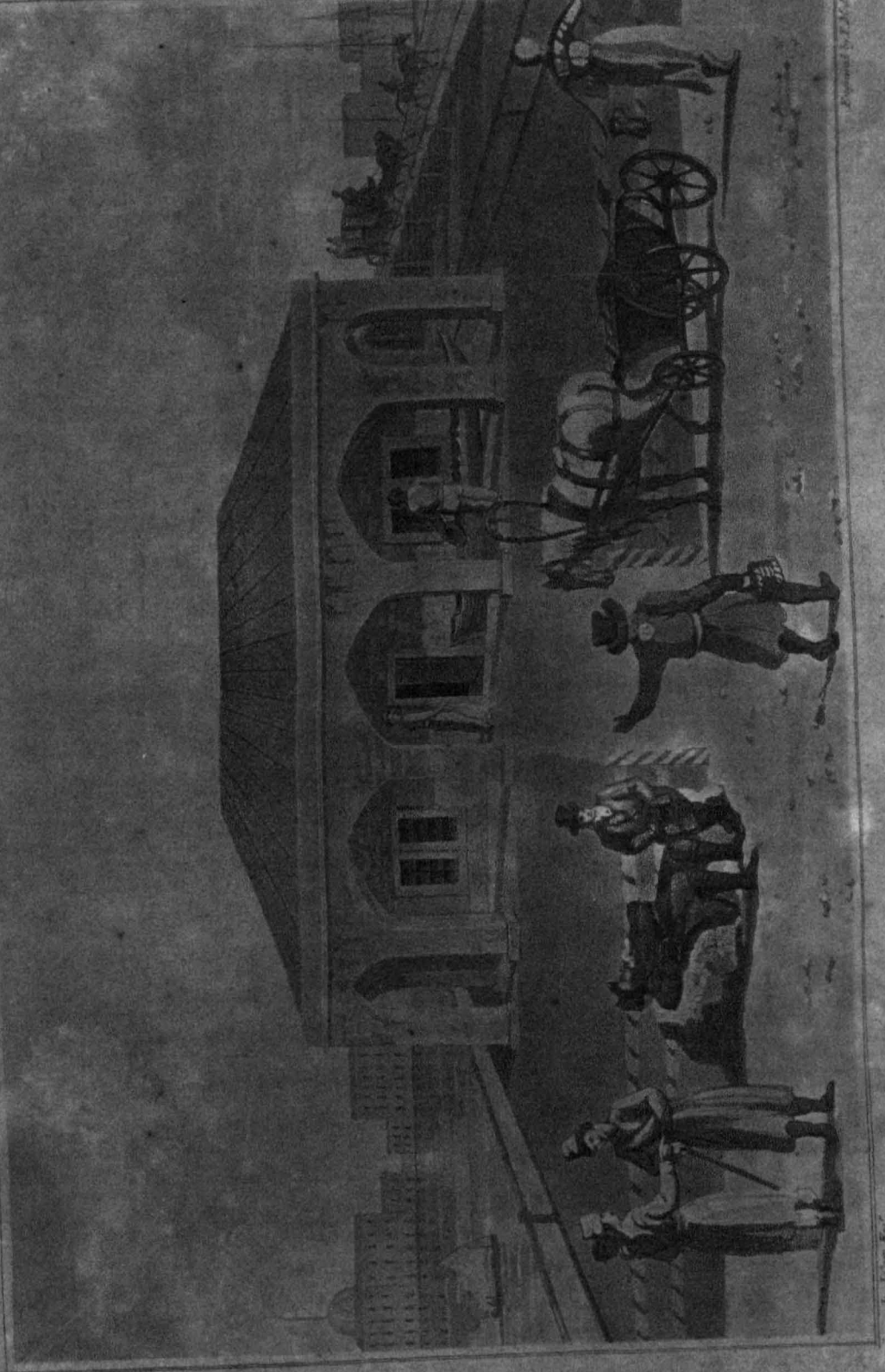
intrigues he had ungratefully exaggerated to the world. This man, a short time since, had the audacity to request permission of the Emperor to return to Petersburg, which he had quitted some time before. The Emperor, with his accustomed sound sense and liberality, sent him word, "That his dominions were open to every body, but he was not so much his enemy as to recommend his entering them."

The house, or rather cottage, in which Peter the Great resided during the foundation of Petersburg, a city which is the growth of little more than a century, stands on the left of the Emperor's bridge in the road to the fortress. This little building, so sacred to the Russians, was covered over with a brick building of arcades by the late Empress, to protect and support it against the ravages of time. The rooms are three, all upon the ground floor, and very low: it was in this very cottage that a whimsical scene occurred whilst the fortress was building. A Dutch skipper, hearing that Petersburg was building, and that the Emperor had a great passion for ships and commerce, resolved to try his good fortune there, and accordingly arrived with the first merchant vessel that ever sailed upon the Neva, and was the bearer of a letter of introduction to the captain of the port from a friend of his in Holland, requesting him to use his interest to procure a freight for him. Peter the Great was working like a common labourer in the Admiralty as the galliot passed, and saluted with

two or three small guns. The Emperor was uncommonly delighted, and having been informed of the Dutchman's business, he resolved to have some frolic with him, and accordingly commanded the port captain to see the skipper, as soon as he landed, and direct him to the Emperor, as a merchant just settled there, whom he intended to personate; the better to carry on the joke, Peter repaired to this cottage with his Empress, who, to humour the plan, dressed herself in a plain bourgeois habit, such as suited the wife of a merchant. The Dutchman was introduced to the Emperor, who received him with great kindness, and they sat and ate bread and cheese, and smoked together for some time, during which the Dutchman's eye examined the room, and began to think that no one who lived in so mean a place, could be of any service to him: presently the Empress entered, when the skipper addressed her, by observing that he had brought her a cheese, a much better one than she had ever tasted, for which, affecting an awkward manner, she thanked him. Being much pleased with her appearance, he took from his coat a piece of linen, and begged her acceptance of it for shifts. "Oh!" exclaimed the Emperor, taking the pipe from his mouth, "Kate, "you will now be as fine and as proud as an empress! there, "you are a lucky woman, you never had such shifts as you "will now have, in your life before." This was followed by the stranger begging to have a kiss, which she coyly indulged him in. At this moment Prince Menzikof, the favourite and

minister of Peter the Great, who represented him upon matters of state, entered with all his orders, and stood before the Emperor uncovered. The skipper began to stare with amazement, whilst Peter, by winking and making private signs, induced the Prince immediately to retire. The astonished Dutchman said, "Why you appear to have great acquaintance here?" "Yes," replied Peter, "and so may you, if you stay here but ten days; there are plenty of such needy noblemen as the one you saw, they are always in debt, and very glad to borrow money of any one, and they have even found out me; but, sir, beware of these fellows, resist their importunity, however flattering, and do not be dazzled by their stars and garters, and such trumpery." This explanatory advice put the stranger a little more at his ease, who drank and smoked on very cheerfully, and made his bargain with the *Imperial Merchant* for a cargo; just as he had settled this point to his wish, the officer of the guard, which had been changed, entered to receive his orders, and stood with profound respect uncovered, and before Peter could stop him, addressed him by the title of Imperial Majesty. The Dutchman sprang from his chair, fell on his knees before the Emperor and Empress, and implored forgiveness for the liberties he had been taking. Peter enjoyed the scene, and laughing heartily, raised up the terrified suppliant, and made him kiss the Empress's hand, presented him with fifteen hundred rubles, gave him a freight, and or-

dered that his vessel, as long as her timbers remained together, should be permitted to enter all the Russian ports free of duty. This privilege made the rapid fortune of the owner. A friend of mine frequently saw her, some years since, at Cronstadt. On the right hand side of the cottage is a boat, built by the hands of Peter the Great. It resembles a large Thames wherry, and does honour to the skill of the princely boat-builder. As I sat in the carriage, waiting for some of my companions, I made a sketch of the house, boat, a droshka, and a groupe of Russians and an American, who were there. Upon our return the evening was advanced, and the night watch was set; we met the police master mounted upon a droshka, drawn by two horses in full gallop, followed by two of the police on horseback, dressed in light green, and armed with sabres; they were going their rounds through the city, to see that order was preserved, and that the nocturnal guards, amounting to five hundred, were at their respective posts. Soon after, we met with a patrolling troop of Cossacs on horseback. In no city is there greater safety and tranquillity preserved than at Petersburg, which for this purpose is divided into ten departments, and these divided into several smaller parts, each of which has its proper chief and subordinate officers, who, by a very simple organization, preserve the capital, at all hours of the night, in a state of quiet and security, that cannot fail to excite the admiration of foreigners, and particularly of Englishmen. Those detestable agents of go-





vernment, spies have no existence in Petersburg ; without their baneful assistance, the police is so admirably and powerfully extended, that, like a spider's web, whatever comes in contact with it, is felt from the centre to the extremities. The commanding officers of the police do not rank with the officers of the army, nor are they received with much respect in society.

I one evening saw an instance of severity which surprised and disgusted me, but probably it was intended to strike terror, and to abbreviate the labour of the police, by commanding an instantaneous submission to its functionaries. A quarrel had taken place between two men in the street through which I was passing, and before the third exchange of imprecations, two of the police appeared, and ordered these disturbers of the peace to walk before them to the nearest sieja, or little watch-house, but one of them refused to go, upon which an officer drew his sabre, and cut him in the face ; the man, like a true Russian, more affected at the sight of the blood, than by the pain of the wound, submitted himself to the law, and marched off without further delay.

It would be well for the safety and tranquillity of the inhabitants of London, and more particularly of its immediate neighbourhood, if its police were more *extended, swift and powerful*. In this respect we are assuredly inferior to most nations. I am aware that arbitrary governments have, hitherto, dis-



played the most perfect systems of police; but is this the reason why the genius and constitution of a *free* one cannot admit of its extending domestic protection to its subjects? Is civil liberty incompatible with preventive policy? Is the freedom of the country gone, when murderers and robbers cease to be free? or is it to preserve our chartered privileges, that a band of superannuated watchmen, who, to protract their becoming an additional burden upon the poor-rate, beyond the ordinary era of eleemosynary aid, are helmeted in flannel night-caps, and with a *rattle* and a *lanthorn*, admirable equipment for *second childhood*, and *eyes dim with age*! are sent forth to guard the lives and property of the inhabitants of the most crowded, populous, and wealthy city in the world? To find fault is an easy and an odious office. But a traveller, like a bee, should never be upon the wing without bringing home some sweet to encrease the honey of his native hive. Neither at night, nor by day, are the streets infested by women of the town; they live in a quarter by themselves, and I believe are not very numerous; some of them are Polish, of course handsome; some Germans, of course fascinating; and some, and the most of them, fair and frail wanderers from the upper parts of Finland, which, although the portion of the province that we saw was so destitute of every thing like beauty, is said to possess many pretty faces and good persons amongst the females. If it be true, as Mr. Justice Colquhoun's register asserts, that the prostitutes of London

amount to fifty thousand, I should not suppose, from all that I could learn, that the frail sisterhood of Petersburg exceeds a tenth of their number. Where these unhappy beings abound, it is always a compliment to the chastity of the purer part of the sex. There was some portion of sagacity in the remark made by a poor little night wanderer, in a city on the continent which shall be nameless, when a traveller, who pitied and relieved her distress, observed, that he was surprised to see so few of the sisterhood in such a capital. "Alas, sir," said the unfortunate, "we cannot live for the *virtuous* part "of our sex." One morning presented a very singular spectacle. A number of well dressed women, walking in pairs, fastened by the arm to each other with cords, with their hand-boxes in their hands, and each couple attended by a police officer, were very quietly and decorously marching to the Emperor's cotton-mills, which are correctional houses of industry for ladies of this description. There were no repining looks amongst them, not a pouting lip, so great in general is the constitutional submission to the law in the north. Upon enquiry, I found that a man had been violently ill-treated in the haunts of these Italian goddesses, and that upon the affair being represented to the Emperor, he ordered three hundred of them to be marched off for a few months, as above mentioned. How the list was filled up, whether by ballot, or promiscuously, I know not. Passing by the senate in which the nobles assemble to digest and discuss such laws as

the Emperor may chuse to submit to their consideration, the image of Justice which adorns the right hand side of the grand entrance towards the statue of Peter the Great, attracted my notice; she was blindfolded as usual, but the equipoise of her scales was destroyed: a wag who some time since had lost his cause, in consequence, as he thought, of the venality of his judges, between frolic and pique had dexterously cast a copec into one of them, and had thus kicked up the beam.

It would be unfair and invidious to investigate the present laws of Russia; the Emperor is convinced of their radical defects, and it is intended, with all possible speed, to bless the empire with a new code. The brilliant elementary outline of legislation, which Catherine II. with the most imposing pomp and solemnity submitted to the deputies from all parts of the empire, in which she professed to give equitable laws to all her subjects, from Lapland to the Caspian, and from the Baltic to the wall of China, which excited the homage, how sincere I know not, of Frederick, and, what she valued more, of Voltaire, has never been acted upon. At this meeting the following curious incident happened: Two Samoid deputies were directed by the Empress to state those legislative provisions which they thought were best adapted to their own nation. One of them replied, "Our laws are few, and we want no more." "What!" exclaimed the imperial legislatrix, "do theft, murder, and adultery, never appear amongst

“you?” “We have such crimes,” answered the deputy, “and they are punished: the man who deprives another of his life wrongfully, is put to death.”—“But what,” said her Majesty, interrupting him, “are the punishments of theft and adultery?” “How!” said the Samoid, with great astonishment, “are they not sufficiently punished by detection?” Many events have conspired to prevent the accomplishment of the magnificent plan of Catherine; and heavily oppressive indeed would the present laws of Russia be, if an appeal to the Emperor did not lie from the most abject of his subjects.

The courts of the grand police office opposite the Admiralty, are crowded every day, where the laws are expounded and administered, according to the discretion of the judicial officers appointed to preside over them. Whilst England might borrow some ideas from the police of Russia, she is enabled to present to the latter the sublimest spectacle of justice. Let us press for a moment through the crowd, into a British court of criminal justice; see that emaciated tattered wretch at the bar! he is without friends and without money; he can bring no witnesses; he can retain no counsel. What then! Is all the force of the law and the powers of eloquence against him? Listen: the judge before whom he stands is *his* advocate! Hear that acute and favourable interrogation to the witness that presses against the culprit's life; mark that benign exposition; the miserable being is saved: tears gush from his

eyes; he falls upon his knees, and in broken accents blesses heaven that he was born in a country whose laws befriend the friendless and the persecuted.

I have hitherto omitted to mention the terrible annoyance of the bells of the Greek churches, the most deep-toned of any I ever heard: those of one very near my chamber used every morning to curtail that little portion of sleep which legions of flies had allowed me. To a stranger, the alternate clashing and jingling of these deep-mouthed tenants of the steeple, for an hour without any interval, is very harrassing; the bells, like saleable horses going to a fair, are tied in succession, and by pulling the rope which connects them, the agreeable harmony of clashing is effected, whilst the melody of chiming is produced by striking the particular bell with a wedge of iron. The Russian saints are said to be very fond of this matin music; and many was the time and oft that I wished it confined exclusively to their ears.

Amongst the other early sounds of the busy morning, with which you are saluted, some are very foreign, and others very familiar, to an Englishman, and might, if the flies would permit, half induce him to think that he were in the capital of his own country: amongst the latter I was particularly delighted with the cry of the fruiterer, who, with a reverend beard, carried upon his head an oblong board, on which, in

little baskets of birch bark, very neat and clean, the choicest summer fruits of Russia were disposed. Nothing could be more grateful than a block of ice, brought in every morning, to chill the water of the Neva with which we washed ourselves : I am at a loss to conjecture how the natives of tropical climates can survive their sultry summers without ice. Soon after our arrival we dined at the elegant and hospitable country house of Mons. B——, upon the Peterhoff road, where we sat down about thirty to dinner, and after coffee, retired to the gardens, formed of little romantic islands rising out of a small lake, the whole surrounded by a wood. When we were weary of rowing some pleasure boats, an amusement of which the Russians are very fond, we returned to the house, and the rest of the evening was spent in cards and waltzing. The day following we were introduced to the English club by a member, where the company is very select, consisting of Russian and Polish noblemen, foreigners of respectability, and that truly *dignified character, an English merchant*. The dinner is always excellent, and served up in the English fashion : adjoining are rooms for billiards and reading, where the principal foreign papers are taken in. The porter was ornamented with a very broad sash of velvet, richly embroidered with silver, thrown over the left shoulder, and held a staff tipped with silver, as do most of the porters of the principal nobility. The building on the outside is far from being handsome ; but the apartments are good, and particularly the eating-room,

which is very lofty, and has two enormous stoves made of brick, covered with blue Dutch tiles: upon the whole, its appearance is very inferior to the club-houses of Stockholm. About two o'clock, the dinner hour at this place, the court-yard is crowded with carriages and equipages.

A fortunate removal of people from the hotel, enabled me to change my apartment for another more pleasantly situated; the price was the same, viz. seven rubles, or nineteen shillings English, per week. This room was divided, *à la Russe*, by a screen, behind which my bed or crib was placed. The windows looked upon the Moika canal, where of an evening I used to be serenaded by the common bargemen, and sometimes by the rowers of the pleasure-barges. Of the Russian song and music I will speak by and bye: I shall only now, as some modest barristers say, *humbly insist* upon it, that barbarians have not a natural and ardent taste for music and singing. One evening, while amusing myself with a young bear in the court-yard of the house of a friend, my ears were gratified by some wild notes, which, upon turning round, I found issued from an instrument resembling a guitar, upon which a native of Archangel was playing very sweetly: the tenderness of the scene improved the music. The poor fellow was weeping as he played, to mitigate the sufferings of his wife, upon whom death had fixed his seal, and who, with her head reclining upon her hand, sat at an open window in the basement floor to enjoy

a little air. The rude and sorrowful musician, and his pale and interesting wife, formed a subject for the painter. This sensibility, which would have charmed a traveller had he beheld it in the love-inspiring groves of Italy, was the produce of the frozen regions of the White Sea! The natives of Archangel are looked upon as more civilized than their more southern brethren, and servants from this part of Russia are preferred for their integrity, intelligence, and activity.

Although I have expressed my attachment to the Russian, and like the good-humoured fellow prodigiously; yet I must admit that he has no objection to improve his notions of earthly felicity by a little occasional inebriation. At a house where I passed the evening, previous to supper we had been drinking some ale, which in this country is prized on account of its being both excellent and forbidden, having left a couple of bottles about half full upon the table when supper was announced, a most demure looking menial, with a long beard, who stood behind my chair, was ordered to bring them in: after some little hesitation, he informed his master "that he " was very sorry for it; but that, as he passed through the " room, by *mere accident* he had emptied the bottles." Nature, by some of her odd freaks, very soon confirmed the truth of one part of this statement. This propensity is much encouraged by the extraordinary number of festivals which occur in this country, particularly at the end of Lent; almost as



many as those of the civic corporation of London, which it is said would present, if they were duly observed, a feast for every day in the year, and some over.

One day whilst I was at Petersburg, as the Emperor was returning from Cronstadt, when the weather was most oppressively hot, he halted at a little village about twenty versts from the residence, in consequence of the relay of horses not being immediately ready. An English merchant who had a country house adjoining, with that warmth of heart which forgets and surpasses all etiquette, ran out, and presented to the Emperor, who appeared to be in great heat and covered with dust, a glass of excellent Burton ale, for which his Majesty, with his usual affability, thanked his attentive host, and drank. Both the Emperor and the merchant forgot that the beverage was prohibited, or secretly relished it the more on that account. A German who was present, and was struck with the frank and cordial avidity with which the Emperor emptied the glass, observed, "that had a Frenchman offered it, his Majesty would have made one of his horses taste it first."

Upon another occasion the Emperor exhibited the native goodness of his heart: some British bottled porter, which is also prohibited, was shipped for an Englishman whose lady was very much indisposed, and to whom it was recommended by her physicians. Scarcely had it reached Petersburg from

Cronstadt, before it was seized by the custom-house officer: upon the Emperor hearing of it, he sent to the customs, declaring it to be his own (for such, in truth, the law of confiscation had made it), and immediately forwarded it, with some very kind expressions, to the fair invalid.

The princely magnificence in which some of the Russian nobility live is prodigious. Having occasion one day to find out a person who occupied a suite of rooms in one of the great town hotels of Count Shermboff, the Russian Duke of Bedford, we had an opportunity of seeing this enormous pile, in which a great number of respectable families reside; and the rent, amounting to twenty thousand roubles, is applied by its munificent lord to the relief of the poor. Exclusive of another superb mansion in the city, which he inhabits, the Count has a town on the road to Moscow called Paulova, containing about two thousand five hundred houses, and five churches: this place is the Birmingham of Russia, all the inhabitants of which are his slaves, who carry on an extensive trade on the Caspian Sea. In the neighbourhood of this place, he has a palace rivalling Versailles in extent and splendor. Many of his slaves, all of whom adore him, have realized vast fortunes, and display at their tables sumptuous services of plate, every costly luxury, and have foreign masters to teach their children. Though rolling in unwieldy revenues, the Count is frequently embarrassed, from his princely

munificence; yet he never replenishes his exhausted treasury, by exercising the sovereign right which he has to raise the capitation-tax of his peasantry. What additional blessings might not such a nobleman bestow upon his country, by converting his vassals into tenants:—how great and immediate would be the influence and example of a spirit so liberal:—with what power has Fortune invested him to accelerate the civilization of his country! One of the Count's slaves advertised, during my stay in Petersburg, for a family preceptor, with an offer of two thousand rubles per annum, and six rubles per day for his table, and a cook! The Count was under severe domestic affliction at this time, having just lost his amiable lady, who had formerly been one of his slaves: she left behind her a little son to console him, whom the Emperor elevated to the rank of nobility; a measure rendered necessary in consequence of his mixed birth, to enable him to enjoy his father's wealth and honours. Prince Shermboff, who is the lord of one hundred and forty thousand slaves, lost eighty thousand rubles one night at the gaming-table: not having so much money at immediate command, he offered to transfer to the winner an estate of slaves of that value; as soon as the unfortunate vassals heard of the intended assignment, dreading to have another master, they immediately raised the money amongst them, and sent it to their lord. Many of the nobles have three hundred servants; and one of that order, it is reported, had thirteen thousand in constant attendance.

The manners of the Russian nobility very much partake of the manners of the old school of France, and, in complimentary profession, perhaps a little exceed it. They are acute observers of human nature; and knowing that their urbanity, on account of their polar situation, is generally suspected, they are even anxious to make a profuse display of it. They are remarkably hospitable, and very attentive to strangers. Conubial happiness amongst the higher orders seldom endures eleven months after the honey-moon, when the parties generally kiss, pout, part, and afterwards are happy. Divorce is not recognized by the laws of Russia. The road to Moscow frequently exhibits a singular spectacle of lords and their ladies, taking a half yearly glance at each other as they meet, in exchanging their residences in the two cities, for their mutual accommodation and amusement: this is the nearest point of contact. The education of the young nobility very frequently suffers from the free and unguarded manner with which they receive every needy adventurer in the capacity of domestic tutor, particularly if he be an Englishman: English taylor, and servants out of livery, and travelling valets, frequently become the preceptors and governors of children. A fellow of this description said one day: "In summer I be clerk to a butcher at Cronstadt, and in winter I teaches English to the Russian nobility's children." I knew a lady whose valet left her at Petersburg, in consequence of having been appointed to the superintendence of the children of a Russian

nobleman of high distinction, with one thousand rubles per annum, a table, and two slaves. The Russian nobility are in general very extravagant, and consequently frequently embarrassed: their bills are often at a discount of sixty, and even seventy pounds per cent.

Soon after our arrival, we visited the Grand Imperial Theatre, or Opera House, called the Stone-Theatre, which stands in a large open place, nearly in front of the Marine Garrison, formerly the New Goal, and the Nicolai Canal. At four angles, in this spacious area, are four pavilions of iron, supported by pillars of the same metal, resting upon a circular basement of granite, within which, in winter, large fir fires are constructed, the wind being kept off by vast circular moveable shutters of iron, for warming and screening the servants of those who visit the theatre in the winter. Previous to the erection of these sheds, many of those unfortunate persons were frozen to death. The government, attentive to the lives of the people, has interdicted performances at the opera, when the frost is unusually severe. The front is a noble portico, supported by doric pillars; the interior is about the size of Covent-Garden, of an oval shape, and splendidly but rather heavily decorated. The lower tier of boxes project from the sides, at the back of which are pilasters, adorned with appropriate decorations, richly gilded, above which are three rows of boxes, supported by corinthian pillars, each of which,

as well as those below, contain nine persons. Nothing less than the whole box can be taken. It frequently happens that servants stand behind their masters or mistresses in the boxes, during the performance, and present a curious motly appearance. The Imperial box is in the centre of the first tier, projecting a little, is small, and very plainly decorated. The pit has seven or eight rows of seats with backs to them, in which a commodious portion of space for each spectator is marked off by little plates of brass, numbered upon the top of the back seat; this part is called the *fauteuils*. Such is the order observed here, and in every theatre on the continent, that however popular the piece, a spectator may, during any part of the performance, reach his seat, in this part of the theatre, without any difficulty. Behind, but not boarded off, is the pit and the parterre. The price of admission to the boxes and *fauteuils* are two silver rubles, little more than five shillings. There are no galleries. The massy girandoles, one of which is placed at every pilaster, are never illuminated but when the Imperial family are present, on which occasion only, a magnificent circle of large patent lamps is used, descending from the centre of the roof; at other times its place is supplied by one of smaller dimensions, when the obscurity which prevails induces the ladies generally to appear in an undress. Although this gloom before the curtain is said to be advantageous to the effect of scenery, yet the eye is saddened, as it runs its circuit in vain for forms adorned with

graceful drapery, the glittering gem, the nodding plume, and looks of adorned beauty, that give fresh brilliance to the gay galaxy of light. This theatre is furnished with a great number of doors and passages, reservoirs of water, and an engine in case of fire, and with concealed flues and stoves, to give it summer warmth in winter. It is always strongly guarded by a detachment from the guards, as well as by the police officers, who preserve the most admirable order among the carriages and servants. *It is not an ungratifying sight, after the opera, to pause at the doors and see with what uncommon skill and velocity the carriages, each drawn by four horses, drive up to the grand entrance under the portico, receive their company, and gallop off at full speed; pockets are very rarely picked, and accidents seldom happen.*

Owing to the size and quantity of decorations, and the spacious arrangement of the boxes, I should not think the theatre could contain more than twelve hundred persons. Its receipts have never yet exceeded one thousand six hundred and eighty rubles, or two hundred and forty pounds. How different from a London theatre, which, on a crowded night, when a Siddons or a Litchfield delight their audience, is lined with faces, and the very walls appear to breathe!

The first opera I saw was *Blue Beard*, performed by Italian performers, the subject of which varied but little from the re-

presentation of it in England, except that the last wife of Blue Beard has a lover, who in the concluding act lays the sanguinary tyrant breathless with his sword. The catastrophe was finely worked up, and drew from the Russians successions of enthusiastic acclamation. Do these sentiments of tenderness, these noble notions of retributive justice, denote an immutable barbarism? The processions were in the first style of magnificence, the dresses and ornaments were very costly, and it is not unusual to introduce, on these occasions, one thousand men, selected from the guards for the expression of their faces and symmetry of their figures, to swell the scene of pomp. The orchestra was very full, and combined the first-rate powers of music. The scenes were handsome and well managed. A room was formed of entire sides, and well furnished; and a garden was displayed with all its characteristics. The Emperor contributes very munificently to the support of this theatre; and as all the machinists and workmen are his slaves, they are all under admirable discipline. The introduction of a tree into a study, or fringing the top of a forest with a rich cieling, scenic blunders which frequently occur on the English stage, would hazard the backs of the Russian scene shifters. This theatre has a very beautiful set of scenes, which is never displayed but on nights when the Imperial Family honour it with their presence. The silence and decorum of the audience cannot but impress the mind of any one, who has witnessed the boisterous



clamours of an English audience. The curtain ascends at six o'clock precisely. No after-piece, as with us, only now and then a ballet, succeeds the opera, which is generally concluded by nine o'clock, when the company go to the Summer Gardens, drive about the city, or proceed to card and supper parties.

This theatre is as much dedicated to the Russian muses, as to those of more genial climates. In this respect Catherine II. pursued the same plan of domestic policy, so wisely adopted by Gustavus III. but the plan since her demise has never been encouraged by the higher circles. A Russ play has the same effect upon fashion in Russia, as George Barnwell has upon the same class in England. Although in the former there are some inimitable performers, as in the hero of the latter, one of the most perfect and affecting imitations of nature, in that walk of the drama, ever exhibited upon any stage, is displayed by Mr. Charles Kemble.

I went one evening, in company with my amiable and gallant friend, Captain Elphinstone, to see a Russ opera, called "The School for Jealousy:" it is not much esteemed. As it proceeded Captain E. explained it to me: the sentiments were frequently coarse, sometimes very obscene; the actors, who were Russians, appeared to perform with great ability; the heroine of the piece was represented by a very pretty and inter-

esting girl, who was taken from the hospital of foundlings : she manifested grace, and a bewitching *naïveté*, and played and sung most sweetly. I am sorry I have forgotten her name ; she is the principal Russ actress, and is a very great favourite. In the course of the play, to my astonishment, was introduced a scene of the inside of the mad-house at Petersburg, in which, amongst a number of horrible grotesque figures, a mad periwig-maker threw a handful of hair-powder into the face of a frantic girl, who ran raving about the stage with dishevelled locks, which excited strong risibility amongst the audience. I was so disgusted at the spectacle, and the applause, that I wished it had not happened ; but as it did, I record it. Although an English audience has been delighted at a dance of undertakers, laughed at the feats of skeletons in pantomimes, and in Hamlet has expressed great mirth at seeing a buffoon grave-digger roll human skulls upon the stage, and beat them about with his spade, it could not endure a sight in which those objects, whom pity and every tender feeling have consecrated, are brought forward with ridicule. But let it be remembered that madness is less frequent in Russia than in milder regions ; and hence the people, for they are very far from being strangers to feelings which would do honour to the most civilized of the human race, are less acquainted with, and consequently less affected by its appearance ; and when it is thus wantonly displayed upon the stage, it appears under the mask of buffoonery. The government would

do well to suppress this and every similar exhibition, calculated only to imbrute a civilized mind, and postpone the refinement of a rude one.

I was much more pleased with the Russ opera of the Nymph of the Dnieper, which is so popular and attractive, that it never fails to fill the seats of fashion. It is chiefly intended to display the ancient costume and music of Russia. The story is very simple: A prince has sworn eternal constancy to a nymph, who is violently attached to him; his father, a powerful king, wishes him to marry a princess of an ancient house; the prince consents, but the nuptials are always interrupted by the stratagems of the jealous nymph, who appears in various disguises. The first scene was singularly beautiful: it displayed a river and its banks, and nymphs swimming; the manner in which they rose upon the water was admirably natural; the music of the ancient Russ airs, in which the celebrated Cossacka is introduced, were exquisite; the scenery was very fine, and displayed a number of pantomimic changes.

The Russian noblemen are fond of the drama; almost every country mansion has a private theatre. Those of the nobility, who, from disgust to the court, or some other cause, confine their residence to Moscow and the adjacent country, live in the voluptuous magnificence of eastern satraps: after

dinner they frequently retire to a vast rotunda, and sip their coffee, during a battle of dogs, wild bears, and wolves; from thence they go to their private theatres, where great dramatic skill is frequently displayed by their slaves, who perform, and who also furnish the orchestra. These people are tutored by French players, who are very liberally paid by their employers.

## CHAP. XIV.

## A GLOOMY CATASTROPHE.

IT is with deep regret that I approach the delicate and awful subject of this chapter. Humanity would gladly cover it with the pall of oblivion ; but justice to the memory of an unhappy monarch, and to the chief of the august family of Russia, demand a candid though careful developement of the events which preceded the fall of the last Emperor. The original source of my information is from one who beheld the catastrophe which I am about to relate, whom I can neither name nor doubt ; a catastrophe which is too near the period in which I write, not to render an unrestrained disclosure of all the particulars with which I have been furnished, unfair if not imprudent. The causes that first created those well-known prejudices which Catherine II. cherished against her son, have perished with her ; but all the world knows, that, during the many years which rolled away between the Grand Duke's

arrival at the age of maturity and his elevation to the throne, his august mother never admitted him to any participation of power, but kept him in a state of the most abject and mortifying separation from the court, and in almost total ignorance of the affairs of the empire. Although Paul, by his birth, was generalissimo of the armies, he never was permitted to head a regiment; and although, by the same right, grand admiral of the Baltic, he was interdicted from even visiting the fleet at Cronstadt. To these painful privations may be added, that when he was recommended, that is *ordered*, to travel, during his absence Catherine seized and sent to Siberia one of his most cherished friends, because she discovered that he had informed her son of some inconsiderable state affair. Thus Paul beheld himself not only severed from the being who gave him birth, but from all the ordinary felicities of life. The pressure of his hand excited suspicion; peril was in his attachment, and in his confidence guilt and treason. He could not have a friend, without furnishing a victim.

A gentleman nearly connected with me, now no more, a man of talent and acute observation and veracity, had several years since the honour of spending a short period at the little secluded court of Gatchina, upon which, as the dazzling beams of imperial favour never shone, the observer was left in the tranquillity of the shade, to make a more calm, steady, and undiverted survey. At this time, Paul displayed a mind very

elegantly inclined, and without being brilliant, highly cultivated, accomplished and informed, frank and generous, brave and magnanimous, a heart tender and affectionate, and a disposition very sweet, though most acutely and poignantly susceptible : his person was not handsome, but his eye was penetrating, and his manners such as denoted the finished gentleman. In his youth he was seen by the bed-side of the dying Panin, the hoary and able minister of Catherine, and his tutor, kissing and bathing his hand with tears. As an evidence of his intellectual vigour, let the elaborate and able ukase, by which he settled the precedence and provision of the imperial family, unquestionably his own unassisted composition, be referred to. He loved his amiable princess, and his children, with the most ardent, the most indulgent fondness, and it was the labour of their love, as well as of his servants, who were devotedly attached to him, to requite his affections and graciousness, and to endeavour to fill up with every endearing, every studied attention, the gloomy chasm which had been formed by an unnatural and inexplicable neglect ; but this chasm was a bottomless abyss, upon the brink of which his wounded spirit was ever wandering ! Paul possessed a high martial inclination, and, reflecting that he might one day mount the throne of a military empire, he made the art of war the principal object of his studies ; but neither this pursuit, so copious, so interesting, nor the endearments of those who surrounded him, could expel from his mind the sense of his injuries. He beheld

himself, the second personage and the destined ruler of the empire, postponed to the periodical favourite of his mother, the minister of her unbounded voluptuousness, not unfrequently elevated to the presidency of the Hermitage from the ranks, with no other pretensions than vigorous health and a mighty frame; whilst, on the other hand, the bleeding shade of his father was for ever, in his morbid imagination, pointing to his wound, and whispering revenge. Thus exiled from the heart of his mother, is it a matter of surprise that he should exclude her from his own?

Catherine more than once observed, that her son would not long occupy the throne after her decease; and it has been the fashion to say, that her alienation from him was justified by the events which succeeded her death. With this prophetic spirit, she devoted all her care to the education of her grandsons, Alexander and Constantine, and exercised all the powers she possessed towards the consummation of her prediction. She foretold that the flower which she had planted would wither early: she shook it till every blossom fell, and shaded it so, that the dew of Heaven should never visit it more: she pressed and pierced the delicate and ardent mind of her son until she subverted it. Was it then a proof of inspiration, to prognosticate the brevity of his reign over an empire, the history of which has too often and fatally proved, that however despotic its government, and there is not one under heaven more



absolute, a cautious and dexterous cultivation of the interest, feelings, prejudices, and affections of the people, is inseparable from the safety of the ruler ?

A short time before her demise, Catherine committed to P—— Z——, her last favourite, whom she highly esteemed, a declaration of her will, addressed to the senate, purporting that Paul should be passed over in the succession, and that the Grand Duke Alexander should mount the vacant throne. As soon as the favourite was acquainted with the sudden death of the Empress, he flew to Pavlovsk, about thirty-five versts from the capital, where Paul occasionally resided, whom he met on the road ; and, after a short explanation, delivered up to him this important document. Paul, charmed with his zeal and loyalty, preserved him in all his honours and fortunes, whilst a general and rapid dispersion, to all points of the compass, instantaneously succeeded amongst the members of the *male scraglio* of the Hermitage. The Emperor ascended the throne without difficulty, but a total stranger to his subjects. One of the first measures of his reign displayed, in a very singular manner, the native goodness of his heart, under the clouds that rapidly began to overshadow it, in an act of piety towards his murdered father, whose remains he removed from the church of St. Alexander Nevski, called the Monastery ; and having exhibited them in great funeral state, he consigned them to the sepulchre of Catherine II., in the cathedral of St.

Peter and St. Paul. The latter part of this extraordinary transaction has often induced me to think that Paul did not believe that his mother issued the order for the assassination of his father. At this eccentric solemnity, he compelled Count Alexey Orloff, and Prince Baratynski, under whose hands the unhappy monarch is said to have perished, to stand on each side of the body as it lay in state, and afterwards to follow it to the tomb as the principal mourners.

Not long after this event, his mind began occasionally to display the most fearful symptoms of distraction; but when his reason was restored, the hapless Emperor never failed to endeavour, with the most affecting sensibility, to repair the ruin and havoc which his delirium had occasioned. The deposed Stanislaus, the broken-hearted King of Poland, partook alternately of his beneficence and severity; but with what demonstration of respect and genuine grief did the Emperor attend the obsequies of this last of the Sarmates? On that gloomy occasion, he commanded in person the guards who assisted at the funeral; and uncovering himself, with the most affecting emotions, saluted the coffin as it passed. To the memory of the hoary and heroic Suvaroff, who fell a broken-hearted victim to the distraction of his Imperial master, in periods of agonized and compunctious reflection, he raised a colossal statue of bronze, in the vast area behind Bens-koi's palace, opposite to Romantzoff's monument; and, on the

days when he reviewed his troops there, he used to order them to march by in open order, and face the statue, which he said represented one of the greatest and bravest generals of his own or any other age.

Notwithstanding the important service which P—— Z—— had rendered him, the Emperor could never separate him, in his mind's eye, from the caresses of his mother, and speedily became disgusted with him ; spoke of him with great asperity to his friends, and at length, converting the bounty of Catherine into a robbery, he denounced him as a defaulter to the Imperial treasury of half a million of rubles ; and, convinced of the justice of the allegation, proceeded, without loss of time, to sequester the vast estates which belonged to him and to his two brothers. Driven to desperation by such conduct, one of the sufferers, the second brother, one day boldly walked up to the Emperor upon the parade, and, with manly eloquence, represented the injustice of his measures. Paul received him without anger, heard him without interruption, reflected, and restored the property : but the original disgust rapidly returning, he ordered P—— Z—— to reside upon his estate, to which he submitted for a considerable time. But the mind of the exile was too ardent to endure seclusion ; ambitious, bold, active, and enterprising, he determined upon releasing himself from the unjust constraint imposed upon him by his sovereign, the delirium of whose mind now frequently

burst forth with all the fury and desolation of a convulsed volcano. Messrs. Otto, Sieyes, and Talleyrand, who at that time formed a diplomatic trio, or rather were spies, at the court of Petersburg, with the dexterity of talent, and the subtilty of Frenchmen, resolved to turn the gathering storm to the advantage of their own country, by means which, extending beyond their calculation and their wishes, finally and rapidly led to the overthrow of the Emperor. Under their tuition, a French actress was introduced on the boards of the French theatre at Petersburg, and placed in such situations of allurement, that the eye of the Emperor could not but notice her. The ruin of domestic happiness furnished these politicians with the means of their success. A French actress was destined to estrange the Emperor from his family, and to create a temporary and terrible change in the affairs of Europe. Madame Chevalier possessed that style of face which, without being regularly handsome, was more sweet, expressive, and captivating, than the exact symmetry of a finished beauty. Her person was small, but delicate, and rather *en bon point* : her manners were of the highest order, and enchanted every one who approached her. The Emperor was fond of music : Madame Chevalier excelled upon the harp, and sung to it some sweet and crafty verses, composed by one of her three employers, and which she herself had set to music ; the subject of which was, the martial skill, valour, and generosity, of the Emperor. She had not spread her witcheries

long, before an evening was appointed for a private gratification of the musical taste and passion of the Emperor. This Syren very soon became the sole idol of his shattered mind, which she moved according to the direction of her secret principals, until the Emperor withdrew himself from his alliance with Austria, recalled Suvaroff and his army covered with glory, crowded the roads to Siberia with British subjects, and filled with terror and consternation the Exchange of the British empire. I mean not to enumerate all the calamities which followed: they were too signal not to be widely known, too recent not to be well remembered; and, from their very nature, incontestably proved the aberration of those faculties which could alone, by their presence, render the Emperor responsible for all the misery, dismay, and ruin, which threatened the very existence of the empire. P—— Z—— resolved upon availing himself of the influence of the fair favourite, to whom he addressed himself with all the insinuation of person, manners, wit, and money: having engaged her in his favour, he made her acquainted with Count K——, a man who, from having been about the person of Paul in the menial capacity of a valet, at last obtained a high place in his affection, distinguished honour, and great wealth. The more firmly to bind K—— to his interest, P—— Z—— feigned an honourable passion for the daughter of the former, who was, like all the sudden favourites of fortune, much pleased at the prospect of an alliance with a very distinguished family. Count K——,

and Madame Chevalier, conceived many plans for prevailing upon his Majesty to restore Z—— to his favour. At length, one evening, when she had tranquillized the mind of the Emperor, and excited in him an appearance of gaiety by the vivacity of her wit, and some of her most successful songs, she artfully insinuated that P—— Z—— was the most unhappy man alive in being deprived of the Emperor's favour, and of the power of promoting the interests of one of the greatest geniuses that ever mounted the Czarian throne, to whom he was most inviolably attached. The Emperor paused, and expressed some doubt of the truth of the statement; but upon her reassuring him of its sincerity, accompanied by some of those little blandishments which no woman ever knew how to display with more finished address than Madame Chevalier, Paul granted her petition, and recalled Z—— to the residence, where he flew with the celerity of a courier, and threw himself at the feet of the Emperor, by whom he was graciously received, and from whose presence he withdrew to present his fair advocate with the stipulated reward, a magnificent aigrette of diamonds, valued at sixty thousand rubles. Whatever private pique Z—— might have cherished against his Imperial master, I believe that it was wholly lost in his review of the deteriorated and dreadful condition of the Empire, and in those awful measures of restoration which were afterwards resorted to. Z—— gradually and warily unfolded his mind to K——, who as cautiously entered into his views, until their confidence

was completely established. The result of their deliberations was, that, to save the empire, it was necessary that the Emperor should be removed. They next prevailed upon Count P——, the governor of the city, and Count P——, a very young nobleman, but of considerable family interest, the son of the celebrated general, Count P—— P——, who so eminently distinguished himself in the Turkish war, and also the Prince Y——, and some other persons of great rank and consequence. All of these noblemen were actuated by no other motive, ~~than~~ to prevent the final ruin of their country, and for this purpose they determined to place in peril their lives and their fortunes.

In their conferences, which were managed with admirable discretion, it was resolved that Paul should die; and, like Cæsar, it was destined that he should perish in the ides of March, on the day of the festival called Maslaintza.

I think I hear the voice of humanity exclaim, “Why not provisionally remove the unhappy Monarch from the throne?” Alas! the constitution of Russia possesses none of those mild and beneficent provisions, which endear our own constitution to us a thousand and a thousand times. When the ruler is once mounted on the throne, an abyss opens below, and the descent from the last step is into eternity. I am endeavouring to illustrate motives, not justify them; the record is before another tribunal! It is scarcely necessary for me to observe,

that the august family of Paul were wholly unacquainted with the meditated blow.

The Emperor, from an aversion he had taken to those palaces, which formed the favourite residence of Catherine, resolved upon building a palace for himself. The gorgeous magnificence of Zarsko Zelo, and of the Winter palace, and all the Oriental voluptuousness of the Hermitage, were hateful to him; indeed, to such an elevation had his abhorrence of these places attained, that he had determined to reduce them to the dust, that only

“ ———The blackness of ashes should mark where they stood.”

His fate, which was fast approaching, prevented the accomplishment of this irretrievable act of delirium. The Emperor and his family resided, at the time when the confederacy had resolved upon his removal, in the new palace of Saint Michael. It is an enormous quadrangular pile, of red Dutch brick, rising from a massy basement of hewn granite; it stands at the bottom of the Summer Gardens, and the lofty spire of its Greek chapel, richly covered with ducat gold, rising above the trees, has a beautiful appearance.

As Paul was anxious to inhabit this palace as soon after he was crowned as possible, the masons, the carpenters, and various artificers, toiled with incredible labour by day and by



torch-light, under the sultry sun of the summer, and in all the severity of a polar winter, and in three years this enormous and magnificent fabric was completed. The whole is moated round, and when the stranger surveys its bastions of granite, and numerous draw-bridges, he is naturally led to conclude, that it was intended for the last asylum of a Prince at war with his subjects. Those who have seen its massy walls, and the capaciousness and variety of its chambers, will easily admit that an act of violence might be committed in one room, and not be heard by those who occupy the adjoining one; and that a massacre might be perpetrated at one end, and not known at the other. Paul took possession of this palace as a place of strength, and beheld it with rapture, because his Imperial mother had never even seen it. Whilst his family were here, by every act of tenderness endeavouring to soothe the terrible perturbation of his mind, there were not wanting those who exerted every stratagem to inflame and encrease it. These people were constantly insinuating, that every hand was armed against him. With this impression, which added fuel to his burning brain, he ordered a secret stair-case to be constructed, which, leading from his own chamber, passed under a false stove in the anti-room, and led by a small door to the terrace.

It was the custom of the Emperor to sleep in an outer apartment next to the Empress's, upon a sofa, in his regi-

mentals and boots, whilst the Grand Duke and Duchess, and the rest of the Imperial family, were lodged at various distances, in apartments below the story which he occupied. On the tenth day of March, O. S. 1801, the day preceding the fatal night, whether Paul's apprehension, or anonymous information, suggested the idea, is not known, but conceiving that a storm was ready to burst upon him, he sent to Count P——, the governor of the city, one of the noblemen who had resolved on his destruction: "I am informed, P—— said the Emperor, "that there is a conspiracy on foot against "me; do you think it necessary to take any precaution?" The Count, without betraying the least emotion, replied, "Sire, do not suffer such apprehensions to haunt your mind; "if there were any combinations forming against your Ma-  
"jesty's person, I am sure I should be acquainted with it."  
"Then I am satisfied," said the Emperor, and the governor withdrew. Before Paul retired to rest, he unexpectedly expressed the most tender solicitude for the Empress and his children, kissed them with all the warmth of farewell fondness, and remained with them longer than usual; and after he had visited the centinels at their different posts, he retired to his chamber, where he had not long remained, before, under some colourable pretext, that satisfied the men, the guard was changed by the officers who had the command for the night, and were engaged in the confederacy. An hussar, whom the Emperor had particularly honoured by his notice and atten-

tion, always at night slept at his bed-room door, in the anti-room. It was impossible to remove this faithful soldier by any fair means. At this momentous period, silence reigned throughout the palace, except where it was disturbed by the pacing of the centinels, or at a distance by the murmurs of the Neva, and only a few lights were to be seen distantly and irregularly gleaming through the windows of this dark colossal abode. In the dead of the night, Z—— and his friends, amounting to eight or nine persons, passed the draw-bridge, easily ascended the stair-case which led to Paul's chamber, and met with no resistance till they reached the anti-room, when the faithful hussar, awakened by the noise, challenged them, and presented his fusee: much as they must have all admired the brave fidelity of the guard, neither time nor circumstances would admit of an act of generosity, which might have endangered the whole plan. Z—— drew his sabre and cut the poor fellow down. Paul, awakened by the noise, sprung from his sofa: at this moment the whole party rushed into his room; the unhappy Sovereign, anticipating their design, at first endeavoured to entrench himself in the chairs and tables, then recovering, he assumed a high tone, told them they were his prisoners, and called upon them to surrender. Finding that they fixed their eyes steadily and fiercely upon him, and continued advancing towards him, he implored them to spare his life, declared his consent instantly to relinquish the sceptre, and to accept of any terms which they would dic-

tate. In his raving, he offered to make them princes, and to give them estates, and titles, and orders, without end. They now began to press upon him, when he made a convulsive effort to reach the window: in the attempt he failed, and indeed so high was it from the ground, that had he succeeded, the expedient would only have put a more instantaneous period to his misery. In the effort he very severely cut his hand with the glass; and as they drew him back he grasped a chair, with which he felled one of the assailants, and a desperate resistance took place. So great was the noise, that notwithstanding the massy walls, and thick double folding-doors, which divided the apartments, the Empress was disturbed, and began to cry for help, when a voice whispered in her ear, and imperatively told her to remain quiet, otherwise, if she uttered another word, she should be put to instant death. Whilst the Emperor was thus making a last struggle, the Prince Y—— struck him on one of his temples with his fist, and laid him upon the floor; Paul, recovering from the blow, again implored his life; at this moment the heart of P—— Z—— relented, and upon being observed to tremble and hesitate, a young Hanoverian resolutely exclaimed, “We have passed the Rubicon: if we spare his life, before the setting of tomorrow’s sun, we shall be his victims!” upon which he took off his sash, turned it twice round the naked neck of the Emperor, and giving one end to Z——, and holding the other himself, they pulled for a considerable time with all their force,

until their miserable sovereign was no more ; they then retired from the palace without the least molestation, and returned to their respective homes. What occurred after their departure can be better conceived than depicted : medical aid was resorted to, but in vain, and upon the breathless body of the Emperor fell the tears of his widowed Empress and children, and domestics ; nor was genuine grief ever more forcibly or feelingly displayed than by him on whose brow this melancholy event had planted the crown. So passed away this night of horror, and thus perished a Prince, to whom nature was *severely* bountiful. The acuteness and pungency of his feeling was incompatible with happiness : unnatural prejudice pressed upon the fibre, too finely spun, and snapped it.

'Tis not as heads that never ache suppose,  
Forgery of fancy, and a dream of woes ;  
Man is a harp, whose chords elude the sight,  
Each yielding harmony, dispos'd aright ;  
The screws revers'd (a task which if he please  
God in a moment executes with ease),  
Ten thousand thousand strings at once go loose,  
Lost, till he tune them, all their power and use.

COWPER.

The sun shone upon a new order of things. At seven o'clock the intelligence of the demise of Paul spread through the capital. The interval of time from its first communication to its diffusion over every part of Petersburg, was scarcely perceptible. At the parade Alexander presented himself on

horseback, when the troops, with tears rolling down their rugged and sun-browned faces, hailed him with loud and cordial acclamation. The young Emperor was overwhelmed, and at the moment of mounting the throne of the most extensive empire under heaven, he was seen to turn from the grand and affecting spectacle, and weep.

What followed is of very subordinate consideration; but perhaps it will be eagerly asked, to what extremity did the avenging arm of Justice pursue the perpetrators of the deed? Mercy, the brightest jewel of every crown, and a forlorn and melancholy conviction, that the reigning motive was the salvation of the empire, prevented her from being vindictive. Never upon the theatre of life was there presented a scene of more affecting magnanimity; decency, not revenge, governed the sacrifice. P—— Z—— was ordered not to approach the Imperial residence, and the governor of the city was transferred to Riga. As soon as Madame Chevalier was informed of the demise of her Imperial patron, she prepared, under the protection of her brother, a dancer, for flight, with a booty of nearly a million of rubles. A police officer was sent to inspect and report upon her property: amongst a pile of valuable articles, he discovered a diamond cross of no great intrinsic value, which had been given by Peter I. to a branch of the Imperial Family, and on that account much

esteemed; it was to recover this that the officer was sent, who obtained it, after the most indecent and unprincipled resistance on her part. Passports were then granted to Madame Chevalier and her brother. Thus terminated this extraordinary and impressive tragedy.

## CHAP. XV.

SIR JOHN BORLASE WARREN—THE POLIGNACS—THE PARADE—THE  
 BANEFUL EFFECTS OF PASSION—THE EMPEROR—A PICKPOCKET  
 —A TRAVELLER'S MEMORANDUMS—UNPUGILISTIC BRUISERS—  
 DOCTOR GUTHKIE—VISIT TO THE TAURIDA PALACE—THE CO-  
 LOSSAL HALL—THE WINTER GARDENS—THE BANQUET—PRINCE  
 POTESKIN—RAW CARROTS—FLYING GARDENS—THE HOUSE OF  
 CHARLES XII. AT BENDER DISCOVERED.

IT was impossible for an Englishman to visit Petersburg when I did, without feeling a justifiable national pride in finding his country represented by one of her most distinguished naval heroes, who, to the frankness and sincerity so peculiar to that character, unites the graceful attractions of the most courteous and polished manners. From the intrepid minister, and his elegant and enlightened lady, I experienced that urbanity and attention, which eminently distinguished their conduct, and endeared them to the Russian court, and to their countrymen. The Emperor, in his private circles, has often extolled the nautical skill and undaunted valour of Sir John Borlase Warren, and honoured him with his friendship. In no period of those political storms which have so long shaken,



and still continue to convulse, the continent of Europe, has the cabinet of Russia manifested a more propitious and cordial disposition to the cause and interests of Great Britain, than during the diplomacy of the gallant Admiral.

The house of embassy, a noble mansion, in the English line, was fitted up with great taste, and the hospitality which prevailed in it was truly *Russian*. The parties which assembled there were very select and agreeable. Amongst the most frequent visitors I met the Duc de Polignac and several of the members of that illustrious house, who, from the highest rank, and an influence equal to that of their sovereign, have been cast into the regions of the north, by the terrible tornado of the French revolution, where, in the sensibility and munificence of the Emperor, they have found protection.

The noble fortitude of the Polignacs, and particularly the heroic and affecting eloquence of one of the brothers before the tribunal of Bonaparte, created at this period a strong sensation in the public mind, and in no part of the world more forcibly than at Petersburg. In another age, when passion and prejudice shall repose in "the tomb of all the Capulets," the calm investigating historian may perhaps, but in better language, describe their crime, as I have ever considered it, a conspiracy of Bonaparte against himself, to enable him to assume the imperial purple.

Sunday is always at Petersburg a day of great festivity, but it only manifests itself after the hours of devotion. On this day the parade is well worthy the traveller's notice: it commences at ten o'clock, in that great area which lies between one side of the winter palace and the magnificent crescent, which formerly constituted the palace of Catherine's most cherished favourite Lanskoi; the men amounted to four thousand, and presented a very noble and martial appearance; their uniform consisted of a round hat, with only a rim in front, and green feather, a short green coat, buttoned tight round the body, and white duck breeches cut very high, so that no waistcoat is necessary. The belly of the soldier is tightly strapped in, for the purpose of giving an artificial breadth to the chest. With an exception to the English and consular guards, I never saw finer men in my life, nor greater neatness in dress and person. The Emperor came from the palace, mounted upon a beautiful grey charger, attended by two or three officers; he wore an amazing large cocked hat, fastened under his chin by a black leather strap, and buttoned to prevent the wind from occasioning that accident, for which a cruel disciplinarian (Frederick\*the Great) once severely flogged a poor Prussian soldier. The rest of his dress was a short coat of dark olive-green colour, decorated with a small star and the cordon bleu, white leather breeches, and high military boots, with very long projecting spurs. Upon this occasion there is always a great concourse of the commonalty, and a

great muster of officers to pay their respects to the Emperor, who rode at an easy canter down the line. As he passed I was much surprised to hear each company salute him with deep-toned voices, and highly gratified when I was informed that the salutation was, " Good day to our Emperor." The words seemed to bring down the haughty disdain of military discipline to its proper level, and to place the hearts of the Emperor and his brave soldiers in contact with each other. Upon his return he alighted and took his station in the centre, when the regiments passed the Emperor, who stood uncovered all the time, in open order, the band playing and officers saluting. As the imperial colours passed, which time or war, or both, had reduced to a few shreds of silk, all the officers and spectators bowed. As the last company was marching off the ground, a lane was formed to the palace through the people, who gazed upon their young Emperor with enthusiastic delight. The whole was a very interesting spectacle, for which by the bye I had nearly paid rather dearly. Thinking, perhaps, that I was far removed from the nimble-fingered disciples of London, or what is more likely, not thinking about the matter, I carelessly carried my pocket-book to the parade : a common Russian had for some time, it appeared, watched me with a cat-like eye, and at the moment the Emperor passed me, he affected to relieve me from the pressure of the mob, and at the same time *really* endeavoured to relieve me of my letter of credit, some ruble notes, and what I fear the critics will wish I never

had recovered, many of the memorandums from which I am now writing. A German valet, belonging to a gentleman who was with me, instantly seized him by the throat ere his hand could leave my pocket, when he as speedily relinquished his prey. The attempt was made with a skilful knowledge of *seizing opportunities*, by which some folks become wealthy, others *imperial*, and the dexterity and lightness of his finger would have obtained a medal of felonious honour in the academy of Barrington. However, as I lost no property by the fellow, I ordered the active servant to dismiss him; and the terrified Russian rushed rapidly from my sight, and was lost in the surrounding crowd.

The Russian is not naturally addicted to thieving: he is seldom seen in hostility to life, in order to obtain the felonious possession of another man's property. A rare instance of what however may be committed in an ebullition of passion, occurred at the preceding parade. An officer, in consequence of very improper behaviour, was put under arrest; in the bitterness of wounded pride, he slew the centinel who was placed at his chamber door: the Emperor, instead of dooming him to death, ordered him to receive twenty-five strokes of the knout, to be branded in the forehead with *vor*, or rogue, and be sent to Siberia.

As I was quitting the throng, two fellows, somewhat tipsy,

began to quarrel; and, after abusing each other very violently as they walked along, they at last proceeded to blows. No pugilistic science was displayed: they fought with the hand expanded, as awkwardly as women play at battledore and shuttlecock; no desperate contusion ensued. A police officer soon appeared, and, taking out a cord from his pocket, tied the combatants back to back, and placing them upon a droszka, galloped them off to the nearest sieja. The police of England would do well to act with the same spirit and promptitude towards those academic bruisers, who, in the most daring manner, violate the public tranquillity, and bid defiance to the authority of the law.

A short time before my arrival, an affair, which in some degree illustrates the Russian character, had created considerable interest. A gallant English merchant conceiving himself rudely treated at the theatre by a Russian officer, one of the Emperor's aid-du-camps, sent him a challenge. The officer declined the combat, and appealed to the Emperor, which, according to the custom of his country, he might do without a stain upon his courage. Those martial notions of honour, which reign so imperiously in England and France, are but little known in Russia, where the feudal system, the judicial combat and its chivalrous concomitants, never obtained, and where the sword never forms, and never has formed,

a necessary appendage to the dress of the people, which, till lately, has for ages been worn amongst their brethren in more southern latitudes.

It was with great pleasure that I availed myself of an introduction to the venerable Doctor Guthrie, physician to the Noble Land Cadet corps, a gentleman of the most amiable manners, a philosopher, and well known to the world for his various scientific and literary productions, and particularly for being the editor, as he has modestly announced himself, of the Letters of his deceased lady from the Crimea, whither she went, but in vain, in search of health. It is very generally believed, that the Doctor very largely contributed to this able and beautiful work, which, from fondness to the memory of the departed, he is anxious should be considered as her own.

I found the Doctor protected, by his philosophical knowledge, from one of the most sultry days I ever experienced. He was in a little study built of wood, raised upon piles in a little meadow. Instead of his summer windows being open to admit the air, they were all closed and fastened without; his servant occasionally moistened the branches of the trees, that were suspended over the building, with water from a garden-engine; and to prevent, as much as possible, the admission of the flies, the entrance was through an outer door, and an inner one of gauze, and in the centre of the room stood

a tub filled with ice ; by these means the Doctor, whilst every other person was languishing and panting with heat, enjoyed a cool and delightful atmosphere. His collection of Siberian minerals, gems, and precious stones (amongst which is a beautiful ribbond agate) from various parts of the Russian empire, and a variety of marine fowls from the Russian archipelago, are very curious and interesting. I here saw a fine specimen of the encoustic, or wax-painting, the art of which was discovered a few years since in Herculaneum, by a soldier accidentally holding a flambeau to an apparently naked wall, when the action of the heat created, to his astonishment, a beautiful landscape, by reviving the encoustic colour in which it had been painted. The Doctor also obligingly shewed me an opera which was composed by the late Empress, in which, with great poetical spirit and genius, she has described the founding of Moscow, and the habits and customs of the Russians. The words of many of the songs were adapted to old Russ tunes, and others were set to music by Sarti. Of this Imperial production only four copies were ever printed ; as soon as they were struck off, the press, the types of which were made at Paris, was broken. Independent of his merited reputation, the Doctor has two other reasons sufficient to make any philosopher proud and happy : he is the father of two lovely daughters ; the eldest is lady Gascoigne, who, to the charms of youth and beauty, unites the most elegant accomplishments and captivating manners. So high was report in

her favour, and so little can she be known with impunity, that I felt a sullen satisfaction in learning that she was upon a visit to her friends in Scotland whilst I was at Petersburg; the other daughter is a lovely girl, pursuing her studies in the Convent des Demoiselles.

On account of his long and faithful services, the Doctor was ennobled by Paul, who always retained a great partiality for him, even during the temporary disgust which he felt against his countrymen: he is honoured with a hat and feathers, and the rank of a general. It is scarcely necessary for me to observe that, in a military government like Russia, military rank precedes every other.

From Doctor Guthrie's cool philosophic shade, we proceeded to the Taurida palace, built by Catherine II., and given by her to her distinguished favourite Prince Potemkin, upon whom she lavished unprecedented dignities and treasure. She bestowed upon him the name of the Taurian, in honour of his conquest of the Crimea, and called this building after him. Upon the death of the Prince, the Empress purchased it of his family for a vast sum. The grand front of this building, which is of brick, stuccoed white, is towards the street leading to the Convent des Demoiselles, in the east end of the city, consisting of a centre, adorned with a portico supported by columns, and a large cupola of copper painted



green, and extensive wings. A variety of out-offices, orangeries, and hot-houses, reach from the left wing to a prodigious distance: in the front is a court-yard, divided from the street by a handsome railing. The exterior of this building is very extensive, but low; and although it has a princely appearance, does not excite the astonishment that a stranger feels in entering it. Through the civility of our countryman, Mr. Gould, the Emperor's gardener, who enjoys a magnificent salary, and a handsome house on the west side of the gardens, I was frequently enabled to visit this delightful place. The kitchen, fruit, and pleasure-gardens, and hot-houses, occupy a vast space of ground, which are watered by several canals; over one of them is thrown the celebrated model of a flying covered bridge of one arch, which an obscure illiterate Russian constructed, for the purpose of embracing the two sides of the Neva, opposite to the statue of Peter the Great: it is about seventy feet long, and is a wonderful display of mechanical ingenuity. This extraordinary peasant has clearly elucidated the practicability of such a measure: the model is capable of bearing more comparative weight than could ever press upon the bridge itself. The enormous expence which must attend such an undertaking will, in all probability, reserve it for a distant period. The ingenious artist received a handsome pension from the late Empress, and the satisfaction of having displayed with what extent of capacity, unassisted Nature has gifted the Russian mind. In this part of the

grounds, Catherine II. was in the habit of taking her morning promenade with a male friend; and in the evening attended by her court.

The pleasure-grounds are small, but beautifully laid out by Mr. Gould, who was a pupil of the celebrated Browne; and who, at the advanced age of seventy-two years, beholds this little paradise, which he created from a mephitic bog, flourishing and exciting the admiration of foreigners, and in the shade of which Potemkin, Catherine the Great, and two succeeding emperors of Russia, have sought tranquillity and repose from the oppressive weight of public duty.

This respectable Englishman, who has realized a handsome fortune, the fruit of imperial munificence, for long service keeps an elegant and hospitable table, and is visited by persons of the first respectability. The late unfortunate king of Poland, during his residence, or rather incarceration, in Petersburg, felt a melancholy pleasure in quitting the phantom of royalty, which mocked rather than consoled him, in the palace of Siberian marble, to pour the sufferings of his afflicted mind into the breast of the frank, cordial, and ingenious Englishman, in this abode of privacy.

The pleasure-grounds are very elegantly disposed, and, as we passed the little green palisade which separates them from