

CHAP. XVIII.

APPLE FEAST—DOG-KILLERS—A BARRIER AGAINST SWINDLING—
FESTIVITIES OF PETERHOFF—HORN MUSIC—A FAVOURITE BEAR—
GERMAN THEATRE—VISIT TO CRONSTADT—PRISON—MILITARY
PUNISHMENT—THE INN—ORANIENBAUM—FLYING MOUNTAINS—
THE VALUE OF A BLOODY BEARD—FASTS, FAMINE AND FIRMNESS.

ON the sixth of August, O. S. the Feast of Apples commences, in which the common Russians frequently indulge themselves to such excess, that death is the consequence of their intemperance. And about this period the dog-killers, called Foornantshicks, go their rounds and destroy every dog they find unprotected by a collar, containing the name of his master. This measure, though apparently cruel, is very necessary: some winters past, before this regulation was made, a number of fierce and voracious dogs assembled together in the gloomy ground which surrounds the Admiralty, and at night have been known to attack and devour passengers.

As my time for quitting Petersburg drew nigh, I sent my first advertisement, describing my name, age, and profession, to the imperial gazette office, in which it was necessary to

appear three times before I could obtain my post-horse order, without which it is impossible to stir. The object of this ceremony is to prevent persons going away in debt, by giving timely notice to their creditors, and may be accomplished in ten days; or if a traveller is in great haste to depart, upon two householders of respectability undertaking, at the proper office, to pay all the debts he may owe, he may immediately depart. A foreigner may stay one month after the expiration of the first complete notice: if he exceed that period, he must advertise again. Immediately after the nuptials the court removed to Peterhoff, a country palace, about thirty versts from the residence, situate on the shores of Cronstadt Gulf, built by Le Blonde, where a magnificent ball and illumination, in honour of the nuptials, took place; at which nearly all the population of Petersburg were present.

As we proceeded in a line of carriages, extending several miles, drawn by four horses a-breast and two before them, we passed a small but memorable public house, on the roadside, about eight versts from Petersburg, called the Krasnoi Kabac; the first word meaning red, and the latter, as before related, a public house. It was at this house that the late Empress halted, when she was advancing against her husband, and slept for a short time upon the cloaks of her officers in one of the little rooms. Here, assisted by her then confidential and enthusiastic friend, the Princess Dashkoff, she con-

sumed a great number of letters. We also passed the Holy Trinity hermitage of Saint Sergius, a small monastery surrounded by quadrangular cloisters, having a church and three chapels. There is nothing in the building worthy of inducing a traveller to quit his carriage. A little farther on we saw the palace of Strelna, a vast building of brick stuccoed, built upon piazzas, and surrounded with undulating woods and pleasure-grounds belonging to the Grand Duke Constantine, the heir presumptive to the throne.

Upon our arrival we found the rooms, which were fitted up in a style of ancient splendour, and richly illuminated, filled with persons of all ranks and conditions in their best dresses, resembling a crowded masquerade, in which much of the costume of the empire was displayed. I was principally struck with the wives of the bearded merchants, who were rouged, and wore a head-dress of muslin, resembling a sugar-loaf, entirely encrusted with large pearls, with which their gowns were trimmed, and their stomachers covered.

The illuminations were beyond any thing magnificent; in front of the palace rolled a cascade of water, over various coloured lamps, which had a very novel effect, into a great pond, which appeared to be in a blaze of light, from the sides and centre of which groupes of statues threw columns of water to a great height; a canal, more than a mile long, lined with

side lights of various coloured lamps, a glory at the end, and the imperial yachts illuminated in every part of their hull, masts, and rigging, stationed at a distance at sea, formed a brilliant and glowing *coup-d'œil*. Every avenue, and every part of these extensive gardens, were in a blaze. In a recess was a large tree of copper, and flowers of the same metal, painted to resemble nature, which threw water from every leaf, and produced a very pretty effect. In another part of the gardens we heard the celebrated horn music. Each performer can only produce one tone from his instrument, consequently the skill and attention requisite to play upon it in concert must be great. At a little distance the effect was very charming. *A certain unfortunate class of miserables* will hear with surprise, that the *horn* music is a necessary appendage to the ceremony of *nuptials* of the least respectability.

In Russia, marriages are generally effected through the agency of a third person. During the childhood of their daughter, the parents fix upon a husband for her, a mutual female friend is sent to the gentleman with the proposals: if they are accepted, he presents the fair negotiatrice with a pelisse, according to custom. Many of the lower Russians married, as they frequently are, against their inclinations, make no scruple in taking their wives to such a scene of festivity as the one I have just described, and letting them out to prostitution for hire.

In a corner of the grand saloon, in the centre of the palace, I saw the Georgian court, composed of the Prince of Georgia, and two princesses of his house, and their retinue. The Prince was obliged to cede his country, a province of Asia, formerly belonging to Persia and Turkey, to the Russian empire, from which he receives a pension. I saw no traces whatever of Circassian beauty in the Princesses: one was old, fat, and plain, and the other pale, hollow-eyed, and lean: the Prince had a very handsome and noble appearance.

In one of the rooms are four celebrated pictures of Hackert, painted by order of Count Alexey Orloff, celebrating the victory over the Turkish fleet commanded by the Capudan Pasha, the merit of which the Count unjustly assumed to himself, as I have before observed. Upon the painter observing that he had never seen a ship on fire, Orloff ordered a Russian seventy-four to be cleared and burnt, to enable him to execute the subject with more fidelity.

After the Imperial family, glittering with jewels, and resembling a stream of brilliant light, had walked several polonaises, in which the Empress was attended by a little dwarf in a Turkish dress, they mounted their laneekas, open garden carriages, resembling Irish jaunting-cars, and visited the gardens; after which they sat down to a superb select supper under an awning, upon the top of one of the wings of the

palace, at which I had the honour of being present. The guests were attended by about two hundred servants in full imperial liveries. At five o'clock we returned to Petersburg much gratified. The houses and gardens that line the Peterhoff road are very beautiful.

Being somewhat fatigued, I was glad to devote a great part of the day to sleep. In the evening I went to the German theatre, at the back of Lanskoi's palace, now the masquerade rooms: it was a very gloomy place, and was feebly illuminated by a small circular lustre descending from the roof, and a strange transparent clock in the centre of the cornice over the stage. The canopy of the imperial box was covered with black dark green plumes, and had a very funereal appearance. The play was Pizarro, or, as it is was called, *Rolla's Tod*. When the old blind soldier enters, and during the time of his continuing on the stage, the sound of the distant battle was heard, which had an excellent effect. In all the close adherences to nature in scenic detail, so auxiliary to grand effect, the theatres upon the continent beat us hollow. The greatest tragedian of the present age (I need not mention the name of Kemble) has, in his visits to the different parts of Europe, forcibly felt the truth of this remark, and is making rapid advances to correct the deficiency at home.

The next morning early, a party of us carried into execu-

tion a plan which we had long projected, a visit to Cronstadt, having previously furnished ourselves with letters of introduction to some respectable inhabitants of the island. The day proved very beautiful, and, after passing several country-houses, before one of which was a rustic seat in the shape of a mushroom, about eleven o'clock we quitted our carriages at a little English inn, in the village where the palace of Oranienbaum, or Orange Tree, is situated, about thirty-five versts from Petersburg, and proceeded to the canal opposite the palace, where we hired an eight-oared barge, for which we paid eight rubles, and put off to the island, seven or eight miles from shore. Upon the sides of the canal men were bathing, and young women washing: the water of the gulph was as fresh as that of the Neva. We were stopped at the Merchant's Mole, at Cronstadt, where a list of our names was demanded by a young officer, who gave us a great deal of trouble, which induced a young German, of the party, who began to be a little impatient, to jump up and exclaim, "Vat de devil! "dus dat little Russ man take us all for *screws*?" he meant *spies*. It was at this spot, I was afterwards informed, that Peter III., in the ebullition of that revolution which, in a few days afterwards, elevated his Empress, Catherine II., to the sole possession of the throne, and consigned him to an untimely tomb, presented himself in a yacht filled with terrified women, himself more terrified than they; and at the instance of the brave and venerable General Munich, who was also on board, demanded admission into Cronstadt, which, had the

unhappy Prince secured, he might have speedily turned the tide of affairs. "Who are you?" cried the centinel: "I am your Emperor."—"We have no Emperor: if you do not put about, we will blow your vessel out of the water," was the reply.—"Leap with me on shore," cried the brave and loyal Gudovitch; "they will not fire upon you." The weak, irresolute sovereign refused, returned to Oranienbaum, and was soon afterwards dethroned and murdered. At length we were permitted to land. Cronstadt, which is said to be one of the most healthy spots in Russia, derived its name from Peter the Great, and means Crown Town, or the crown of the new city, and is seven versts in length. Its population, including an yearly average of foreigners, is sixty thousand souls. On the southern side of it is a little island called Cronslot. Ships drawing more than eight feet water are obliged to discharge their cargoes at Cronstadt, which are sent up in lighters to Petersburg.

The town is one verst long, and well drained, by the indefatigable ingenuity of Commodore Greig, and has several churches, amongst which is an English one: there are also a custom-house, and several other public buildings. After having, English-like, ordered a good dinner at an inn, whose appearance little accorded with the excellent entertainment which it afforded, we presented our letters, and a very intelligent gentleman attended us over the town. In the dry-docks, which are very spacious, and faced with granite, we saw se-

veral fine ships, particularly one which the Russians preferred, built by an Englishman. In the streets we met several groups of convicts, returning from the public-works to their prisons, wretchedly clad, and heavily ironed; many of whom had iron collars with long handles round their necks: the allowance of these unfortunate wretches is black bread and water, and half a copec a day. In their hours of relaxation they make boxes, and other little matters of utility, the sale of which alleviates their extreme poverty.

At night I slept at a private house, the servant of which was a very intelligent little deformed Greek: his head and body were of the ordinary size, his legs and thighs not higher than those of an infant, which made him look like a man running upon castors. This dwarf was a living monument of pride triumphing over drunkenness, as one poison frequently expels another: being frequently seen in liquor, the sailors and inhabitants used to turn him into ridicule, which he felt and reformed. This house, like every other in Russia, was truly hospitable, and was guarded by some ferocious dogs, of whom the Russians stand in terrible fear.

The next morning we visited the moles of the men of war and of the merchant vessels, which, as well as the canals, are faced with granite, and are formed after a plan which we saw of Peter the Great. Amongst the ships of war was one, the

largest I ever beheld, pierced for an hundred and forty guns, exceeding in size every other ship in the Russian navy: its magnitude, and a strain which it received in launching, prevents it from being fit for service. So unwieldy is it, that it takes an hour in going about.

A little way out of the town we saw a prison for criminals, than which nothing could be more loathsome and shocking. It was an oblong square of wooden houses built upon piles, and surrounded with a high wall of wood, and appeared unfit for the reception of the most despised animal. As we passed over a plain, we observed that, for a great way, it was covered with rods, which, upon our servant enquiring of some soldiers who were collecting them, it appeared had been used in the morning by a regiment upon a military offender, who had been sentenced to run the gauntlet, when each man holds one of these terrible instruments, composed of fine birch sticks, about three feet long, and a quarter of an inch thick, and steeped in salt brine.

We returned to Oranienbaum and saw the palace and gardens. The former was built by Prince Menchikoff, in 1727, for his own residence, after whose fall it came to the crown. It is raised upon terraces, and is composed of a small central building of two stories, and two very extensive wings connected by colonnades: these wings are covered with a

treillage, and form a beautiful walk in the summer: the apartments are very neat and comfortable, one room is lined with thin taffeta sattin of pale lilac and white, plaited and formed into pannels; the roof is covered in the same way, and had a beautiful effect. At the end of the wings are two towers, one a Greek church, and the other a museum of china. The unfortunate Peter III. built a Lutheran chapel here, where he and his Holstein soldiers used to pray, instead of going to the Greek church; this indiscretion furnished a terrible weapon against him in the hands of the late Empress.

In the gardens we saw the celebrated Flying Mountains, a vast fabric of three lessening acclivities of wood, resting upon brick arches, commencing from the terrace of a lofty and spacious pavilion, and sloping to the ground; from the top to the bottom of this singular structure are parallel grooves, in which triumphal cars running upon castors are placed: when the person who partakes of the diversion is ready, the car is released, and descends with a velocity which carries it over the hills in succession. This imperial plaything is surrounded with an open colonnade, more than half a mile in circumference, upon the terrace of which there is room for some thousands of spectators. The whole is now neglected and running to decay; it reminded me of some lines in Cowper:

“Great Princes have great playthings: some have play’d

“At heaving mountains into men, and some

“At building human wonders mountains high.”

At this sport Count Orloff encreased the love which the Empress bore him, by saving her life: her car had by some accident sprung out of the groove, and was descending with uncommon velocity, when the Count, whose strength was Herculean, stopped it in its career, and in so doing broke his arm, for which one of the bandages applied was the *blue ribband*.

In another part of the gardens, deep embosomed in wood, we were shewn to a little retired palace, consisting of a suite of rooms upon a ground floor, built by the late Empress, the taste and elegance of which surpassed every thing of the kind I ever beheld. One apartment was lined with small paintings of female heads, in pannels, representing, in the most exquisite manner, the progress of love, from hope to ecstasy. All the statues, pictures, and decorations, were calculated to kindle and cherish the noble and generous flame.

As the camps for thirty thousand men were formed in the neighbourhood for the annual reviews, we found it difficult to obtain beds; our servants, who in the estimation of inn-keepers, have no higher pretensions to their notice than their pigs and poultry, were left to shift for themselves upon the floor. On our return to the capital we proceeded to the encampment, to be present at the first manœuvres, but which had been countermanded early in the morning; here a scene took place, which, as it developes a little of the low Russian character, I

may be permitted to relate: Ivan, the coachman of a chariot belonging to the party, a most grave and reverend-looking personage, adorned with a beard of extraordinary magnitude and beauty, became offended with something that had been said by two servants, the one a German, the other a Pole, named David and Rominski, who were standing behind the foremost coach, in which I was with some other friends: Ivan, who had displayed a degree of sulkiness early in the morning, very unusual with the Russians, retorted their banter by endeavouring to drive the pole of his carriage against the legs of the servants, who, incensed at his conduct, jumped down and endeavoured to seize Ivan, who thrashed them heartily from his coach-box: at last the Pole, who naturally abhors a Russian, succeeded in dragging him from his seat, curled his hand round in his hair, tripped up his heels, and laid poor Ivan flat, and in this posture administered a sound flagellation upon the back of the charioteer with his own whip, exclaiming at the same time, "I will let him know that I am a Pole." If we may trace effects to remote causes it would not be unfair to conjecture, that the abdication or rather dethronement of King Stanislaus Poniatofsky rendered some of the blows a little more severe than ordinary. When the punishment was over, and Ivan was once more upon his legs, it appeared that in his descent to the earth, he had cut his nose slightly against a stone, and was bleeding tolerably freely. Ivan knew the value of this accident, and took great good care to husband every

crimson drop, and letting it spread and thicken upon his beard, raised a most hideous yell and ran and preferred his complaint to a picquet guard of cossacks of the Don, who placed us all under military arrest, and dispatched a comrade to their Colonel, with an account of what had happened within the lines; the answer returned was, that he would not interfere, and that if any injury had been received it might be redressed at the first town. Ivan, who, by the bye, was a clever fellow, during the absence of the cossack had prostrated himself on the ground, and imitated tolerably well the agonies of a dying man: as soon as he was told what the reply was, and finding that we were driving off without him, throwing aside the terrors of death, he in a moment vaulted into his box, and never drove or looked better, until we entered the town of Peterhoff, which was crowded on account of the Court being at the palace, when he set up the most frightful yell, tore his hair, displayed his bloody beard, and called upon the police officers to seize us all and do him justice. In a short time we were surrounded with crowds; the police officers, seeing we were English, heard the accuser, but shewed no disposition to detain us, so we proposed adjourning to the garden of the palace, and in one of its recesses to partake of the cold collation which we had brought with us. As we quitted the carriage, our coachman whispered something to Ivan, who, with an arch look, told our valet, if we would give him twenty-five rubles, he would settle the business amicably: this we refused upon two grounds; first that

he merited what had happened; and next, admitting he deserved any compensation, it was too exorbitant to demand twenty-five rubles for a bloody nose, when we learnt at Cronstadt, that twenty-three had only been paid for the loss of an eye.

We went quietly to dinner in a delightful spot, well shaded from the sun; whilst we were enjoying our repast, a little ragged boy approached us, to whom we offered some meat, but although he looked half famished we could not prevail upon him to touch it, as it was a fast. In one of the walks we met a lady of rank attended by a female dwarf, supremely ugly and deformed, and dressed like a shepherdess on her nuptial day. Whilst we were regaling ourselves Ivan was making the best use of his time with the guards and police officers, and upon our resuming our seats and endeavouring to proceed, the barrier was dropped, and bayonets presented towards our horses: we then all alighted, and attended by a great throng of guards and police officers, proceeded to the apartments of the deputy grand police master, whom we found in his chamber in his shirt, fiddling before a saint who was suspended in the corner: this gentleman addressed us in German, to which one of the party, to whom it was his native tongue, replied, during which Ivan displayed his blood to great advantage, but was ignorant of what was passing. In the course of the conversation, the magistrate observed, "that the coachman

“deserved to be thrashed; and that, had we beaten him to
“a *jelly*, so that *blood* had not followed, all would have been
“well; but,” after a long pause, very good-humouredly said,
“that we should no longer be detained,” and accordingly ordered the guards to let us pass. Nothing could exceed the chagrin of poor Ivan when he heard the fate of his application:—no non-suited plaintiff ever threw his face into more burlesque distortions. Upon the road he stopped at every kabac for a drop of sorrow’s medicine, which if Ivan had apostrophized, he would have exclaimed:

“Oh! thou invisible spirit of *brandy*; if thou hast no name to be known
“by, let us call thee Angel.”

CHAP. XIX.

RISING OF THE NEVA—ACADEMY OF SCIENCES—THE REVIEW—CA-
 DET CORPS—PELISSES—COUNTRY PALACE OF ZARSKO ZELO—AN-
 OTHER BUST OF THE BRITISH DEMOSTHENES MISPLACED—CANINE
 TUMULI—IMPERIAL PLEASANTRY—GATCHINA—PAUVOLOFFSKY—
 ANNIVERSARY OF A FAVOURITE SAINT—MORE DWARFS.

A SHORT time before I left Petersburg, the inhabitants were apprehensive of a terrible inundation of the Neva, in consequence of the wind blowing very fresh at south-south-west, which forces the waters of the gulf of Finland against the river, and prevents the stream from finding its level. The guns of the Admiralty fired, and in the evening four lights were raised upon its church spire, the usual warning upon such occasions to the people, to take care of themselves and their property, and a general consternation spread through the city. About eight o'clock at night a part of the Galeernhoff was five feet under water, and the bridges of pontoons rose to a considerable height, so that the planks which connected them with the shores, presented on each side a formidable acclivity, which carriages of every description surmounted by the uncommon skill and energy of the drivers and horses :

their mode of reaching these almost perpendicular ascents was effected by lashing the horses, at a considerable distance, into a full gallop, and by a great number of police officers and soldiers, who always attend at the bridges on these occasions to prevent accidents, running behind and propelling the carriage, or saving it from being dashed to pieces, by its not being able to turn the summit. Luckily the wind, the Neva, and the public apprehensions, subsided together, without any damage being done.

The change enabled our party to visit the Academy of Sciences, a noble building, situated on the north side of the Neva, in Vassilli-Ostroff. After passing through the library, whose damp walls were feebly lighted from above, and where there is nothing but some Tartarian manuscripts worthy of detaining the attention of a traveller, we entered the museum of natural curiosities, in which the principal objects were various parts of the human frame, foetuses, miscarriages, and births, from the first impregnation to perfect birth, monsters human and animal, and a variety of most odious and disgusting et ceteras, in pickle. The skin of the Heyduc, or favourite servant of Peter the Great, is here, stretched upon a wooden image of his size, which shews that the man must have been six feet and a half high, and that nature had furnished him with a skin nearly as thick and impenetrable as that of the rhinoceros's hide. In the gallery above was a Lapponian dog-

sledge; the habiliments of a Siberian magician, or gipsey, principally composed of a great number of iron rings and drops, placed upon a wooden statue; several presents from the undaunted and enterprising Captain Cook, and a variety of stuffed birds and animals. In the room of Peter the Great was a wax figure of his height, which was above six feet, resembling him in form and face, and dressed in one of his full suits: in an adjoining cupboard were his hat, pierced with a bullet at Pultowa, breeches that wanted repair, and stockings that required darning. In another room were his turning machines, with which he used to relax himself; cupboards filled with brazen dishes of his embossing, and spoons and platters of his turning: in short, all the curiosity which the merest trifles of great genius generally excite, is, in this instance, destroyed by their abundance. In every public garden, or building, there is a profuse display of his clothes, arms, or culinary utensils: if a twentieth part of them were burnt, the remainder would be more worthy of notice. How singular is it, that cotemporary genius never excites our attentions, and awakens our feelings, so forcibly as that which is departed! In contemplating a great man, the mind's eye reverses the laws of vision, by magnifying the object in proportion as it recedes from it. Upon the basement story is a very curious mechanical writing-desk, by Roentgen, a German, of Neuwied, presented to the Academy by Catherine, who gave twenty-five thousand rubles for it. Upon touching a spring, a variety

of drawers fly out, a writing-desk expands, and boxes for letters and papers rise. A part of the machinery may be set so, that if any person were to attempt to touch any of the private recesses appropriated for money, or confidential papers, he would be surprised by a beautiful tune, which would give due notice to the owner. We were told that, in the Academy, are to be seen moon-stones, or blocks of native iron, which, it is conjectured by the learned, must have been cast from the volcano of some planet. They were not shewn to us: but several of these phenomena are to be met with in different parts of Russia. It seems hostile to the laws of gravitation, that a single atom should be able to swerve from its planet.

Adjoining the Academy is a pavilion containing the Götterpavillon globe, eleven feet in diameter from pole to pole: the concavity is marked with the stars and constellations, and is capable of holding several persons: as some ladies of our party ventured in, upon the exhibitor turning the globe on its axis, we were more sensibly impressed with the idea of the motion of the heavenly bodies.

In the evening after the opera, a party of us set off to the camp, and passed the night in our carriage, in order to be present at the review, which commenced the next day at eight o'clock. After getting a comfortable breakfast in a Cossack hut, we proceeded to the ground. The manœuvres com-

• menced in a village about three miles off, where a sharp cannonading took place. The contending armies, consisting of about fifteen thousand men each, the one headed by the Emperor, and the other by General —, began to move towards each other in a vast valley, and halted within half a mile of each other, when a tremendous discharge of artillery took place, and firing of different parties was kept up all the time, at distances of five and six miles. Here the manoeuvres of that day concluded, and we returned home to a late dinner.

It was now the second of September, N. S. and the summer began to give tokens of rapid decline: the lamps but feebly supplied that light which, not even many days before, gave to the evening the character of a mild mid-day.

We were much gratified in visiting, by an express appointment, a nursery of future heroes, called the second Imperial Cadet Corps, in which seven hundred children are educated and maintained, as gentlemen, for the profession of arms, at the expence of the country. The governor, a nobleman of high rank, and several of the officers attached to the institution, attended us through the progressive schools. Every child follows his own religious persuasion, for which purpose there are a Lutheran and a Greek church under the same roof: the latter is singularly elegant. The dormitories, as well as every other part of the establish-

ment, were remarkably clean and handsome, the pupils having separate beds. In the store-rooms each boy's change of linen and clothes were very neatly folded up, and his name marked upon a tablet over them. At one of the doors, we saw some of these soldiers in miniature relieve guard. In the schools are taught mathematics, gunnery, mapping, French, German, and Russian; fencing and dancing, and every other science and accomplishment which can complete the soldier and the gentleman. We were present at their dinner, which is served at half past twelve o'clock. The dining-hall is two hundred feet long, by forty broad. Every table held twenty-two boys, for each of whom a soup and meat plate, a silver fork, knife, and napkin, and a large slice of wholesome country bread, were laid; and at each end were two large silver goblets filled with excellent quas: they have four substantial dishes three times a week, and three on the other days. All the boys, after marching in regular order from the respective schools, appeared at the several doors of the dining-hall, headed by their captains: upon the roll of the drum, they marched in slow time to their respective tables, forming three companies of two hundred each (the fuzileer company, composed of the sons of the soldiers, did not dine till afterwards); at the second roll they halted, faced, and sat down: all their dishes appeared to be excellent: their uniform was bottle green, faced with red. Great attention appeared to have been paid to their manners, by the decorum and urba-

nify which was displayed at their tables. The kitchens for soup, boiling, and roasting, were remarkably neat, although we saw them just after dinner had been served up. There are several other cadet corps upon the same princely establishment, and create in the mind of a stranger a high idea of the wealth and patriotic spirit of the empire.

A foreigner should not quit Petersburg without seeing the cabinet of jewels and furs, contained in a superb building in the Grand Perspective: here the clocks, gilded and bronze ornaments of the palace of Saint Michael, are deposited, all of which are very magnificent; there are also massy balustrades and tables of solid silver. Amongst the jewellery I was much pleased with several beautiful watches, upon the backs of which were little figures, some in the act of angling and drawing up little fish; others cooking meat, pumping, and rocking cradles; in others little cascades of glass were set in motion. There was a profusion of magnificent diamond snuff-boxes, stars, &c. for imperial presents.

In the apartments below was the museum of furs, where we saw several pelisses made of tiny dorsal slips of the black fox, valued each at ten thousand pounds. This animal, a native of Siberia, is so rare and so small, that one of these pelisses cannot be made in less than ten years, and they are then paid to the Emperor in lieu of money, as tributes, from different

provinces. These are generally presented upon some great national occasion to crowned heads. There are also fine collections of sables and other furs, many of which are annually sold.

As I have mentioned these tributes, it may be proper here to observe, that the imperial revenues chiefly arise from the poll tax, the crown and church lands, the duties on export and import, profits of the mint, the excise upon salt, the sale of spirituous liquors, post-offices and posting. The proprietors of houses, as well natives as foreigners, pay in lieu of all other taxes, and in discharge from the odious burthen of maintaining soldiers, to which they were formerly liable, a duty of one-half per cent. *ad valorem*, upon the house, and a ground rent which varies according to local advantages, for every square fathom.

Of course, I did not leave the capital without seeing Zarsko-Zelo, the most magnificent of the country palaces, about twenty-four versts from Petersburg. The entrance to it is through a forest, under a lofty arch of artificial rock, surmounted with a Chinese watch tower; after which we passed a Chinese town, where the enormous imperial pile, consisting of three stories, one thousand two hundred feet long, opened upon us. It was built by Catherine I.; embellished and barbarously gilt by Elizabeth, and greatly beautified and mo-

dernized by the late Empress. Amongst the numerous rooms fitted up in the style of ancient magnificence, the amber-room, a vast apartment, entirely lined with pieces of that valuable fossil bitumen, presented by Frederic William I. to Peter the Great, but not put up till the reign of Elizabeth. One of the pieces of amber expressed in rude characters, by its veins, the year in which it was presented.

The apartments, which Catherine has fitted up and embellished, display the highest taste and profusion of expence; the floor of one of these rooms was inlaid with mother-of-pearl, representing a variety of flowers and elegant figures; but I was most pleased with her two celebrated chambers of entire glass, which in novelty and beauty exceed all description. The sides and cielings of these rooms were formed of pieces of thick glass, about a foot square, of a cream and pale blue colour, connected by fine frames of brass richly gilded. In the centre, upon steps of glass, rose a divan, above which was a vast mirror, and on each side were slender pillars of light blue glass that supported an elegant canopy. Behind the mirror was a rich state bed. Even the doors, sophas, and chairs, were of coloured glass, elegantly shaped, and very light.

From the rooms we entered a vast terrace under a colonnade, and proceeded to the baths, which are lasting monuments of the taste of Mr. Cameron, the imperial architect. They con-

tain a suite of superb rooms, one of which is entirely composed of the richest agates and porphyry; in this saloon were two pieces in mosaic, the most brilliant and beautiful I ever beheld. Near the baths is a vast terrace upon arches, with a central covered gallery of great extent, capable at all times of affording either a cool or a sheltered promenade. Upon this terrace are a great number of fine busts of distinguished men; amongst others was a copy of that of Mr. Fox, in bronze, placed on the *left* of Cicero. As I contemplated the head of the British orator, I secretly protested against his situation, and was endeavouring to give him the *right*, when a terrified attendant and his companion ran up to me, and prevented me from performing this act of justice.

In the gardens, which are extensively and very tastefully laid out by the late and present Mr. Bush, father and son, to whom the care of these gardens and hot-houses have been successively committed, we saw the Hermitage, in the first floor of which the late Empress, and a select party of her friends, used to dine without attendants, for which purpose she had a table constructed of most complicated machinery, at a great expence, through which the covers descended and rose by means of a great central trap-door, as did the plates through cylinders. The party was by this means supplied with every delicacy, without being seen or heard. The machinery below filled a large room, and at first made me think I was under

the stage of a theatre : this was another of Catherine's play-things. As we moved through the grounds, we were struck with a rostral column, raised to Feodor Orloff for the conquest of the Morea ; a marble obelisk to Romantsoff, for his victories near Kagul ; a marble pillar, on a pedestal of granite, to Orloff Tchesminskoi ; and the Palladian bridge, formed in Siberia, and erected here over a branch of the lake : it is similar to that at Lord Pembroke's. In a retired part is an Egyptian pyramid, behind which are several tombs, erected by the late Empress to the memory of her favourite dogs : amongst these I copied the following, the composition of Catherine.

Cigit
Duchesse,
la fidèle compagne
de
Sir Tom. Anderson.
Elle le suivit en Russe
l'an 1776.
Aimé et respecté
par sa nombreuse postérité
elle décéda en 1782, âgée de 15 ans,
laissant 115 descendants
tant levriers que levrettes.

There is a small superb palace, within about two hundred

yards of Zarsko-zelo, built by the late Empress, for her grandson Alexander. Some of the rooms are of marble, and very magnificent. At Zarsko Zelo there are no inns, but the hospitality of Mr. Bush, the English gardener, prevents this inconvenience from being felt by any foreigner, who is respectably introduced to him. In consequence of a letter from our ambassador, we were very handsomely received, and entertained by Mr. Bush, in whose house, in the life-time of his father, the following whimsical circumstance occurred. When Joseph II. Emperor of Germany, to whom every appearance of show was disgusting, expressed his intentions of visiting Catherine II., she offered him apartments in her palace, which he declined. Her Majesty, well knowing his dislike to parade, had Mr. Bush's house fitted up as an inn, with the sign of a *Catherine-wheel*, below which, appeared, in German characters, "The Falkenstein Arms," the name which the Emperor assumed. His Majesty knew nothing of the ingenious and attentive deception, till after he had quitted Russia; a number of very laughable occurrences took place. When the Emperor once went from Vienna to Moscow, he preceded the royal carriages to order the horses, as an *avant-courier*, in order to avoid the obnoxious pomp and ceremony which an acknowledgement of his rank would have awakened.

From Zarsko Zelo we set off for a town near the palace of Gatchina, about eighteen versts from the former, where

we arrived about eleven at night; although so near an imperial residence, three of us were obliged at the inn to sleep upon straw, there being only one sopha vacant: however, the palace and gardens compensated this little inconvenience. The former was raised by Gregory Orloff, and, on his death, purchased by the late Empress. The rooms were superb, amongst which were two of a crescent shape, richly furnished and ornamented; and a chamber, the sopha, bed, canopy, cieling, and sides, of which were formed of white calico, whilst over the latter, projecting a little, was stretched a broad network of the same stuff, with roses in the centre of each division: the effect was unique and very beautiful. The gardens were romantic and elegant. In a small lake were a great number of beautiful gondolas and pleasure-boats; and on a large space of water, a frigate of twenty-two guns, originally built to afford Paul, when a youth, some little notion of a man of war. With a fair wind it is capable of sailing about one hundred yards. It is kept in good order, for the purpose of forming an agreeable object, and on festive occasions is illuminated.

From Gatchina we proceeded to Pauvoloffsky, another imperial chateau, built by Paul in 1780, and which, with Gatchina, form the principal country residences of the Empress Dowager and the younger branches of the Imperial family, who were there at the time of our visit. Such a

crowded court I never beheld; every window seemed to be filled with faces, and every avenue with officers of the household, servants and cooks; it was like a great bee-hive. We took only an hasty glance at the state rooms, which were fitted up in a style of gorgeous magnificence. The pannels of one of the apartments contained excellent copies of some of the exquisite India views of Messieurs Daniels. In the Dowager Empress's cabinet was a most elegant writing table, the top of which was lined on each side with Chinese roses, blowing, in vases sunk to a level with the surface.

On the eleventh of September the Court, and all the people of Petersburg capable of walking, attend in great pomp the celebration of the anniversary of their tutelar spirit, Saint Alexander Nevsky. After performing their devotion at the Kazan, the Court, in grand procession, in their state carriages, proceeded to the gate of the monastery (which I have before described), where they were received by the metropolitan and all the bishops in their full pontificals, adorned with pearls and diamonds, and by the monks and choristers, who preceded the Imperial family, chaunting hymns, upon a raised platform, covered with scarlet cloth, to the church, where the effect produced by their entrance was very sublime. They then proceeded to the silver shrine of the saint, which, after several prayers and hymns, as I was informed, they kissed, for the crowd was so great, that I could not see the whole of the cere-

mony; after which they returned, and partook of some refreshments at the house of the archbishop. As soon as they had retired, some thousands of people flocked to the shrine of Saint Alexander, and to another of the Virgin adjoining, to touch them with their lips.

As the Empress Dowager passed, the musheeks or common boors said to one another, "There goes our good mother." All the male Russians, of equal degree in rank, address each other by the name of brat, or brother; which is also used by any one speaking to his inferior. The Emperor calls his subjects brats. A friend of mine heard Paul one day say to a bearded workman, "*My brother* take care, the ice is too thin to bear you." When the low address their superiors they say batushka moia, "my father." Very near the monastery is the glass manufactory, where the vast mirrors, for which Russia is so celebrated, are rolled. The establishment resembles a little town: almost all the artists are Russians, and in their various departments displayed great taste and ingenuity.

From this place we visited the hotel of the Prince Usupoff, a very noble edifice, but, like all the great houses of the nobility, presented a scene of uncommon neglect and dirt in the front and court yard; for example, several of the broken windows of the basement story were filled with hay, and in the yard lay offal-meat, bones, shells, and horse dung, here and there

half concealed by grass growing above the stones. The Prince has a fine gallery of paintings and statues, which he has collected at a vast expence in Italy : most of the subjects are in the highest degree voluptuous. Over one painting the Prince has extended a curtain : how little does he know of human nature, if he wishes to pay homage to modesty by exciting curiosity : I will venture to say there was more indecorum and peril in the curtain than in the picture. In the library, which is very excellent, we were attended by a frightful bilious dwarf, about forty years of age ; a Polish laquais took him by his little shrivelled hand, and patting him on the head, observed to us, that he had been in a small island in the Mediterranean, which swarmed with dwarfs, many of whom he solemnly declared *were not taller than cats set upon their hinder legs ! ! !* In the language of Count Aranza,

————— “That’s a lie.”

A few days before I left the city I applied, through a friend of mine, to the polatch or executioner, to purchase of him a knout, to bring with me to England : upon going to his house, which seemed to be a very comfortable one, he was from home, but his wife took up one of the thongs, and in a very *gentle and tender* manner began explaining the theory and practice of this instrument of *torture*, in the course of which she observed, that it was made, not of the skin of a wild ass, as has been asserted, for, excepting a small breed of that ani-

mal in Siberia, not one is to be found in any other part of the empire, but of ox's hide soaked in milk and dried, and that her husband was so expert, that he could cut a piece of flesh from the back of exactly its size. These functionaries of justice are held in such abhorrence, that although this very executioner offered to give four thousand rubles as a dowry with his daughter to a common droshka driver, she was rejected with scorn. The merciless Empress Elizabeth enjoyed the reputation of having abolished the punishment of death: she little deserved the homage which was paid to her: the fact was, knowing how hateful the appearance of death is to the Russians, she ordered a capital culprit to be knouted to such a degree, that he was only enabled to reach his prison alive, when his lacerated frame was thrown upon a bed of boards, and left to gangrene and mortify for want of medical application: such was the boasted humanity of Elizabeth! To the superstitious dread of seeing a corpse, which marks the Russian character, let me add an unconquerable aversion to receiving any thing as a *present* which has a sharp point: a gentleman presented a young Russ lady with an elegant female pocket-book, in which there was a row of needles; with some concern she took from her purse a little silver piece, and gave it to the donor as the *purchase money*.

A number of interesting objects still remained to be seen, but my time, and an alteration in my intention of visiting

Italy, made it necessary to bid adieu to a city, which I shall never reflect upon but with admiration, nor upon those of its inhabitants, to whom I had the honour of being known, without respect and esteem.

In the decline of the summer, (for I now speak of it as departed from these regions) the weather was very variable; a fiercely sultry day was succeeded by a very chilly one; within thirty hours, from being scarcely able to endure my dressing-gown, I was glad to place myself before, a wonder in Russia, a blazing fire in an English stove; but the atmospheric fluctuations are certainly not so great as in our own climate, and this circumstance might, perhaps, have induced a Russ servant, who had just returned from England, to say, upon being asked whether he was soon familiarized with our country, "I understood " quick all tings dere, but de climate, dat I could no understand." The harvest in the provinces near the capital, which is generally got in by the tenth of August, N. S. had been housed for more than a month, black clouds frequently obscured the sun, the winds began to blow loud and bleak, the leaves were rapidly falling, and each succeeding day grew visibly shorter: these were sufficient warnings for birds of passage to wing their way to milder regions. As some very agreeable countrymen and travellers were setting off for Berlin, I had the good fortune of being invited to join the party: to their barouche I added a Swedish carriage, requiring only one horse,

to assist in the general conveyance. As this little carriage excited uncommon delight and wonder in some countries through which we passed, and lost all its popularity in another, as will be hereafter told; and moreover as I grew attached to it in proportion as I saw its merits, and beheld them at one time acknowledged, at another derided, I must be indulged in describing it. A small body of railing with a seat for two persons, a head of canvas, and a well for luggage, mounted upon two wheels about three feet high, and a shaft for one horse, composed the whole of this redoubted vehicle. In Russia, every traveller is obliged to purchase a travelling carriage, unless he is disposed to hazard a general dislocation in a kibitka.

CHAP. XX.

LEAVE PETERSBURG—THE LITTLE SWEDE—ADVENTURES AT STREL-
 NA—NARVA—BEARS—BEDS—DORPT—TEUTONIC KNIGHTS AND
 WHIMSICAL REVENGE—WHIPPING OF BOORS—BROTHERS-IN-LAW
 —COURLAND—POLES—MEMEL—SEVERITY OF PRUSSIAN DRILL-
 ING.

IT is a great object in quitting a great city, where you have strong ties to detain you, resolutely to set off on the appointed day for the commencement of one's journey, be the hour what it may, and even if you can proceed no further than one post. After a delay of four hours, occasioned by the stupidity of the post-master, at eight o'clock in the evening of the nineteenth of September, N. S. the servants of our hospitable friends, Messrs. Vennings, who had been some time previously employed in filling every crack and corner of the carriages with bottles of port, claret, and all sorts of provisions, announced that every thing was ready. As we all assembled in the court yard, my old companion Mishka, to the full stretch of her chain, stood on her hinder legs, and seemed, in her rude way, for her voice was not the most musical, to regret my departure, but upon my giving her some sugar, I found it an

error of vanity, for she instantly ran into her house to enjoy it, and, as in the moment of repletion neither Bruins nor Englishmen, nor perhaps any other being, like to be disturbed, I did not say with the song—

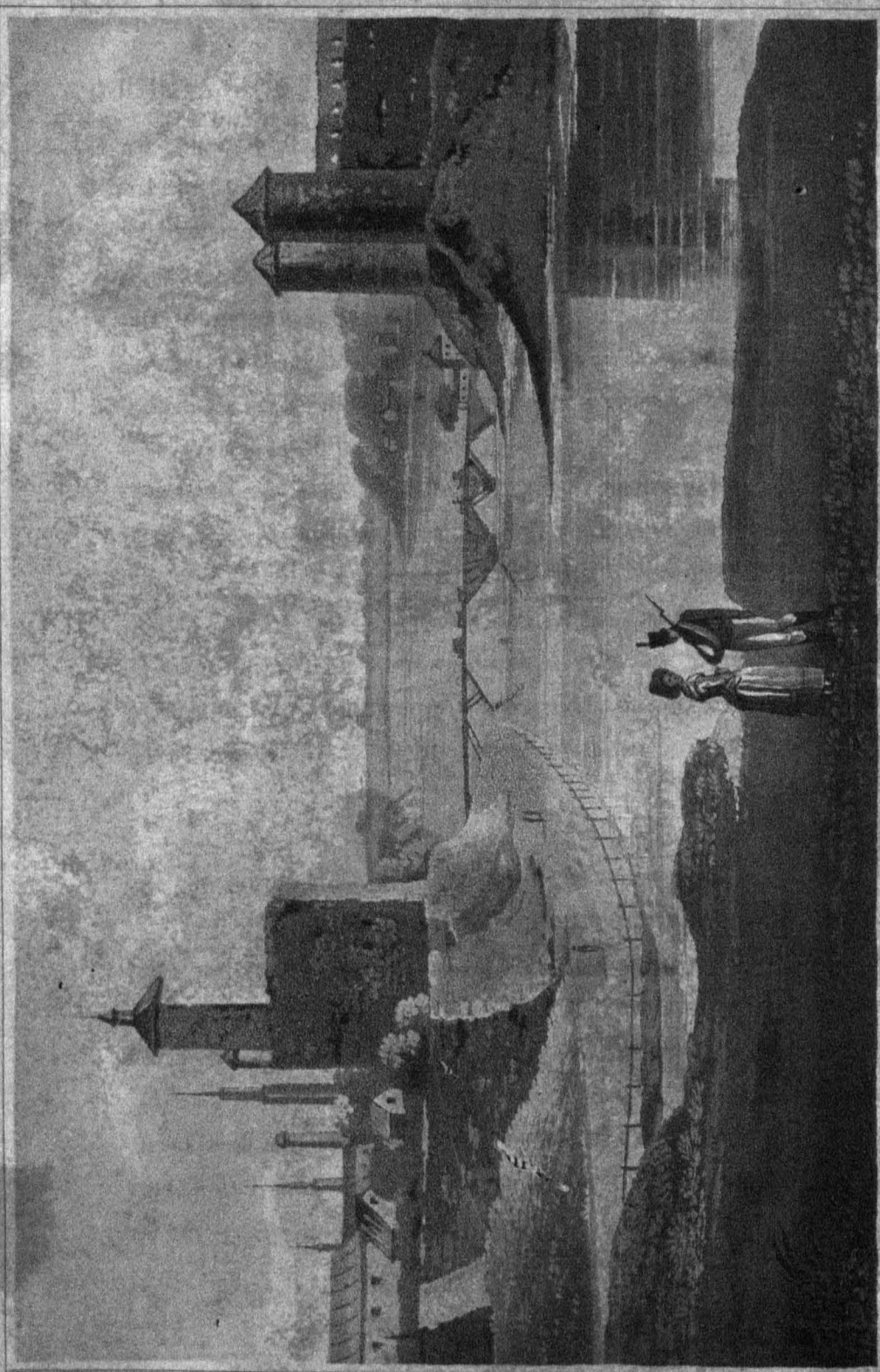
“Give me thy paw, my bonny bonny bear,”

but left her, to shake hands with those from whom we had received the most polite and kind attentions. My friend Captain Elphinstone insisted upon riding to the bridge with me, in the *little Swede*, as he called it, where we parted with mutual and genuine regret.

The moon shone very bright. The little Russ driver, who sat on the shaft, unfortunately for my ears and the temperature of my mind, proved to be a great singer: his shrill pipe never ceased till we reached Strelna, the first stage, where we proposed sleeping.

As soon as we drove up to the door of a handsome inn, which owed its architectural consequence to the proximity of the Grand Duke Constantine's country palace, the host told our servant, a German, he had no room for us; upon which a voice from the top of the banisters, with Stentorian energy, exclaimed in Russ, “By G—d there is room, the gentlemen shall be accommodated, or by to-morrow evening the Grand.

"Duke Constantine shall blow you all to the devil." The translation of this extraordinary exclamation we received afterwards, upon which a Russ officer, a little flushed with the Tuscan grape, came down to us, and began, according to the custom of the Continent, to kiss us all round. When we had submitted to this detestable ceremony, he led, or rather drove us up stairs: lavishing upon the master of the inn all the opprobrious epithets he could collect, in bad French; ordered a handsome supper, and all sorts of wines; pressed us by the hands, swore the English were the finest fellows in the world, and again repeated his loving kindness by another salutation: when one of the party recoiling a little from the violence of his friendship, he turned round, shrugged up his shoulders, and in a most significant manner exclaimed, "My G—d, he does 'not kiss like a man!" After making a hearty supper, we ordered our bill, but the officer swore he would murder our host if he presented any, and ordered him out of the room, declaring that we were his own guests, which he followed by screaming several Russ songs; after which we begged to know the name of this strange creature, and presented him with a piece of paper and a pencil; but after many ineffectual efforts, we plainly saw "that his education had stopped before he 'had learnt to read or write." Finding that we could get no beds, we ordered horses, travelled all night upon good roads, and arrived early the next morning to breakfast at Koskowa.



Engraved by T. Maitland

Designed by J. C. G. E. E. E.

Varra

All the post houses beyond Strelna are kept by Germans; for each horse we paid two copecs per verst. This part of Ingria formerly belonged to the Swedes. The female peasantry wear a flat bonnet of red silk and gold lace, large ear-rings, a vest without sleeves, and cloth round their legs: women, before their marriage, wear their hair plaited, and hanging down: the males are simply clad in sheeps' skins, with the wool inside.

I would recommend every traveller to sleep at Jarnburg; one stage before Narva. At the former, the post-master told us he had no horses; but the magic of a silver ruble discovered six, quietly eating their hay in the stable, which speedily brought us over a wooden road to Narva, at nine o'clock in the evening, to a very comfortable inn.. Here the Russ character began to subside; most of the boors speak German.

In the morning we were much gratified with contemplating a town, which the romantic heroism of Charles XII. of Sweden has for ever rendered celebrated. We passed over the ground where, on the 30th November 1700, Charles routed one hundred thousand Muscovites with eight thousand Swedes. History says, that upon the first discharge of the enemy's shot, a ball slightly grazed the King's left shoulder; of this he at the time took no notice: soon after his horse was killed, and a second had his head carried away by a cannon-ball. As he

was nimbly mounting the third, "These fellows," says he, "make me exercise." His sagacity and humanity were auspicious in the disposal of his prisoners, who were five times his numbers: after they had laid down their arms, the King returned them their colours, and presented their officers with their swords, marched them across the river, and sent them home. I have heard of the humane policy of a British general, who finding, after a battle, that his prisoners greatly exceeded his own troops in numbers, and not possessing the local facilities that favoured the Swedish conqueror, to prevent any ill consequences from a situation so embarrassing, he made every prisoner swallow a copious quantity of jalap, and then ordered the waistband of his breeches to be cut: by this aperient and harmless policy, he placed four men under the irresistible controul of one.

The waterfalls are about an English mile from the town. At a distance, the trees, which hang over the valley through which the waters roll, were enveloped in mist. I should suppose these falls to be about three hundred feet wide, and their descent about seventeen. The weather at this time was delightful, resembling some of our finest days in May. In the evening we went to a play, performed by a strolling company of Germans: the hero of the piece was a young English merchant, decorated with a polar star on his left breast; and another of the *dramatis personæ* was a drunken lady.

We left Narva at seven the next morning, and entered the province of Livonia. The roads were excellent, and the country beautiful: our horses small, plump, and strong; and above we were serenaded by larks singing in a cloudless sky. Our drivers wore hats covered with oil-skin, and woollen gloves; and the German pipe began to smoke. The *little Swede* excited the wonder and admiration of every Livonian boor, who had never before beheld such a vehicle. In the evening things began to assume a less pleasing aspect: as we approached the lake Piepus, the roads became very sandy, and the country dreary. At the post-house at Kleinpringern, we saw the skins of several bears hanging up to dry, and conversed with a party of hunters, who were going in pursuit of that animal, with which, as well as with wolves, the woods on each side abound. Here let me recommend every traveller to take an additional number of horses to his carriage, otherwise he will experience the inconvenience which attended us before we reached Rennapungen, the next stage. To the *little Swede* we put two horses, to the barouche six; all lean, miserable animals, wretchedly tackled, and in this trim we started at nine o'clock in the evening, and, axletree-deep in sand, we ploughed our way at the rate of two English miles an hour: at last our poor jaded cattle, panting and almost breathless, after several preceding pauses, made a decisive stand in the depth of a dark forest, the silence of which was only interrupted by the distant howling of bears. Our

drivers, after screaming in a very shrill tone, as we were afterwards informed, to keep these animals off, dropped their heads upon the necks of their horses, and very composedly went to sleep: a comfortable situation for a set of impatient Englishmen! Finding that the horses of the *little Swede* began to prick their ears after three quarters of an hour's stoppage, I and my companion awoke our postilion, and ordered him to proceed, that we might send fresh horses for the other carriage. To our surprise we jogged on tolerably well, reached Rennapungen in about four hours, and dispatched fresh horses for our friends, who rejoined us at five o'clock in the morning.

When I entered the inn at this place, two Russian Counts, and their suite, occupied all the beds; so I mounted an old spinnet, and with a portinanteau for a pillow, and fatigue for opiate, went to sleep, until the travellers, who started very early, were gone, when I got into a bed, which the body of a Count of the empire had just warmed. This circumstance reminded me of the answer of a chamber-maid, at an inn at Exeter, who, upon my requesting to have a comfortable bed, observed, "Indeed, Sir, you cannot have a better one than "the one I have secured for you;" and, by way of recommendation, added, "Lord B——, who arrived from Lisbon "about ten days since, died in it two nights ago."

The following day we passed through a country which, no

doubt, was a perfect Paradise in the estimation of the race of Bruins; to whom I left its unenvied enjoyment, to sit down to a comfortable dinner at Nonal, the next stage, having abundantly replenished our stock of provisions at Narva. After skirting a small portion of the Piepus lake, a vast space of water, eighty versts broad, and one hundred and sixty long, we arrived at Dorpt, which stands upon a small river that communicates with the lake. The town is extensive, has several good streets and handsome houses, and is celebrated for its university, in which there are twenty-four professors, and one hundred and forty students, one-third of whom are noble. Upon the summit of a hill that commands the town, are the remains of a vast and ancient abbey, which was founded by the knights of the Teutonic Order, now repairing for the reception of the university library: the palace of the Grand Master occupied the spot where the fortifications are building. The Teutonic Order was established in the twelfth century, and declined in the fifteenth. In a crusade against Saladin, for the recovery of the Holy Land, a great number of German volunteers accompanied the Emperor Barbarossa: upon whose death his followers, who had distinguished themselves on that spot where, several centuries afterwards, it was destined that Sir Sidney Smith, with unexampled heroism, should plant the British standard before Acre, elected fresh leaders, under whom they performed such feats of valour, that Henry, king of Jerusalem, the Patriarch, and other Princes,

instituted an order of knighthood in their favour, and were ultimately placed under the protection of the Virgin Mary: in honour of whom they raised several magnificent structures at Marienborg, or the city of the Virgin Mary, near Dantzic. Afterwards growing rich, they elected a Grand Master, who was invested with sovereign prerogatives: by the bulls that were granted in their favour, they were represented as professing temperance and continence; virtues which, no doubt, were religiously observed by *soldiers*, and *travelled men of gallantry*.

The prison of Dorpt, in which a number of unfortunate creatures are immured, is a subterranean vault, damp, dark, narrow, and pregnant with disease and misery. To be confined in it is, in general, something worse than being sent to the scaffold; for a lingering death is the usual fate of the wretch upon whom its gates are closed. Hanway, in the name of justice and humanity, denounced this dungeon: to the present Emperor some recent representations have been made upon the subject; they will not be made in vain to one who, gloriously reversing the ordinary habits of beneficence, listens with more fixed attention to the sounds of misery in proportion as they are *distant* and *feeble*.

If a pebble be thrown into a standing pool, it will disturb its even surface from the centre to the extremities; but if a

stone be cast into the ocean, it creates but a momentary interruption, unfelt by the succeeding wave: thus will a petty occurrence agitate the tranquillity of a small community, which would produce no sensation upon expanded and active society. A trifle, not quite as light as air, a few days before our arrival, had rudely and unexpectedly shattered the peace and harmony which once reigned in the academic bowers of Dorpt. Professors were drawn out in battle array, and Vengeance assumed the mask of Learning.

Two professors' ladies had had a violent dispute at cards, and unfortunately they lived opposite to each other: one of them, upon a sunny day, when all things look clear and bright, ordered her maid, a plump, brawny, Livonian girl, whilst her opponent's husband, a grave and reverend gentleman, was looking out of his window, as a mark of scorn and contempt, to turn her back towards him in her chamber, and exhibit *le derrière de sa personne, sans voile*. It was a Livonian thought: the social condition of the country, the rash infirmity of human nature, the summary projects of pique, all plead for the urbanity of the lady, who only in this solitary instance forgot the dignity of her situation. All Dorpt was at first convulsed with laughter, save the parties concerned, and their immediate friends. The most erudite civilians were sent for; and after long and sagacious consultations, a bill was filed against the mistress and her maid, to which regular answers were put in, most

ably drawn up. Nothing short of penance and excommunication were expected. No doubt, this most important suit has been long since determined; and much do I regret, that ignorance of the decree prevents me from finishing the fragment of this curious event. Upon turning the corner of a street, we beheld a sight at once shocking and humiliating to the pride of man, a vast pile of skulls and bones of the terrific and ambitious knights of the Teutonic Order. In breaking up some cemeteries, for erecting the foundation of a new university, these wretched remains were removed, that once formed the plumed and glittering warrior, who,

“ ————— with his beaver on,
His cuisses on his thighs, gallantly arm'd,
Rose from the ground like feather'd Mercury;
And vaulted with such ease into his seat,
As if an angel dropt down from the clouds.”

The students at the university seem desirous of retaining in their dress some traces of the martial founders of the town, by wearing great military boots and spurs, a common coat, and a leather helmet with an iron crest: a costume less appropriate could not easily have been imagined. The peasant women of this province are very ordinary, and wear huge pewter breast-buckles upon their neck handkerchiefs.

At Uttern, the first stage, we found the governor of the

province had ordered all the post-horses for himself and suite, and was expected every hour to return from a singular species of service. It appeared that an ukase had been passed considerably ameliorating the condition of the Livonian peasants, but the nature of it having been mistaken by three or four villages in the neighbourhood of the post-house, they revolted. Two companies of infantry were marched against them, and after flogging half a dozen of the principal farmers, tranquillity was restored, and we met the soldiers returning. This spirit of disaffection detained us at this post-house all night for want of horses.

At night a Russian, apparently of rank, of a powerful and majestic figure, and elegant manners, arrived: after a very agreeable conversation at breakfast, he departed early in the morning for Moscow, to which city he gave us a cordial invitation: the stranger proved to be Count P—— Z——, who took the lead in the gloomy catastrophe which occurred in the palace of Saint Michael.

In all the post-houses is a tablet, framed and glazed, called the tax, on which is printed the settled price of provisions, horses, and carriages. Travelling still continued cheap, at the rate of ten-pence English for eight horses for an English mile; but it was painful to see the emaciated state of these poor animals. The roads still continued dreadfully sandy; we were

seldom able to go above three versts an hour. The little Swede, who overturned us very harmlessly in the sand, a little before we reached Wollemar, where we dined, still preserved her popularity; and, as modest simplicity frequently triumphs over presuming splendour, she diverted all the attention of the natives from her shewy and handsome companion. Some English travellers, who followed and at length overtook us, became acquainted with all our movements from the impression which the moving wonder had excited. The post-drivers in Livonia, Courland, and throughout Germany, are called by every person Schwagers, or brothers-in-law. In the last stage to Riga we overtook a long line of little carts, about as high as a wheel-barrow, filled with hay or poultry, attended by peasants dressed in great slouched hats and blue jackets, going to market: the suburbs are very extensive. The town is fortified, and is a place of great antiquity; it is remarkable only for one thing, that there is nothing in it worthy of observation. The necessity of setting the washerwoman to work detained us here two days.

It is necessary at this place to take a fresh coin: accordingly we went to a money-changer's shop, of which there are several, where the man of money sat behind his counter, upon which were rouleaus of various coins, with whom we settled the matter, premising that one ducat was worth three rubles and sixty copecs, in the following manner:

Four ortens, or Courland guldens, make			one feinfer,
Sixteen feinfers	—	—	one marc,
Forty marcs	—	—	one ferdinger,
Eighty ferdingers	—	—	one rix dollar,
Two rix dollars and twelve ferdingers	—		one ducat.

As we quitted the last gate at Riga, where we underwent a tedious examination of passports, we crossed the Duna, a river which penetrates a great way into Poland, and supplies all these parts with the natural treasure of that country; part of the bridge, which is built of fir, floats upon the water, and part rests upon sand in the shallows; the whole is level and very long. A peasant driving by us with improper velocity, an officer ordered him to stop, and flogged him with a large thick whip.

The country to Mittau, which is twenty-eight miles from Riga, is very luxuriant and gratifying. As this road is much travelled, we bargained with a man, who let out horses at Riga, to furnish us with six, which were excellent, and two skilful drivers, to carry us throughout to Memel. Although this part of ancient Poland, and the province of Livonia, constitute the granary of the north, we frequently found the bread intolerable; it seemed as if to two pounds of rye, one pound of sand had been added. We reached Mittau, the capital of Courland, in the evening; the first object that announced the town