

divers Occasions to their new Protectors, (especially when the famous *Mazeppa*, their *Hetman*, in the Year 1708 quitted the Party of *Russia* to side with the late King of *Sweden* *Charles XII.*) that the deceased Emperor of *Russia*, finding at length that he had to do with People on whose Fidelity he could not rely, resolv'd to humble them so, that they should not easily rise for the future ; and to that Purpose, some time after the *Battle of Pultowa*, he sent a Body of Troops into the afore-mention'd Isles of the *Borysthenes*, where the *Cosaks* who had follow'd *Mazeppa's* Party had retir'd with their Wives and Children after the unhappy Event of that *Battle*, and those Troops put all they found there to the Sword, without distinction of Age or Sex. The Effects of those who had been concern'd in *Mazeppa's* Plot were all given to the *Russians* ; the Country was filled with a great Number of Troops who lived at Discretion ; several thousands of Men were drawn thence to be employ'd in the Works which the late Emperor was carrying on in several Parts of his Dominions towards the *Baltick* Sea, which destroy'd almost all of them ; and after the Death of their last *Hetman*, which happen'd in the Year 1722, on his Return from a Journey which he had made to the Court of *Russia*, that Office was entirely suppress'd, because it was found that the Power belonging to it was too extensive, and consequently incompatible with the Maxims of a despotick Government. In short the Court of *Russia* seem'd resolv'd to put the *Cosaks* upon the same Footing with the other Subjects of *Russia*, when the Death of the late Emperor suspended the Execution of that Affair for some time. 'Tis true that the present Government has assured them since, that they

Their Hetman Mazeppa joins the King of Sweden against Russia.

Russians destroy them in their Isles.

Office of Hetman abolish'd in 1722.

Baturin. would punctually preserve to them the Enjoyment of all their Privileges; but as the Town of *Baturin*, which is at present the Capital of *Ukraina*, and the Place where the *Hetmans* have latterly made their Residence, has been given lately as a Present to Prince *Menzikoff*, 'tis not likely they are disposed to give them a new *Hetman*.

Shape. The *Cossaks* are large, and well made; they have for the most part the Nose aquiline, blue Eyes, brown Hair, and a very easy Carriage: They are robust, cunning, indefatigable, hardy, brave, and generous. They sacrifice all to their Liberty, of which they are jealous beyond what can be imagined: But they are inconstant, deceitful, perfidious, and great Drunkards.

Women. Their Women are handsome, well shaped, and very complaisant to Strangers. Both Men and Women go clothed after the *Polish* Fashion, except the Bonnet, which differs somewhat from the *Polish*.

Arms. Their Arms are the Sabre and Musket, and their Troops consist only of Foot.

Language soft and sweet. Their Language is a Composition of the *Polish* and *Russian*, yet it partakes much more of the former than the latter; they say the Phrases are very Delicate and Engaging.

Religion Greek. The *Cossaks* profess the *Greek* Religion, such as it is received in *Russia*; nevertheless there are found amongst them many *Roman* Catholics and Lutherans.

Forces. Nothing can be said at present with regard to the Forces of the *Cossaks*, because since the Battle of *Pultowa* the Condition of their Affairs has been so terribly changed. Nevertheless, if I am not mistaken, they are reckon'd still to consist of twelve national Regiments of three thousand

land Men each, under as many Colonels of their Nation.

U K R A I N A.

The Country which the *Cosaks* possess at present, is by the *Russians* called *Ukraina*, which signifies, situate on the Frontiers; because in fact it serves for the Frontier on that side between *Russia*, *Poland*, *Little Tatar* and *Turky*. Name.

By the last Treaties between *Russia* and *Poland*, this latter is left in Possession of all that Part of *Ukraina* which lies to the West of the *Borysthenes*; but it is at present in a very sad Condition, compared with what it was at the Time the *Cosaks* were Masters of it; wherefore that Part only of *Ukraina* is to be reckon'd the true Country of the *Cosaks*, which is to the East of the *Borysthenes*, and which extends on one side from the River *Dezna*, (which falls almost over against *Kiow* into the *Borysthenes*) as far as the River *Samar*, which separates it at present from the Territories of the *Crim Tatars*; and on the other side from the *Borysthenes* to the Town of *Bielgorod*, and the Mountains which lie near the Springs of the River *Donetz Seviersky*, which may contain about the Space of sixty German Leagues in Length, and nigh as much in Breadth. True U-
kraina
East of
Borysthe-
nes.

As this whole Country is one continued Plain, interspersed with several fine Rivers and agreeable Forests; 'tis easy to conceive that it must be exceeding fertile, and stored with all the Necessaries of Life; also all sorts of Grain and Pulse, Tobacco, Wax, and Honey come from thence in so great Quantities, that this Country supplies a great Part of *Russia* with them. And forasmuch as the Pastures of *Ukraina* are excellent, the Cattle there exceed those of all the rest of *Europe* in Largeness; for a Man cannot Ukraina
one large
Plain.
Exceeding
fertile.
Cattle
largest in
Europe.

not reach the middle of an Ox's Back of this Country with his Hand, unless he be above the ordinary Stature.

Plenty of Fish and Game.

The Rivers swarm with all kinds of excellent Fish, and Game is also very plenty there; so that this Country wants nothing but to have a Communication with the Sea to be one of the richest Countries in *Europe*.

Houses of Wood.

There are but few Brick Buildings to be found in this Country, all the Towns and Burrows being built with Wood after the usual Fashion of the *Russians*.

III. *The KOSAKKI DONSKI, who dwell upon the sides of the River Don.*

Kofakki Donski.

The *Kofakki Donski* dwell upon the sides of the River *Don*, from the southern Bank of the River *Guiloï Donetz* (which comes from the West, and falls into the *Don* over against the Town of *Guilocha*) to the Mouth of the great River in the *Palus Meotis*.

Shape.

They are much of the same Size and Shape as the *Cofaks* of *Ukraina*, and they have also the same Inclinations and Defects. They go clothed both Men and Women like the common People of *Russia*, but they are not altogether so slovenly; they are resolute Pirates and very able Partisans.

Habit.

From where.

At the time the *Tatars* were seized of all the Country of *Kipzak*, that Part of the Inhabitants from whence the *Kofakki Donski* are descended, retir'd to the Coasts of the *Palus Meotis*, and the Isles which lie towards the Mouth of the River *Don*; where the *Tatars*, who are nothing less than Mariners, did not care to follow them, and from whence they still incommoded them much by the Parties which they sent from time

Dispossessed by the Tatars.
1255.

to time towards the Habitations of the *Tatars*: but when the Power of these latter began to decline, the *Cosaks* seeing the *Russians* begin to oppose the *Tatars* stoutly, did not fail to fall likewise upon them with all their Forces; and on that occasion they went and possessed themselves of the sides of the River *Don*, where they are at present settled.

The *Czar Ivan Wasilowitz*, having after that begun to signalize himself, the *Cosaks* of *Don* in the Year 1549 put themselves voluntarily under the Protection of *Russia*, on very near the same Conditions as the *Cosaks* of *Ukraina* have since accepted the Protection of *Poland*; but as they are at least as restless as these latter, they have been obliged by degrees to clip their Wings, and that so close, that at present they are upon a Footing very little different from the Subjects of *Russia*. They had formerly their *Hetman* in the same manner as the *Cosaks* of *Ukraina*; but since the Advancement of the late Emperor of *Russia* to the Throne, it has been thought proper to suppress that Office.

Under Protection of Russia.

suppress'd.

Nevertheless since the *Turks* have repossessed themselves of the Town of *Astoff* by the Peace of *Prutt*, concluded in the Year 1711 between *Russia* and the *Port*, they have begun to lift up their Head again; insomuch that they have been obliged more than once since then to send good Bodies of Troops on that side to keep them in Duty; but they dare not handle them as they willingly would, for fear they should throw themselves at once under the Protection of the *Turks*, which would render the Recovery of *Astoff* exceeding difficult to *Russia*.

Begin to recover themselves.

The *Cosaks* of *Don* profess the *Greek Religion* as it is receiv'd in *Russia*; but they are exceeding ignorant therein.

Religion Greek.

They

Livelihood.

They subsist by their Cattle and Husbandry, not forgetting however to live at the Expence of one another when Opportunity serves.

Have many Towns.

They have a great many Towns and Villages along the *Don*, the sides of which are exceeding fertile; but they don't spread very far within the County, because it wants good Water in many Places, and affords no Wood.

All their Towns and Burrows on the Left [or East] Bank of *Don*, to the South of the Intrenchment (which begins near the Town of *Zaritzza* upon the *Wolga*, and ends at the *Don* over against the Town of *Twia*,) are ditch'd and pallisaded against the Incurfions of the *Kuban Tatars*, with whom they are always at Strife.

Forces.

All the *Cofaks* in general are excellent for Garifons and the Defense of Towns: The Forces of the *Cofaks* of *Don* may amount at present to forty thousand Men, more or less.

Arms.

Their Arms are the same as those of the *Cofaks* of *Ukraina*, and their Troops likewise consist only of Foot: 'Tis also very rare to see a *Cofak* on Horseback in any occasion of War.

Name of Cofaks must soon be lost.

As by the Course which Affairs take, 'tis very probable that fifty Years hence there will be no more heard of the *Cofaks*; I was willing on that account to give the Publick a faithful Extract of their History, because I know there is very little dependednce to be had upon what the Authors which have hitherto wrote say of that Nation.

C H A P. XI.

An ACCOUNT of the TATARS
of CRIMEA, BUDZIAK and
KUBAN.

S E C T. I.

A Description of CRIMEA and its chief Towns.

THE Peninsula of *Crimea* abounds with *Crimea* all the Necessaries of Life, and all sorts ^{very fer-} of Fruits and Pulse thrive there to a Wonder ; ^{til.} nevertheless the *Tatars* cultivate it their usual way ; that is to say, as little as they can.

The Part of the firm Land to the North of the Peninsula, which is at present in the Hands of the *Tatars* of *Crimea*, is cultivated but in very few Places, and the *Ordas* which possess it dwell for the most part in Huts, after the Manner of the other wandering *Tatars*, and feed on their Cattle when they have not an Opportunity of Robbing.

The *Tatars* of *Crimea* dwell in Towns and Villages, but their Houses are commonly miserably thatch'd Cabins.

The *Turks* are in possession of the two best *Turks* Places in the Peninsula of *Crimea*, which are ^{possessed of} *Cassa* and *Baluclawa*. ^{the two} ^{best Places.}

T O W N S.

Bascia Saray is situate about the middle of *Bascia* the Peninsula of *Crimea*, and is the Town where ^{Saray.} the *Chan* usually has his Residence ; it may con- ^{Residence} tain about three thousand Houses, and is inha- ^{of the} bited only by *Tatars* and some *Jews*. ^{Chan.}

*Crim or
Criminda.*

The Town of *Crim*, or *Criminda*, as 'tis also called, is situate in the *Crimea* in a beautiful and very fruitful Plain, at 46 Deg. of Latit.

*Once the
Capital.*

This Town was formerly the Capital of that Country, and 'tis from it that the Country has taken its Name. But since the *Tatars* have been in possession of that Peninsula, the Town of *Crim* has intirely gone to ruin, so that at present it may contain upwards of six hundred Houses, or rather thatch'd Cabins. 'Tis inhabited by *Tatars* and some *Jews*, and is under the Dominion of the *Chan* of *Crimea*.

*Ran to
Ruin.*

*Perekop a
pitiful
Hole.*

The Town of *Perekop* stands upon the East side of the *Isthmus*, which joins *Crimea* to the Continent, but a small distance from the Shore of the *Palus Meotis*. As this *Isthmus* is but half a League broad in that Place, the Town of *Perekop* is with reason deemed the Key of the *Crimea*: Nevertheless it is but a mere pitiful Hole of about six hundred Houses, with a Castle half ruin'd. 'Tis true it has some Fortifications, but they are very ill contrived, and of very little Defence.

*Intrenchment
drawn
cross the
Isthmus.*

The *Tatars* have drawn from this Town to the West side of the *Isthmus*, a Ditch with a Breast-wall behind, which serves them for an Intrenchment to defend the Entrance of the *Crimea*; but as that Ditch is drawn in a streight Line, without having wherewithal to flank it, this would be a poor Defence in case of a vigorous Attack.

Kirk.

The Town of *Kirk* on the Straits of *Daman*, which join the *Black Sea* to the *Palus Meotis*, has also an excellent Port; but as this Place is in the Hands of the *Tatars* who have no shipping, this Port is good for nothing to them. The Town of *Kirk* may contain about four hundred Houses.

*Excellent
Port.*

The

The Town of *Caffa* is situate in the *Crimea* upon a Gulf of the *Black Sea* in $45^{\circ} 10'$ Latit. This Town fell betimes into the Hands of the *Tatars*, but they did not keep it long; for about the Year 1266 the *Genoese* came and took it from them, and establish'd there the Seat of their Commerce in the East, which render'd that Town for some time one of the most flourishing in *Asia*; but since the taking of it by the *Turks* in 1474, after *Constantinople* fell into their Hands, the Town of *Caffa* has lost much of its Lustre, yet still it is the best Town of *Crimea*; but it has almost no Trade at present, except that of Slaves, which the *Tatars* of *Crimea*, the *Cuban Tatars*, the *Mingrelians*, the *Georgians*, and other robbing People thereabouts, bring thither in Drovers, and which are transported from thence thro' all the Dominions of the *Ottoman Empire*, and even as far as *Africa*.

It may contain at present about five or six thousand Houses; and all that appears there at present any thing handsom, with regard to Buildings, is as old as the Times of the *Genoese*. 'Tis inhabited by *Jews*, *Mingrelians*, *Christians*, (as well *Armenians* and *Greeks* as *Roman Catholics*) and by *Turks*; nevertheless the *Christians* are most numerous there, and enjoy full Liberty in the Exercise of their Religion. The *Roman Catholics* found there are for the most part of the Posterity of the *Genoese* Families, which were settled in that Town at the time the *Turks* conquer'd it.

The *Turks* are at present Masters of the Town of *Caffa*, and they constantly keep a strong Garrison there, to watch the Conduct of the *Tatars* and keep the *Mingrelians* in awe: Nevertheless it would be no difficult Matter to dislodge them, seeing

Caffa taken by the Genoese in 1266.

By the Turks in 1474.

Best Town in Crimea.

Five or six thousand Houses.

Liberty of Conscience.

In the Hands of the Turks.

seeing the Fortifications of that Place are fallen to ruin.

Baluclawa The Port of *Baluclawa* is situate in 44° 40' Latit. on the Southern Coast of this Country, and is in the Hands of the *Turks* as well as *Cassa*: which two Places are of great importance to the *Otbmans*, especially the Port of *Baluclawa*, because of the Communication with this Peninsula.

One of the best Ports in the World.

The Burrow which bears that Name is indeed nothing considerable, seeing it scarce contains at present three hundred Houses; but the Port is one of the best in the World, having Water enough for the largest Ships of War, and being cover'd from all Winds by the high Mountains which surround it. It may be about forty Paces wide at the Entrance, and forms a Bason within of eight hundred Paces long, and four hundred and fifty broad.

Chans their Descent.

The *Chans* of the *Tatars* of *Crimea* pretend to spring from *Mengli Garay Chan*, Son of *Haggi Garay Chan*.

Divided into three Branches.

The *Tatars* of *Crimea* are those which have been hitherto best known in *Europe*, on account of their frequent Invasions into *Poland*, *Hungary* and *Russia*. These *Tatars* are at present divided into three Branches.

1. *The Tatars of Crimea.*
2. *The Tatars of Budziak.*
3. *The Kuban Tatars.*

S E C T. II.

An Account of the TATARS of CRIMEA.

Names.

THE *Tatars* of *Crimea* are the most powerful of these three Branches; they are also called the *Tatars* of *Perekof*, from the Town of that Name,

Name, or the *Saporovi Tatars*; because, with respect to the *Poles*, who give them that Name, they dwell beyond the *Cataracts* of the *Borysthenes*.

These *Tatars* at present inhabit the Peninsula *Possessions.* of *Crimea*, with part of the Country to the North of that Peninsula, which is separated by the River *Samar*, from *Ukraina*, and by the River *Mius*, from the rest of *Russia*.

The *Tatars* of *Crimea*, are those of all the *Likest the* *Mohammedan Tatars* who bear the greatest Re- *Callmaks* semblance to the *Callmaks*, without being near *of all the* so ugly: They are short and strong set, they *Tatars.* have the Complexion swarthy, Pigs-eyes, not much open but very sparkling; the Turn of the Face square and flat, the Mouth pretty small, and Teeth as white as Ivory; black Hair, harsh as Hogs Bristles, and very little Beard.

They wear very short Shirts of Cotton Cloth, *Clothes.* and Drawers of the same: Their Breeches are very large, and made of any thick Cloth or Sheep-skin; their Vests are made of Cloth, and quilted with Cotton after the Manner of the *Cotons* of the *Turks*; and over these Vests they put on a Cloke of Felt, or Sheep-skin. The better sort among them wear a Cloth Gown lined with some fine Fur, instead of that Cloke; their Bonnets are in some measure like the *Poles*, and edged with Sheep-skin, or some better Skin, according to the Quality of the Person: They wear besides Buskins of red *Marro-*

Their Arms are the Sabre, the Bow and the *Arms.* Arrow, which they use with a surprizing Dexterity: Their Horses make a very bad Appearance, but are good, and have the Quality of Travelling upon occasion, twenty or thirty

Ride swift. Leagues without drawing Bit. Their Saddles are made of Wood, and they shorten their Stirrups so much, that when they are on Horseback they are obliged to carry their Knees quite bent.

Women. Their Women are none of the handsomest, seeing they partake too much of the Features of their Husbands; nevertheless they are fair enough, and wear long Shifts of Cotton Cloth, with a strait Gown of colour'd Cloth or Sheepskin, and Buskins of yellow or red *Marrckin*. But as these *Tatars* are continually roving one where or another, they commonly choose those they like best from among their Slaves for their Concubines, and despise the Women of their Nation.

Their Habits.

Children. They educate their Children with much Severity, and exercise them from the Age of six Years at drawing the Bow. They profess the *Mohammedan* Religion, and are stanch enough to it.

Mahometans.

Tatars of Crimea distinguished. The *Tatars* of this Country are the best disciplined of all the *Tatars*, tho the *Cailmaks* are infinitely braver than they. When they intend to make an Inroad into the neighbouring Dominions, each *Tatar* who is of the Party provides two spare Horses, which are train'd to follow him every where without leading by the Hand, and loads each Horse with a Sack fill'd with Barley-Meal, and a little Biscuit, and Salt for his Provision. In the March there are none but the most considerable among them who have little Tents to cover them in the Night, with a Quilt to lie upon; for the other *Tatars* make themselves Tents of their Clokes, which they spread upon some Sticks stuck in the Ground, with which they are always furnish'd for that Purpose. The Saddle serves them for a Bolster.

How they make their Inroads.

Tents made of their Clokes spread on Sticks.

and a kind of a thick Blanket, which they commonly put under the Saddle that it might not hurt the Horse, is their Covering. Each of them ties his Horses with pretty long Cords to Stakes near the Place where he rests, and there they feed on the Grass which they find under the Snow, after removing it very cleverly with their Feet; and when they are dry, they eat of the Snow to quench their Thirst.

If any of their Horses tires, they kill him out of hand and divide him among their Friends, who do the same when the like happens to them.

Kill their Horses when they tire.

On those Occasions they cut the best Flesh from about the Bone in several Slices a full Inch thick, and lay them very evenly upon their Horses Back under the Saddle; after which they saddle as usual, observing to draw off the Blood all they can, and thus march on again. After they have travell'd three or four Leagues they take off

Dress the Flesh by laying it under the saddle and riding.

the Saddle, turn their Slices of Meat, and take great care to stroke away with the Finger the Scum which the Sweat of the Horse raises about the Flesh. After which they put on the Saddle as before, and make the rest of their way; and at Evening this Ragoust will be ready, and passes with them for delicious Eating. The rest of the Flesh which is about the Bone is boiled with a little Salt, or for want of a Kettle, roasted with a few Sticks, and eaten upon the Place: Horse-Flesh and Mares-Milk are their greatest Delicates.

In this manner they very often make Inroads of two or three hundred Leagues, without kindling a Fire during the Night, that they might not be thereby discover'd; tho they never make their Inroads commonly but in the depth of Winter, when all the Marshes and neighbouring Rivers are frozen, that they

Make Inroads of 2 or 300 Leagues

might meet with nothing to stop them on the Road.

How they divide the Spoil.

At their Return, the *Chan* takes the Tithe of all the Booty, which generally consists in Slaves; the *Murfa* of each *Orda* takes as much out of the Share which falls to those who are under his Command, and the rest is divided equally among those who have been of the Party.

The *Tatars* of *Crimea* may bring into the Field about eighty thousand Men. See the Description of *Ukraina*, by the *Sieur de Beauplan*.

Chans deposed at pleasure by the Port.

They obey a *Chan* who is an Ally of the Port, and his Country is under the Protection of the *Turks*, who treat the *Chans* of *Crimea* much like their Grand Vizier; for on the least Occasion which the *Ottoman* Port thinks they have to be dissatisfy'd with the Conduct of the *Chan*, he is depos'd without any Ceremony, and confin'd in Prison, if he fares no worse; nevertheless they always observe to place one of his Family in his room. The presumptive Successor of the *Chan* is always called *Sultan Galga*, and the other Princes of his Family bear only the Name of *Sultan*.

Heir always called *Sultan Galga*.

S E C T. III.

2. TATARS of BUDZIAK.

Tatars of Budziak.

The *Tatars* of *Budziak* dwell towards the Western Coast of the *Black Sea*, between the Mouth of the *Danube* and the River *Bogt*.

Independents.

These *Tatars* are in truth a Branch of the *Tatars* of *Crimea*; but they live like Independent People, without obeying either the *Chan* of *Crimea*, or the Port. Their Form, Religion, and Customs, exactly agree with those of the *Tatars* of *Crimea*, but they are braver: They pretend to maintain themselves by their Cattle
and

and Husbandry, but Robbery is the chief Employment of their Lives; and neither Peace, Truce, Friendship, nor Alliance can restrain them: They often make Incursions into the Territories of the *Turks*, whence they carry off all the Christians subject to the Port whom they can lay hold of; after which they retreat home.

When the *Turks*, or other neighbouring Powers send great Bodies of Troops against them, they retire to certain Heights quite surrounded with Marshes towards the Coast of the *Black Sea*, from whence 'tis almost impossible to dislodge them, because there is no coming at them either by Land or Sea, but by very narrow Passages, where fifty Men might easily put a Stop to a whole Army, tho' ever so numerous: and as these Hills which are of great Extent, are the only Lands which the *Tatars* of *Budziak* cultivate, and that Pasturage never fails them there, they have no occasion to stir out till their Enemies have march'd off; nevertheless they keep as fair with the *Turks* as they can, and are commonly of the Party when the *Tatars* of *Crimea* have any great Design in hand.

Hitherto the *Tatars* of *Budziak* have had no Government of their own, but live under the Command of *Mursas*, Heads of different *Ordas*, which compose their Bodies: They may make about thirty thousand Men.

S E C T. IV.

The KUBAN TATARS.

The *Kuban Tatars* dwell to the South of the Town of *Affoff*, about the sides of the River *Kuban*, which rises in the part of *Mount Caucasus*, which the *Russians* call *Turki Gora*, and falls

into the *Palus Meotis*, at $46^{\circ} 15'$ Latit. to the N. E. of the Town of *Daman*.

Govern'd
by their
own
Chan.

These *Tatars* are a Branch of the *Tatars* of *Crimea*, and were formerly subject to the *Chan* of that *Peninsula*; but for about these forty Years past they have had their own *Chan*, who is of the same Family with the *Chan* of *Crimea*: He does not at all regard the Orders of the *Port*, and maintains an intire Independence with regard to the neighbouring Powers.

Dwell
mostly un-
der Tents.

The *Kuban Tatars* possess indeed some paultry Towns and Villages along the River *Kuban*; but the greatest part of them live under Tents, toward the Foot of the Mountains of *Caucasus*, where they go and shelter themselves when they are too closely press'd by the neighbouring Powers.

Live by
robbing
their
Neigh-
bours.

They subsist altogether by what they can pil- lage and steal from their Neighbours, of what Nation soever they be. They also make Incur- sions as far as the River *Wolga*, which they often pass in Winter, in order to surprize the *Callmaks* and *Tatars* of *Nagai*. 'Twas to cover the Kingdom of *Casan* against their Invasions, that the late Em- peror of *Russia* caused that great Intrenchment to be raised, which begins near *Zaritzza*, on the *Wolga*, and ends at the *Don*, right against the Town of *Wia*.

Intrench-
ment to
hinder
Incurfions.

Not so
warlike as
the *Tatars*
of *Crimea*.

The *Kuban Tatars* differ in nothing from the *Tatars* of *Crimea*, excepting that they are not so warlike, and have less Order and Subordi- nation among them. The *Turks* are very complaisant to them, because 'tis chiefly by their Means that they are furnish'd with *Circas- sian*, *Georgian* and *Abassian* Slaves, which are in great request in *Turky*; and that they fear if they should press them too hard they might put themselves under the Protection of *Russia*, which

Turks
complai-
sant to
them.

would

would terribly incommode the Provinces bordering on *Turky*.

When the *Tatars* of *Crimea* are threaten'd with any great Storm, or have any great Design in hand, the *Kuban Tatars* don't fail to lend them a helping hand. They may amount to about forty thousand Men, more or less.

Assist the Tatars of Crimea upon an Emergency.

CHAP. XII.

An ACCOUNT of the Countries between the Euxine and the Caspian Seas, inhabited by the CIRCASSIAN and DAGHESTAN TATARS; the ALLANS and the ABASSES.

SECT. I.

Of Circassia and the Circassians.

THE Country of the *Circassians* is situate to the N. W. of the *Caspian Sea*, and extends in length at present from the Mouth of the River *Volga*, to the River *Bosto*; and in breadth from the Shore of the *Caspian*, as far as the Mountains of *Caucasus* to the North of *Georgia*, which takes up a Space of above sixty *German Leagues*, as well in length as in breadth. At present it is in the Hands of the *Russians* who are in Possession of *Terki*, the Capital of the Country.

Belongs to the Russians.

Terki.

Fortified
after the
European
Manner.

Terki is situate in $43^{\circ} 15'$ of Latit. near a Mile from the Sea, on the North side of the River *Tuk*; and as it is of great Importance to *Russia*, Care has been taken to fortify it after the *European* Manner, with good Bastions and Half-Moons faced with Earth, and to maintain there continually a numerous Garison to keep the neighbouring People in awe. The most powerful of the Princes of this Country resides here.

Circassians
Branch of
the Tatars.

The People known to us at present by the Name of *Circassians*, is a Branch of the *Mohammedan Tatars*; at least the *Circassians* still retain the Language, Customs, Inclinations, and even the Appearance of *Tatars*, tho one may easily perceive that there must have been a great Mixture of the Blood of the antient Inhabitants with that of the *Tatars*.

When
these Ta-
tars settled
in Circas-
sia.

'Tis probable that the *Circassian Tatars*, as well as the *Daghestans*, are of the Posterity of those *Tatars*, who were obliged at the time the *Sassanis* possess'd themselves of *Persia*, to retire out of that Kingdom to the Mountains lying to the North of the Province of *Shirwan*, from whence the *Persians* could not so easily drive them, and where they were near enough to hold Correspondence with the other Tribes of their Nation, who were then in Possession of the Kingdoms of *Caspian* and *Astrachan*.

Form.

The *Circassians* are made much like the other *Mohammedan Tatars*; that is to say, they are swarthy, of a middling Stature, but well-set; their Visage is broad and flat, the Features very large, and the Hair black and exceeding strong; but they are not by much so ugly as their Neighbours the *Daghestan* and *Nagai Tatars*. They shave their Heads the breadth of two Fingers, from the middle of the Forehead to the Nape
of

of the Neck, excepting a single Tuft of Hair which they reserve upon the Crown of the Head, and the rest of their Hair falls on both sides upon their Shoulders.

They wear a long Vest of coarse grey Cloth, *Habit.* with a Cloke of Felt or Sheep-skin knitted on the Shoulder with a tagged Point: This Cloke reaches but to half-way of the Thigh, and when they are in the Field they turn it to the side from whence the Wind and Rain comes. They wear Boots of Horse-skin Leather made very clouterly, and round Bonnets, but pretty broad, of coarse Felt or black Cloth, much of the Fashion of those used by the *Daghestan Tartars.*

Their Arms are Bows and Arrows, but many of them at present begin to handle Fire-Arms, and that with much Skill. *Arms.*

The *Circassian* Women are esteemed the *Women the* handsomest Women in the Universe, being *beautiful-* commonly tall and well shaped, with a true *lest in the* Complexion of Lilies and Roses, the finest *World.* black Eyes in the World, their Hair the same, beautiful Arms and fine Breasts; and besides all that they are very affable, complaisant, and exceeding airy, which is somewhat singular in the Women of that Continent. Their Husbands have the Qualification of being very convenient Husbands, giving their Wives all sorts of Liberty with other Men, and even with Strangers; and as they are most of the time employed Abroad in Hunting or keeping the Cattle, *their* Wives have the best Opportunity in the World of obliging their Gallants with all the Conveniency imaginable: Nevertheless 'tis said they don't at all abuse that Liberty, and that *Don't a-* besides the small Favours which they bestow *buse their* with Pleasure on those who know how to re- *Liberty.* ceive

Free but
honest.

ceive them in a proper manner, I mean by way of Presents, they very strictly preserve the Fidelity promised to their Husbands, giving for reason that it would be a great piece of Baseness in them to deceive their Husbands at a time when they trusted intirely to their Honesty.

Have the
Art of making a
Hand of
their Lovers.

These Beauties are very dextrous at searching the Pockets of their Adorers, and claiming as their own whatever they see. They are also well vers'd at making their Lovers pay sufficiently for the Kisses and other little Familiarities which they grant them, and are never tir'd of asking Presents.

Summer
Habit.

In the Summer they wear only a single Shift of colour'd Calico slit down to the Navel, and in Winter they cover themselves with furr'd Gowns, such as the *Russian* Women commonly wear. They cover the Head with a sort of black Bonnet, which becomes them very well; and the Widows fix behind this Bonnet a blown Bladder cover'd with some Crape or other thin Stuff of divers Colours; they wear several Strings of large Pearls of colour'd Glass about the Neck, the better to make the Beauties of their Necks observ'd.

Glass
Necklaces.

This surprizing
Difference,
whence.

This extraordinary Difference which is found betwixt the two Sexes of this Country, the Men being all very ugly, and the Women on the contrary surprizingly beautiful, affords Matter to exercise the Speculations of Philosophers and Naturalists; especially if to this we add, that the few ill-favour'd Women which one sees in this Country are so frightfully ugly, that they seem to be loaded with the Deformity of all the Women in the Nation.

Circumci-
sion.

The *Circassians* circumcise and observe several other Ceremonies, which shew they pretend to be

be *Mohammedans*; but they have neither *Mullas* nor *Moskees*, nor make use of the *Alcoran*.

As *Mohammedans*, they are allowed * as many *Wives* as they can maintain, tho they seldom take more than one. When a Man dies without Children by his Wife, his Brother is obliged to marry the Widow in order to raise up Children to the deceased: They express much Sorrow at the Death of any of their Parents, so far as to tear off their Hair and scratch their Faces. They bury their Dead very honourably, and let the Family of the Deceased be ever so poor, they do not fail to build a little House over the Grave; and these little Houses are more or less adorn'd according to the Substance of the Defunct. At the Interment of any Person of Distinction they sacrifice an Ox, which is chosen for that Purpose with very extravagant Ceremonies; the Skin of this Ox is hung afterwards upon a high Pole in the middle of the Village, before which the *Circassians* go and make their Adorations with much Fervency, and that this Skin must continue there till the Death of some other Person of that Quality puts another in the Place of it. In this consists almost all the Religion of the *Circassians*; nevertheless the *Greek Religion* begins at present to make great Progress in that Country.

The *Circassians* are good Horsemen like all the other *Tatars*. They subsist by Hunting, by their Cattle, and by Husbandry; yet that does not hinder them to be great Robbers when an Opportunity offers; however, without using that Force and Violence which the *Tatars* of *Daghestan* their Neighbours do.

[* No Mohammedan is allowed more than five Wives by their Law.]

They

Dwellings. They dwell in Winter in little Towns and Villages, which consist generally of very sorry thatch'd Houses, and in Summer they go and encamp the best part of the time in Places where they find good Pasture.

Country very barren towards the Caspian. Towards the Coasts of the *Caspian Sea* the Country of the *Circasses* is very barren, and from the River *Kiselaer* to the Mouth of the River *Volga*, which contains a Space of above fifty *German Leagues*, the whole Country is only one vast dry Plain, where nothing is to be found but some great Holes of Salt or stagnant Water, which renders the Passage by Land from *Astrachan* to *Derbent* very dangerous and difficult; but towards the Frontiers of *Daghestan* and *Georgia*, this Country is very fine, and produces all sorts of Plants and Fruits in great Plenty. There are also Silver Mines in *Circassia* towards the Mountains of *Caucasus*, the Mineral of which has been proved very rich in several Essays which have been made of it; but the Junctures of Times would never hitherto permit working in them.

Silver Mines.

Circassian Horses. 'Tis from the mountainous Parts of this Country that those *Circassian Horses* come, so much esteemed in *Russia*, that one of them bears a Price of two hundred Ducats when it is of a good breed. These Horses are far from handsome, seeing they have long Legs, no Belly nor Buttocks, a long stiff Neck with a great Head; but their Merit lies in being exceeding swift, and going at a great Rate, which partakes of the Amble, and that so fast that another Horse must always be upon a full Gallop to keep up with one of them, while the *Circassian Horse* never goes out of his ordinary Gate. A very little Food serves them, and in case of need even the Moss which grows about the Shrubs will suffice;

suffice; tis also said that they lose their Quality, and become heavy when they are taken care of, and kept like our Horses.

The *Circassians* have particular Princes of their own Nation whom they obey, and these are under the Protection of *Russia*, which is in Possession of the Capital of the Country called *Terki*, where the most powerful Prince of the Country resides: The *Circassians* may make in all about 20000 armed Men. See the Travels of *Olearius*. *Princes of their own protected by Russia.*

S E C T. II.

Of the Country of **DAGHESTAN**, and the **DAGHESTAN** *Tatars*.

THIS Country of *Daghestan* extends in length from the River *Bustro* which falls into the *Caspian Sea* at 40 Deg. 20 Min. Latit. to the Gates of *Darbend*, and in breadth from the Shore of the *Caspian* to within six Leagues of the Town of *Erivan*; it is altogether mountainous, but for all that it is very fertile in those Parts where it is cultivated. *Extent.*

'Tis from these Mountains that the Country derived its present Name, *Tag* signifying in the *Turkish* Language a Mountain, and *Taghestan* or *Daghestan*, as they commonly pronounce it, a Country of Mountains. See thereupon the Voyages of *Olearius* and *Tavernier*. *Name.*

The *Tatars* who at present possess the Country of *Daghestan*, where they retir'd at the same time and on the same occasion with the *Circassians*, are the most ill-favour'd of all the *Mohammedan Tatars*: they are commonly below the *Most ill-favour'd of all the Tatars.*

the middling size, but strongly set; they are very swarthy, and they have some Resemblance of the *Callmaks* in the Nose, and the nearness of their Eyes, which are well enough cut according to the taste of the other *Mohammedan Tatars*. Their Hair which is very black and coarse like Hogs Bristles, is cut so that it does not fall quite so low as the Shoulders.

Habit.

They wear Gowns of a kind of very thick dark grey-colour'd or black Cloth, which falls as low as the Calf of the Leg, over which they throw a short Cloke, or instead of the Cloke two Sheeps Skins sewed together. They cover the Head with a sort of square Bonnet of thick Cloth, which they line in Winter with some Skin, and their Shoes and Stockings consist in a sort of Shoes made of one Piece of Sheep or Horse Skin sewed together on the top of the Foot.

Women.

Their Women are habited suitably; they go with the Face uncover'd after the manner of the other *Tatar Women*, and would not be unhandfom, if the ugly Habits which they wear did not disfigure them so much.

Arms.

The Arms of the *Tatars* of *Daghestan* are the same as those of the other *Mohammedan Tatars*, to wit the Bow and Arrows, the Sabre, the Lance, and the Javelin; nevertheless some of them now-a-days begin to use Fire-Arms, which however they don't well understand how to manage.

Cattle.

Their Horses are very small, but exceeding swift and expert in climbing the Mountains. They have great Troops of Cattle, of which they leave all the Care to their Wives and Slaves; for the Men put themselves under Arms as soon as they rise, and do nothing all the Day but look out for an Opportunity to execute some

some Designs after their Fashion, which are much the same as those of our Highwaymen. All the Strangers who fell into their Hands are quite stript and made Slaves of without Ceremony; neither do they lose any Occasion to steal Women and Children out of *Circassia*, *Georgia*, and other neighbouring Countries, and for want of such they steal Women and Children from one another, and go sell them at *Darbend* or at *Erivan* and *Teflis*, according to the Circumstances of Trade and Time.

They profess the *Mohammedan* Religion, but they take no great care to observe the *Alcoran*.

They obey diverse petty Princes of their Nation, who take the Title of Sultan, and who are as great Robbers as their Subjects. Amongst these Princes there is one who is as their *Chan*, with a kind of Superiority over all the rest, to whom they give the Name of *Shemkal*. This Dignity is elective, and the Election is made by means of an Apple which the Head of the Law casts in the middle of a Circle, where all the Princes of that Nation are rang'd for that Purpose, which ought to be a kind of Lot; but the good Man knows how to cast the Apple so that it shall only hit him to whom he would have that Dignity fall: nevertheless the other Princes obey the *Shemkal* only just as much as they please.

As barbarous as the *Daghestan* Tatars are, they have nevertheless one very good Custom which they carefully observe, viz. that none among them shall marry till he has planted 100 Fruit Trees in a Place mark'd out; insomuch that one finds, every where throughout the Mountains of *Daghestan*, Forests of all sorts of Fruit Trees.

Forces. All the Forces of the *Daghestan* Tatars amount to about twenty thousand Men and more.

Live in Towns. They dwell in Towns and Villages built much after the *Persian* Manner, but not quite so handsom.

Boinak Seat. The Town of *Boinak* is the Residence of the *Sbemkal*, and that of *Tarku* the most considerable one in the Country.

Independent. They have preserv'd themselves hitherto entirely Independent of the neighbouring Powers, in which the Mountains of the Country, inaccessible to all but those who know the Passages of them, have always been of great Service to them.

Opposed the Czar in 1722. When the late Emperor of *Russia* went in 1722 to take the City of *Darbend*, he found much Resistance in his March from the *Daghestan* Tatars; but the Fortrefs of *St. Andrew* which the *Russians* have built since in the heart of their Country, to the North of the Town of *Tarku*, on the Shore of the *Caspian* Sea, almost half way between *Darbend* and *Terki*, is a Curb to them, and promises fair one Day for constraining them to submit intirely to the Obedience of *Russia*, provided it can maintain it self in the Conquests which the late Emperor has made on that side.

S E C T. III.

Of the ALANS or ALAINS, an Independent People of the Mountains.

THE Nation which is known at present by the Name of *Alans*, inhabit the Mountains of *Caucasus* between the *Black Sea* and the *Caspian*, to the East of the *Abasses* and North of *Georgia*; they are very ill-favour'd, but of Stature tall and loose, very resolute, and extremely dextrous in the Use of all sorts of Fire-Arms; they have also the Skill to make their own Muskets, and very good Powder, tho' otherwise they live in extreme Poverty, having only their Cattle and Hunting to subsist on.

Alans inhabit Caucasus.

Make Fire-Arms and Powder.

They dwell in little Villages, and have their particular Chiefs, whom they obey independant of any other Power. They pretend to be Christians as well as the *Abasses*; and it is plain they have had the same Reason which those had to confine themselves within the Mountains of *Caucasus*, since the Country of *Daghestan*, which they heretofore possessed, is at present in the Hands of *Mohammedan Tatars*.

Independent.

Christians.

Among the other barbarous Nations who came to invade the *Roman Empire* after the Death of *Augustus*, the *Alans* were one of the first; but tho' they harass'd that Monarchy for more than a whole Age, and ravaged *Europe* from one end to the other, we are yet to seek from whence they certainly came; and all which has been written thereupon to this time is only founded upon very uncertain Conjectures: the only thing which appears probable with regard

Alains' or Alans invade the Roman Empire.

to them is, that they have issued somewhere from the North East of *Europe*, but from what Province we are intirely ignorant of. Nevertheless as the Oriental Authors unanimously agree to place a certain People whom they call the *Alans* in the Country, which is known to us at present by the Name of *Dagbestan*, and that at present there is found a Nation of that Name in the Mountain of *Caucasus*, it is very likely that the *Alans* who invaded the *Roman Empire* came from this Country.

S E C T. IV.

Of the ABASSES, an Independent People of the Mountains.

Abasses
Independent.

Once powerful
erst.

Handson
but great
Robbers.

THE *Abasses* are certain People inhabiting the Mountains of *Caucasus* on the side of the *Black Sea* towards the 45th Deg. of Latit. for it is certain that these *Abasses* had been much more powerful in the Ages past, and that their Country extended heretofore as far as the *Caspian Sea* towards the North of *Dagbestan*; but since the *Tatars* have extended themselves on that side, the *Abasses* as well as divers other People who dwelt of old between the *Black Sea* and the *Caspian*, have lost Ground and been obliged at last to shut themselves up in the Mountains of *Caucasus* to shelter themselves from the Intults of those bad Neighbours.

The People who are known at present by the Name of *Abasses* are very beautiful and well shaped, but great Robbers; for they steal one another whenever they can, and sell them to the *Turks*,

Turks, who are very fond of Slaves of this Na-^{Breed}tion, because they are commonly handfom and ^{much Cat;}ingenious; they live by Hunting and their Cat-^{tle.}tle, of which they breed very numerous Drovers in the fine Valleys which are inclosed in those Mountains.

They don't dwell in Towns or Castles, but ^{Live on}several Families join together and take Posses-^{Hills.}sion of the Top of some Hill which they find for their Conveniency, and there built Cabins to lodge in the best they can; they take care to fortify their Habitations with good Hedges and Ditches against any Surprize from the neighbouring Villages, who continually seek to make Slaves one of another for Profit sake.

They have petty Princes or Chiefs of their ^{Princes}Nation who govern absolutely; they pretend ^{absolute.}to be Christians, but have neither Church nor ^{Christians.}Priest; they don't inter their Dead, but put their Bodies in Chests made of some Trunk of ^{Burials.}a hollow Tree, and hang them in that Manner on a Tree, observing to hang one Part of the Moveables of the Deceased about those airy Tombs. See the Relation of *Colchis* by *P. Lambert.*



C H A P. XIII.

A DESCRIPTION of SIBERIA.

S E C T. I.

The Bounds, Extent, Climate of Siberia, and of the Discovery and Conquest of it by the Russians.

Bounds.

THE Country which is known to us at present by the Name of *Siberia*, comprehends the most Northern Part of *Asia*, being bounded by the Sea of *Japan* on the East, by *Grand Tatar*y on the South, by *Russia* on the West, (from which it is separated by the beginning of *Mount Caucasus*) and by the icy Sea on the North; so that *Siberia* in its present Condition might contain about eight hundred *German Leagues* in its greatest Extent from West to East, and near three hundred Leagues from South to North.

Extent.

Climate.

As this vast Country is situate between the 50th and 70th Deg. of Latit. it must needs be very cold in the most northern Parts of it, and the rather because there is nothing to cover those Quarters against the Violence of the North Wind, which reigns there almost three quarters

The Coasts of the Icy Sea level.

of the Year; because as one advances towards the Coast of the icy Sea, the Mountains of that Country, in other Parts very high, grow level insensibly, in such manner that at length you find nothing but vast Plains cover'd with little Fur Trees and other Shrubs, and interspersed from

time to time with little low Hills, which give full Liberty to that terrible Wind to penetrate into the most remote Cantons of *Siberia*.

Siberia has been wholly under the Obedience of the *Russians* for these 130 Years past; 'tis of that Conquest our Author speaks, p. 209. which happen'd on this Occasion: In the Reign of the *Czaar Ivan Wasilowitz*, there was a Colonel of the *Cosaks* of *Don* called *Yermak Timofewitz*, who having for a long time rang'd about the *Occa* and *Wolga* with some thousand *Cosaks*, pillaging and ravaging all the Towns and Villages thereabouts, found himself at last so press'd by a great Number of Troops which were sent after him on all sides, that not being able to recover the Habitations of the *Cosaks*, which they had taken care to intercept, he was obliged after having lost in several Engagements the best part of his Men, to return up the Rivers *Kama* and *Susarwaya*, to try to shelter himself from the Punishment which he knew to be due to his Actions.

In this desperate Situation he propos'd to one *Strobanoff*, who possess'd much Lands about the River *Susarwaya*, that if he would give him Boats and Men to assist him in drawing those Boats over the Mountains, he would fall down the *Tura* with the eight hundred *Cosaks* which still remain'd with him, and see if he could take the Towns of *On Zigidin* and *Siber*, called at present *Tumeen* and *Tobolskoy*, which were the only Towns then in all *Siberia*. *Strobanoff* fearing to make this Man desperate by rejecting his Request, and finding an Advantage on the other hand in removing the *Mohammedan Tatars* from his Borders, accepted the Proposal, and assisted him generously with whatever might be necessary on that Occasion.

Discovery and Conquest of Siberia by the Cosaks.

Yermak Timofewitz is assisted by Strobanoff.

Yermak
surprizes
On Zigidin
and Siber.

Drives
Kutziun
Chan out
of his
Kingdom.

Resigns his
Conquest
to the
Tzar.

Yermak
killed.

Militia of
Siberia
called Co-
saks in
honour of
this Con-
quest.

With this Assistance *Yermak Timofewitz* descended the *Tura* with his *Cosaks*, surpriz'd the Town of *On Zigidin*, now called *Tumeen*, and from thence went and seized the Town of *Sibir* or *Tobolskoy*, drove out *Kutziun Chan* who then reigned there, and took his Son Prisoner: but considering afterwards that it would be impossible for him to stand his Ground with so few Soldiers against so many thousand *Mohammedan* *Tatars*, as soon as they should have recover'd their first Surprize, he sent the Son of *Kutziun Chan*, named *Altanay Sultan*, to *Moscow*, and offer'd his Conquest to the *Russian* Court in expiation of his Crimes; which having been readily accepted, *Yermak* had his Pardon, and a good Number of Troops were immediately detach'd to take Possession of that Country; and from that time forward the *Russians* have every Day more and more advanced in *Siberia*, till at last they have reach'd the Shore of the Sea of *Japan*.

Yermak Timofewitz lost his Life soon after his successful Expedition; for falling down the *Irtis* with some Boats, he was surpriz'd in the Night by a strong Party of *Tatars*, who cut him in pieces with most of his Men: and as this Conquest was owing to the *Cosaks*, they were willing to leave them the Honour of it: so that as often as they sent Troops thither they were incorporated with the *Cosaks*: And this is the reason that all the Militia of *Siberia* to this Day bear the Name of *Cosaks*.

[In the Reign of the *Tzar Peter* the Country of the *Samoyeds* and North Part of *Siberia* was discover'd, as shall be related in our farther Account of *Tatary*.]

S E C T. II.

The Soil, Product, Coin and Trade of Siberia.

THE northern Part of *Siberia* produces no North
 sort of Grain nor Fruit; so that all that ^{part quite}
 lies beyond 60 Deg. of Latit. is wholly uncul- ^{barren.}
 tivated, and the *Russians* who are settled in the
 few Towns which are on that side are obliged
 to fetch the Grains they stand in need of for ^{South part}
 their Sustenance from the other Parts situate to ^{exceeding}
 the South, which are extremely fertil, notwith- ^{fertil.}
 standing the Cold is even there very piercing.

The best till'd Cantons of *Siberia* are at pre- ^{Places in}
 sent about the Rivers *Tobol*, *Nevia*, *Iseet*, *Ishim*, ^{Siberia}
 and *Tobenda* to the West of the *Irtis*, as also the ^{best culti-}
 Banks of that River from *Tobolskoy* to the South ^{vated.}
 of the Town of *Tara*; all those Quarters being
 cover'd with Villages and great Burrows on ac-
 count of the great Fertility of the Country.
 The Lands about the Town of *Tomskoy* to the
 East of the *Oby*, as also the Banks of the *Yenisea*
 from the Town of *Abakan*, as far as that of *Ye-*
skoy, are likewise well cultivated; so is all
 the Country about the Lake *Baikal*, from the
 Town of *Ilimskoy* situate to the North of the
 River *Angara* to the Town of *Nerzinskoy* on the
 River *Seilka*, and from the Town of *Selinginskoy*
 to the North of that of *Kirenskoy* near the *Lena*;
 and thort all the southern Part of *Siberia* is of a
 wonderful Fertility, and needs only Cultivation
 to produce in abundance all the Necessaries of
 Life.

The Pastures there are excellent, and the ^{Mines of}
 Rivers swarm with Fish; nor are there wanting ^{Copper}
 Mines, witness the Copper Mines near *Nerzin-* ^{and Iron.}
skoy,

sky, and the Iron Mines of *Uktus* and *Congur* towards the Frontiers of the Kingdom of *Cajan*, which they are actually at work upon.

Gold and
Silver pass
as Com-
modities.

As Silver is very scarce in *Siberia*, all Provisions and other Merchandizes of the Country grow there very cheap, and all Business is carry'd on in way of Exchange by receiving Goods for Goods, according as the Parties shall agree among themselves about the Value. Gold and Silver which is brought there from *China*, as well as the Gold Dust which the *Buchars* bring there in time of Peace, are receiv'd only as Merchandizes.

Beasts and
Birds be-
come
white in
Winter.

All *Siberia* is full of Beasts, whose Skins are fit to be employ'd in furring, as well as all sorts of Game; and 'tis remarkable that towards the Coasts of the icy Sea all the Beasts become white like the Snow in Winter, as also one part of the Birds. 'Tis only in *Siberia* and the Pro-

Black
Foxes and
Zibelins
only found
in Siberia.

vinces depending of it that they find the black Foxes, and Zibelins as well as the Glutons: and the fairest Skins of Ermins and Lynx come likewise from thence: Castors are also found there in plenty, and those of *Kamtzchatzka*, among others, are of an extraordinary size.

All the
rich Skins
carry'd in-
to the
Treasury.

As all these Skins are very precious and rare, none are suffer'd, be they who they will, to trade in them, but the Inhabitants of the Country who have of them are oblig'd to carry them to the Commissioner of the Treasury, who must pay them at a fixt Price. But that gives occasion to all sorts of Impositions: nevertheless there is yearly carry'd out of *Siberia* a prodigious quantity of these sorts of Skins, by the Connivance of those who are paid to hinder their carrying out, for they search in several Places those who pass out of *Siberia* into *Russia*, in order to prevent their carrying any choice
Skins

Great
Quantities
are carry'd
out by
Commi-
sioners.

Skins with them which are raw; but a small Gratification settles that Affair. With the other ordinary Skins the Inhabitants of the Country are allow'd to traffick as much as they please.

The Zibelins are a sort of Martins which are **Zibelines** found no where but in *Siberia*, and the Countries **a sort of Martins.** depending on it: They are bigger than the common Martins which are found in the North Parts of *Germany*; but excepting that they resemble them perfectly. For the Zibelins to be beautiful, the Hair should be close, of a fine dark brown Lustre, and interspersed with thin white Hairs; the best come from *Jakutskoy* and about the River *Lena*. They shoot them commonly with Arrows of Wood, rounded at the end that they might not make Holes in the Skin. In the choicest Furs they employ only the Back of the **Back, the choicest Fur.** Zibelins; the Bellies which are of a bright brown are kept for the inferior sort. And of the Tails of these Animals are usually made those Zibelin Tippetts and Muffs which our *Dames* wear in Winter.

As all the People of that vast Continent **Commerce of Siberia with Chi-** which we call *Siberia* pay their Contributions in **na.** Skins, and as also all the best Skins ought to be sold by the Inhabitants to the Commissaries of the Treasury of the Crown at a certain fixt Price, they not being permitted to trade freely but with the worst sort; 'tis easy to conceive that there ought to enter yearly a prodigious Quantity of valuable Skins into the Magazines of the Court of *Russia*; and forasmuch as the Consumption which is made of them in *Europe* is not great enough to be able to empty them intirely, besides that they take care not to let too many Skins go out at a time, for fear of lowering the Price too much in foreign Countries; the Contiguity of the Estates of *Russia* with

with those of *China* since the *Mungals* of the East are in possession of it, has made them think of the Establishment of an advantageous Trade with that Empire for the Sale of those Skins which are in great request in *China*; and it was first agreed with the Court of *China*, that there should yearly arrive at *Pekin* a Caravan of *Siberia*, with Skins and other Merchandizes of that Country growth; that the said Caravan should enjoy a full Liberty of Trade during its Stay in *China*, and that it should be permitted at its Return to import as much Merchandizes of the Growth of *China* as it should think fit; that the Expenses also of the Caravan should be entirely defray'd by the Court of *China*, from the time of its Entrance within the Dominions of that Empire, till its Departure out of it again on its Return; and that the Subjects on both sides should enjoy a full Exemption from all Customs at going out and coming in, and from all other Imposts, with regard either to themselves, or their Merchandizes.

*Interrupt-
ed.*

The Commerce subsisted for several Year on that Footing between *Siberia* and *China*, greatly to the Advantage of the Court of *Russia*: But since the last Broils that happen'd between *Russia* and *China*, on account of the Town of *Albassin*, the *Chinese* have begun to perplex exceedingly the *Russian* Caravans; and as they are not so much under a Necessity at present to fetch their Skins from *Siberia*, since the *Mungals* of the East have extended their Dominion along the Banks of the River *Amur*, where much *Zibelins* and other Skins are found, tho they are not so valuable as those which come from *Siberia*; they have by little and little not only very much limited the Commerce of Caravans, but they have also refused them entirely
the

the Entrance of their Dominions, upon the least occasion of Complaint which they thought they had, which has very much prejudiced the Trade of *Siberia*.

It is true that the Court of *Russia* having sent in the Year 1719, Mr. *Ismailof* to *Pekin* in quality of Envoy Extraordinary, he found means to accommodate in some measure all the Differences with relation to Commerce, and even to bring the late Emperor of *China* to agree to the Residence of an Agent sent from the Court of *Russia* at *Pekin*, to cultivate the good Understanding between the two Empires: but the *Chinese* having sent back of a sudden in the Year 1722 the aforesaid Agent, upon some new Pretence of Discontent, the Court of *Russia* was resolved to come to a new Rupture with *China*, when the Death of the Emperor of *China* happening in the Month of *September* of the same Year 1722, put off at first for some time the Execution of that Design, which the Death of the late Emperor of *Great Russia* quite laid aside, infomuch that the Affairs there are much upon the same Footing still; and since the Year 1722 there have gone no *Russian* Caravans to *Pekin*.

*Death of
Emperor
of China
in 1722.*

Those Caravans are under the Direction of *Kairan* a Commissary, who receives on the Account of the Treasury of *Siberia* all sorts of Skins and Merchandizes of the Growth of the Country, at the Price which the *Zelawalicks*, or sworn Appraisers of the Treasury set upon them, and which is either high or low according as he knows how to manage his Affairs with them; it ought to pay the Price of them at its Return; either in *Chinese* Commodities or ready Money: and to the end the Caravan may trade to the best Advantage, 'tis forbidden under pain of Death

Death to all the Subjects of *Russia* to traffick in those sorts of Merchandizes with the Subject of *China*: nevertheless enough of that is done by Connivance of the Waywodes, or Governors of the Frontier Towns, who find their Account in it, for which the last Treaty between *Russia* and *China* has furnish'd them with a very convenient Opportunity; for as it is thereby agreed, that the Subjects of *Russia* might have full Liberty to come with certain small Wares, and especially Skins of *Russia*, to trade with the *Mungals* at *Urga*, they never fail under that Pretence to carry there the finest Skins of *Siberia*, which the *Chinese* come there to buy in so great Abundance, that the last Caravans which went from *Siberia* to *Pekin*, had much ado to sell their Merchandizes at a moderate Price, they found the *Chinese* so over-stock'd with Skins brought out of *Siberia* in that manner.

Commissa-
ries of
Siberia
corrupt.

Mean time to do Justice to every one, it must be confess'd that the bad Conduct of most of the Commissaries of the Caravans of *Siberia* has contributed much to give the *Chinese* a Disgust to that sort of Commerce; for instead of having taken care to give these Commissions to Men of Understanding and good Conduct, they usually favour'd in times past none but Cheats, whose only Merit consisted in being made for the Intrigues of the Governors, and knowing how to rob the Treasure of the Crown, and give them a good Share of it; and as, for the rest, they were only complete Debauchees and Drunkards, 'tis easy to imagine what Order they were capable of preserving in the Caravan, which was sometimes compos'd of near a thousand Persons: For the *Russian* Carriers and Grooms finding the *Aqua Vita*, of which 'tis well known they are great Lovers, at Freecost

in

in *China*, by virtue of the Conventions which obliged the *Chinese* to defray the Caravans, God knows if they fail'd to take their swing of it; and then when they were very drunk, they went and committed a thousand Disorders in the Streets of *Pekin*, beating and insulting indifferently all those whom they met in their way; which they might do with the greater Assurance, because it was severely forbidden the Inhabitants of the Town to abuse any *Russian* on any Account whatsoever: and instead of the Commissary doing good and speedy Justice as he ought to the *Chinese*, who came to make their Complaints to him on the like Occasions, he was very often himself the Author of those Disorders, and by his Example encourag'd the others in all sorts of Brutalities. Among the rest, a certain *Callmak*, whom the *Knees Gagarin* sent with the Caravan in quality of Commissary, in the Time that he was Governor of *Siberia*, surpassed all others in these fine Qualifications; and in regard he more than that undertook to abuse excessively the *Chinese* who owed Money to the Caravan; the *Chinese* who were just at that time in War with the *Callmaks*, imagined that it was with a Design to insult them that they sent that Brute among them: And since that time they have taken an intire Disgust against Caravans.

S E C T.

S E C T. III.

The Inhabitants of SIBERIA.

*Inhabi-
tants of
Siberia.*

THIS Country is at present possessed by three sorts of Inhabitants, *viz.*

1. The *Pagan* People, who are the antient Inhabitants of the Country.
2. The *Mohammedan Tatars*, who are those from whom the *Russians* have conquer'd it.
3. The *Russians*, who are at present Masters of it.

§ 1. *The PAGAN Inhabitants.*

Viſuals.

All the heathen People which inhabit *Siberia* lead exactly the Life which is described, *p. 35*. They cannot but think it the Height of Folly to feed and take care of Animals in order to eat the Flesh of them, since others are to be found nourish'd and look'd after by Nature her self for that Use. They seldom dress their Flesh and never their Fish; but they dry it in the Sun in Summer, and eat it in that manner without Salt or any other Seasoning: And when they have a mind to treat themselves handsomely, they dip their dry Fish in Fish Grease.

*Drink.
Habits.*

Their common Drink is Water, and when they have kill'd some Beast, they drink the Blood of it reeking hot with as much Pleasure as we would the best Wine.

Clothes.

Their short Habits are usually made of the Skins of Fishes, or young Foxes and Dogs; and in the Winter they cover themselves with long
Coats

Coats of the Skins of Rein Deer or Bears, which are a kind of riding Cloaks to guard the whole Body from the terrible Cold of these Climates.

They are so lazy, that they do not without Difficulty prevail upon themselves to make in the Summer their Provision of Fish for the Winter; and it is very rare to find any of them who think of the Year which is to come: All their Riches consist in Dogs and Rein Deer, which serve them instead of Horses. In this poor Condition they think themselves no less happy than the best furnish'd Nations, and when any one goes about to remonstrate to them that they live more like Beasts than Men; their usual answer is, That their Forefathers in all Times have lived after the same Fashion, and that they are resolv'd to do the same. That with regard to the present time, they see many of the *Russians*, who notwithstanding they almost toil themselves to death with Working, and pretend to be of a Religion all Divine, yet are more unhappy than themselves; and as for what concerns Futurity, as that is very uncertain, they leave it to the Disposal of the Creator.

Notions of
Happiness
in this
World.

The *Pagan* People who inhabit *Siberia* are divided into several Nations; the principal of which are,

I. *The W O G U L I T Z I.*

All the Country about the *Tura* from the aforesaid Mountains [which separate *Siberia* from *Wogul-Russia*] to the River *Irtis*, drawing towards *Sa-itzi*, is inhabited by a Nation which the *Russians* call *Wogulitzi*: 'Tis commonly suppos'd that this Nation is a Branch of the *Tatars*; but
as

More civiliz'd than Siberians.

as the *Wogulitzes* are *Pagans*, and of the grossest sort, and that all the other *Tatars* who dwell on that side, whether in *Siberia* or in the Kingdoms of *Casan* and *Astrachan* make profession of the *Mohammedan* Worship, they ought rather to be reckon'd among the *Pagan* People of *Siberia*, than those at present called *Tatars*, besides they bear a greater Resemblance to the first than the last; but they are more civiliz'd than the other People of *Siberia*, because they dwell among the *Russians*, with whom they drove a great Trade before the Reduction of *Siberia*, under the Power of *Russia*.

As gross as the *Paganism* is in which the *Wogulitzes* are involved, they have nevertheless Notions of an One God, Creator and Preserver of all Things; they believe all a Resurrection of the Dead, and a Recompense of Good and Evil after this Life; but that is in effect all. Nevertheless it is pretty remarkable, that they won't hear speak of the Devil; and when one urges them upon that Head, they say if there be one, it must not be that he can do them any harm, seeing they have no Instance of it among them.

All their Worship consists in this, that all the Heads of Families in each Village assemble once a Year at the end of Summer, and go sacrifice in some neighbouring Forest one of each Kind of their Cattle, the Skins of which they hang upon one of the fairest and straitest Trees of the Forest, and afterwards prostrate themselves several times before them, without making otherwise any Prayers: after which they eat the Flesh of those sacrific'd Beasts with great Tokens of Joy, and then return home: and doing this, they believe they have acquitted themselves towards God for all the rest of the Year. They cannot give any Reason or other Explanation of this pretended

pretended Sacrifice, contenting themselves with saying, that their Ancestors made use of the same, and that they thought themselves obliged to imitate them therein.

With so few sacred Ceremonies one will easily judge they have no need of Priests, neither do they care to have any. They bury their Dead clothed in their Habits; and if the Effects of the Dead will permit it, they put some Money with him in the Grave, which is no more than a Consequence of the false Notions they have of the Resurrection. They take as many Wives as they can maintain, and buy the Girls they have a mind to espouse of their Fathers, after which they go and lie with them without any other Ceremony, excepting that they usually invite the nearest Relations on both sides to a small Entertainment which they give upon that Occasion.

When the Wife is near her Lying-in, she retires into a Hut set up for that Purpose in some neighbouring Forest; and there after she has brought forth her Child, she is obliged to stay for two Months before she is suffer'd to return to her Husband; and during that time the Husband is to keep without seeing her. They very carefully observe not to marry within the prohibited Degrees, nor to marry again after the Death of any of their Wives before the Year of Mourning be out.

They go habited much like the *Russian* Peasants, and their Women like the Women of that Country. They dwell in Villages, and their Houses are built exactly of the Fashion of those which are seen in the Villages of *Russia*; but instead of Stoves which the *Russians* make use of, they have in the middle of the Chamber a Hearth, and a Hole a-top directly over the Fire-place to let the Smoke out. In Winter they

cover that Hole with a large Piece of very transparent Ice as soon as the Wood is burnt to Charcoal, which keeps the Heat in the Room at the same time that it serves them for a Window.

Sit Cross-leg'd.

They make no use of Chairs, but have a Bench quite round the Chamber of about an Ell high and two broad, on which they sit cross-leg'd after the *Tatar* Fashion; and this Bench serves them also for a Bed.

Eat neither Chickens nor Swine.

As there are but few Parts of the Country they live in where Corn comes to Maturity, they live almost all upon their Cattle, and by hunting Elks and other Fallow Beasts; but they eat neither Chickens nor Swine.

For the rest, the *Wogulitzes* are all subject to *Russia*, and live very peaceably on what they get by their Labour: They pay their Contributions in Skins to the Treasury of *Siberia*.

2. *The BARABINSKI.*

Sort of

Callmaks.

The *Barabinski* are a sort of *Callmaks*, and inhabit the Plains between the River *Irtis* and *Oby*: These People are partly under the Dominion of *Contaijb*, and partly under that of *Russia*.

Much Furs

in their

Country.

They live by Husbandry, their Cattle and Hunting; but as there are abundance of Furs in the Countries, which those inhabit who are under the *Russians*, they pay the greatest Part of their Capitation in Skins.

3. *The SAMOYEDS.*

Samoyedi

Mantzela.

The *Samoyeds* who dwell between the *Oby* and the *Lena*, towards the icy Sea, are called *Samoyedi Mantzela*, to distinguish them from the other

other *Samoyeds* who inhabit towards the northern Coasts of *Russia*, from the western Shores of the *Guba Tassaukoya*, to the Neighbourhood of *Archangel* and the River *Dwina*.

These People are the most stupid and poor *Most stupid of all Siberia*: Their Outside has a great Resem- *and poor of all the Siberians.* blance of the *Callmaks*, excepting that they are neither so well shaped, nor so lusty; that they have ugly Mouths, with hanging Lips, and are exceeding dull.

4. The OSTIAKS.

The *Ostiaks* dwell to the South of the *Sa-Ostiaks* *moyeds*, about the 60 Deg. of Latit. from the Mountains which separate *Russia* from *Siberia*, as far as the River *Yenisea*.

The People of this Nation are shaped much *Shaped like the Russians.* like the *Russians*; but they are generally below the middling Stature. 'Tis suppos'd they are descended from part of the Inhabitants of *Wenika Permia* in *Russia*; who, moved by their Adherence to Idolatry, quitted their Country, and came and settled in these Quarters at the time Christianity was introduced into that Province: At least we are assured that the Lan- *Their Lan-* guage of the *Ostiaks* has much Agreement with *guage.* the Jargon of the Inhabitants of the Province of *Permia*; and on the contrary no Affinity with the Language of the other Pagan People of *Siberia*, their Neighbours; so that they are ob- *Pagans.* liged to make use of an Interpreter in conversing with them.

5. *The TUNGUSI.*

Tongusi. The *Callmaks* and *Mungals* of the West breed no Cattle but what eat Grass, and above all Things they abhor Hogs; whence it is that they have given, in Contempt, the Name of *Tongus*, or Hogs, to certain People of Siberia, which dwell near their Frontiers, and whom we know at present by that Name; and as the *Mungals* of the East are not so scrupulous in that Point, seeing they breed Hogs in abundance, they give them likewise in derision the Name of *Tongus*; and hence it is that some take occasion to confound the *Mungals* of the East with those other *Tongus* or *Tunguses*, which we have spoken of.

Mungals of the East confounded with them.

These People possess at present a great Part of the eastern *Siberia*, and are divided by the *Russians* into four principal Branches; which are, 1. The *Podkamena Tungusi*, who inhabit between the River *Jenisea* and that of *Lena*, to the North of the River *Angara*. 2. The *Sabatski Tungusi*, who dwell between the *Lena* and the bottom of the Gulf of *Kamtzchatka*, about the 60th Deg. of Latit. to the North of the River *Aidan*. 3. The *Olenni Tungusi*, who live towards the Springs of the *Lena* and the *Aidan*, to the North of the River *Amur*; and, 4. The *Conni Tungusi*, who inhabit between the Lake *Baikal*, and the Town of *Nerzinskoy*, and along the River *Amur*.

Ferm.

'Tis easy to perceive that these People are of the same Race with the rest of the *Tatars*, because they have almost the same Inclinations as well as Aspect; nevertheless they are not quite so swarthy and ill-favour'd as the *Callmaks*, having

ving the Eyes much more open, and the Nose not so flat as these last: They are for the most part of Stature tall and robust, and generally more active than the other People of *Siberia*.

The *Podkamena Tungusi*, and the *Sabatski* differ but little in their manner of Living from the *Ostiaks* and *Samoyeds*, their Neighbours, to the West and North, except that in Summer both Men and Women go as naked as ever they were born, wearing nothing commonly but a small Hair Girdle of about a Span's breadth to cover their Nakedness. And to defend themselves from the Flies, which in Summer are found in prodigious Numbers all over the Countries of the North, and chiefly in those which lie most Eastward, they always carry upon the Arm a Pot with a Bit of rotten Wood kindled in it, the Smoke of which drives away those Insects. Their Hair is black and generally very long, which they tie together pretty close to the Head, and let them hang in that Fashion down the Back. In Winter they wear Clothes of the Skins of Stags or Rein Deer, the Hair outward, and close Breeches, Stockings and Shoes of the same Skins, and all of a piece. To ornament their Habits, they border them below with Dogs Skins, and instead of a Bonnet, they cover the Head with some piece of Skin which they fit according to their Fancy.

They make use of neither Hemp nor Flax, but they make their Cords and other sort of strong twisted Thread, which they may have need of in their little Household Affairs, of the Skins of Fish. They live in Summer by Fishing, and in Winter by Hunting, not knowing what it is to breed other Cattle beside Rein Deer and Dogs, which serve them instead of Horses;

Podkamena and Sabatski Tungusi.

Flies prodigious numerous in these N. E. Countries.

Winter Clothes.

Breed no Cattle but Rein Deer and Dogs,

and forasmuch as the *Sabatski Tungusi* make use only of Dogs in their Sleds, and that the Flesh of those Beasts makes all their Dainties, the *Russians* have given them that Name which signifies the *Tunguses* of the Dogs.

Believe in one God, but worship their Idols.

They acknowledge one God Creator of all Things, but that is all; for they neither honour him or ever pray to him, and in all Emergencies of Life they address themselves to Idols resembling human Creatures, which every one makes for himself the best he can out of a Piece of Wood; and they honour or abuse these Idols according as they think they have reason to praise or complain of them. They have no other Priests than some *Shammans*, whom they consult rather as Sorcerers than Priests. They expose their Dead on Trees till they are quite rotten, after which they bury them with the Face to the East. They make all sorts of black Marks on the Face and Hands, which serves for an Ornament to the Women, and to the Men for a Name to make themselves known to those with whom they may have contracted.

Burials.

Mark their Faces with black Spots.

Olenni Tungusi.

The *Olenni Tungusi* live also by Hunting and Fishing; but at the same time they feed on Beasts, and go clothed the same way in Summer as in Winter with the Skins of Sheep or young Deer. They wear their Hair like the other *Tunguses* we have spoken of, and make use of Bonnets of Fox Skins, which they catch in cold Weather.

Strange way of Swearing.

They have a singular way of taking an Oath: for he who is to do it takes a Dog, and having laid him on the Ground, he runs a Knife into his Belly under the Left Fore-leg, and at that Orifice sucks out all the Blood to the last Drop. 'Tis the greatest Confirmation they can give to

a thing, seeing they are firmly persuaded that the Blood of the Dog will not fail that Instant to suffocate him, who has the Rashness to commit a Perjury of that Nature.

The *Conni Tungusi* are the least barbarous of ^{Conni} all these People; they feed like all the rest on ^{Tungusi.} their Cattle, and clothe themselves much like the *Mungals*, whom they resemble much in every thing. They cut their Hair after the Fashion of the *Callmaks* and the *Mungals*, and use the same sort of Arms which they do, except the Sabre, which they have not had the Use of yet.

They don't cultivate the Land; but instead of ^{Use no} Bread they make use of the Roots of yellow Lilies, which grow in great plenty in those Parts, of which they make a sort of Meal after they have dryed them; and of this Meal they make a Spoon-meat which they reckon very delicious. They also eat very often these Roots when they are dried, without making Meal of them. ^{Bread.}

They are good Horsemen, and their Wives ^{Women} and Daughters ride as well as themselves, and ^{ride and} never go out without being well arm'd; hav- ^{use Arms.} ing also the Reputation of managing their Arms very dextrously.

All the *Tunguses* in general are exceeding ^{Tunguses} brave and robust; they all dwell in moving ^{brave.} Huts or Houses. Their Religion is nearly the same with them all, and they all take as many Wives as they can maintain.

There are but a small Number of the *Conni Tungusi* subject to *China*, all the rest of those People are under the Obedience of *Russia*, which has from them the finest Skins which come from *Siberia*.

6. *The BURATTI.*

A sort of Mungals. The *Buratti* inhabit to the South of the River *Angara*, between the *Yenisea* and the *Se-linga*, and are a sort of *Mungals*.

These People feed on their Cattle, and are tall and strong; but not by a great deal so swarthy as the other *Mungals*.

7. *The TĀKUTI.*

Most ingenious of the Pagan Inhabitants. The *Tāuti* inhabit all along the *Lena*: These People are made much like the *Tunguses*, and are the only Inhabitants throughout *Siberia* who make use of Rein Deer to ride on. 'Tis said they have more Wit, and consequently more Malice also than the other Pagan People of that Continent.

8. *The YUKAGRI.*

Like the Samoyeds. The *Yukagri* inhabit towards the Coast of the icy Sea, to the East of the Mouth of the *Lena*. They don't differ much from the *Samoyeds*; nevertheless they are not altogether so stupid and ill favour'd as those.

9. *The TZUKTZCHI;*10. *TZCHALATZKI; and*11. *OLUTORSKI.*

Just in the N. E. Point of *Asia*, and about Cape *Suetoinos* dwell two confederate Nations called the *Tzuktzchi*, and the *Tzchalatzki*; and Southward of them towards the Shores of the Eastern

Eastern Sea, another called the *Olutorski*, who are the most fierce of all the People of the North of *Asia*. They will not by any means trade with the *Russians*, of whom they inhumanly kill as many as fall into their Hands, and when any of them fall into the Hands of the *Russians* they kill themselves; for which reason the *Russians* were obliged heretofore to travel along the Coast of the Gulf of *Kamtzchatka* to enter into this Country, in order to avoid encountering Parties of these People; but for some Years past they have begun to go there by Water, passing over from the River *Ochota*, about the 55 Deg. of Latit. to the nearest Point of the Country of *Kamtzchatka*, which saves them much Travel and Fatigue. The late Emperor of *Russia* sent five or six Years before his Death, an Officer of the Marine to the side of that River, to examine if there could not be found Wood thereabouts fit for building large Ships, and he made at his Return a pretty favourable Report; but several Incidents intervening from time to time hinder'd that great Monarch from carrying this Design any farther.

*Olutorski
fiercest of
all the
People of
the North.*

*River
Ochota.*

12. *KAMTZCHATKA*, and the
KAMTZCHADALS.

The Country of *Kamtzchatka*, which is situated between the 150 and 170 Deg. of Longit. is a great Tongue of Land which stretches almost North and South from Cape *Suetoinos*, situate in 62 Deg. of Latit. as far as about the North of *Japon*, and the 41 Deg. of Latit. so that it is above three hundred *German Leagues* in length, but its breadth is very unequal; for in some Places it is above a hundred Leagues broad,

*Kamtz-
chatka
Situation.*

Extent.

broad, and in others it is not more than thirty or forty.

Bounds.

The Country of *Kamtzchatka* is separated from the rest of *Siberia* by a great Arm of the Eastern Ocean, which stretches directly from South to North, from the northern Shore of *Corea* as far as the 60th Deg. of Latit. leaving between it and the icy Sea a Space of Land not above five Deg. over, by means whereof the Country of *Kamtzchatka* becomes contiguous with *Siberia*.

Different Inhabitants.

It is inhabited by divers People, whereof those who possess the South part of the Country are very different from the other People of this Continent, both in their manner of living and Dress; and forasmuch as in other Respects they resemble the *Japonefe*, 'tis believ'd that they are Colonies from *Japon*, which is separated from the southern Point of this Country only by a Strait of fifteen or twenty Leagues, full of small Islands.

Tributary to the Russians.

The *Kamtzchadals* who possess the largest Share of this Country towards the middle of it, pay Contribution to the *Russians* in Skins, and especially in Skins of Castors of an extraordinary bigness. Since the beginning of this Age [1700] the *Russians* have establish'd Colonies there which have already begun to build several Burrows and Villages, and highly commend the Goodness of the Soil in this Country. A Chain of very high Mountains which begin at the Icy Sea, run thro' this Country in a streight Line from North to South; and 'tis reported that there are very rich Mines, and excellent Mineral Waters in the South part of this Country.

The Inhabitants of the great Island which lies to the East of Cape *Suetoinos* pay Contribution to the *Russians* in Skins; but those of another great Island which is to the East of this Country

try about the 50th Deg. of Latit. and whose true Extent eastward is yet unknown, pay none yet.

This Nation is much more civilized and better shaped than their Northern Neighbours; they also diet and go clothed better; they point their Javelins and Arrows with a very sharp Crystal instead of Steel, which render the Wounds they make very difficult to cure.

There is a great deal of Probability that the Tribe of the *Ur-mankatts* is mixt among the other Pagan People, which at present inhabit *Siberia*, to which they are Neighbours, according to the Marks which the Author has given us of them, *p.* 38. and of whom they have since then taken up the manner of Living; for excepting the *Russians* who have settled in *Siberia* since the time that this Nation seized it, and some *Mohammedan Tatars* who are dispersed among the Burrows and Villages on the side of *Tobolskoy*, and who are of the Posterity of those who were in possession of *Siberia* when the *Russians* conquer'd it, all the other People of that vast Continent live in Forests and upon the Banks of Rivers, where they live in Summer by Fishing, and in Winter by Hunting.

Ur-mankatts Tribe.

S I B E R I A N S in General.

Of these [12] Nations, there are none but the *Wogulitzes*, the *Barabinski*, the *Buratti*, the *Kamtzchadales*, and the *Olutorski*, who have fixt Habitations; all the other People of this Country live in Huts. They dwell during the Winter in Forests, seeking Food by Hunting; and in Summer they search the sides of the Rivers in order to subsist by Fishing.

Live by Hunting and Fishing.

The

Travel o-
ver the
Snow in
Sleds.

The Skins of Fish are their Clothing in Summer, and the Skins of Elks and Rein Deer serve them for the same Use in Winter. All their Riches consist in a Bow and Arrows, a Knife, a Hatchet, with a Kettle at the most; and the Scrapings of a certain Wood serves them for a Feather-bed to lie down on. Rein Deers and Dogs serve them instead of Horses, and are more useful to them in Winter than Horses could be, because they can travel on the Snow, which is some times a Pike's depth, without sinking in it as a Horse would; and in this manner four Dogs draw a Sled, very well, loaded with three hundred Pound Weight, for six or eight *German Leagues*. These Sleds are exceeding light, being four or five Ells long, and as much broad, which they must be that a Man may lie down in them.

They are chiefly the *Samoyeds* and the *Yukagri* who make use of Rein Deer in their Carriages, for the rest of these People commonly employ only Dogs.

Dog Posts.

All over the North of *Siberia* there is no other Conveniency for going from one Place to another in Winter but the Dog Posts, which have their Yams or Stages as well regulated, at proper Distances, as the best order'd Posts among us can have: and according as the Traveller is in haste, they increase the Number of Dogs for drawing his Sled.

And Sta-
ges well
regulated.

Places ap-
pointed in
each Go-
vernment
to receive
the Contri-
bution
Skins.

'Tis the same way that the Commissioners of the Treasury of *Siberia*, go in Winter to the Places appointed for that purpose in each Government, to receive the Contributions of those People in Skins, according to the Quality of the Cantons they inhabit. For that purpose they have built in these Places Wooden Houses, where

where the Commissioners repair in Winter, accompany'd with some *Cofaks*, and then all the Heads of Families within the Verge of each Office flock thither with the Quantity of Skins, at which every Family is taxed, that they might not be liable to the Extortions of these Commissioners in case of any Delay.

Of all these People, and divers others which are spread over *Siberia*, there 'are none but the *Tzchalatski*, the *Tzuchtzchi*, the *Olutorski*, and the *Kurilski*, who possess the Southern Point of the Country of *Kamtzchatka*, and the *Kilaki*, who dwell to the North of the Mouth of the River *Amur*, who pay no Contributions hitherto to *Russia*; all the other People of this vast Continent pay without exception, according to the Nature of the different Cantons which they possess.

Their Religion consists for the most part in some Honour which they pay the Sun and Moon, and in the Worship of their Idols. All these different People have commonly two sorts of Idols, *viz.* the Publick which are held in Veneration by a whole People, and the Private which each Master of a Family makes himself in order to pay his Devotion to. Both sorts are commonly no more than round Logs of Wood made round at one end to represent the Head, with a Nose, a Mouth and Eyes very odly shaped; nevertheless some of these People have publick Idols pretty well made, which must come to them from *China*.

The Household Idols are sometimes liable to be very ill treated by these People, when they have reason to believe they don't take care enough of their little Fortune; for on those Occasions they put all the Affronts on them imaginable, so far as to drag them thro' the Dirt with

So the Portuguese treat their St. Anthony on the like Occasions.

with a Cord about the Neck, and throw them into the Fire or the River: But when these poor Creatures think they have reason to be satisfy'd with the Protection of their Idols, there are no Honours which they do not heap upon them after their Manner, by covering them with black Fox Skins and Zibelins, and placing them in the most honourable part of their Cabins: They then grease their Mouths with Fish Fat, and present them with the warm Blood of some Beast newly kill'd, as it were to serve them for Drink.

Report of these People dealing with the Devil false.

What has been spread in the World, about the Commerce which some of these People have with the Devil is a mere Fiction, which owes its Foundation to the great Stupidity of these poor People, and more yet to the Ignorance of the greatest Part of those who resort to them. Nevertheless it is certain there are many among them who take the Name of Conjurers; but they are only Cheats who abuse the Simplicity of those People in order to squeeze some Presents out of them.

Live in a State of Nature.

For the rest, all these People live wholly in a State of Nature, without other Laws than those which the Fathers prescribe to their Families. They marry as many Women as they can maintain, and take no thought for the morrow; they take great care to pay the Debts which they contract, and never do harm to any body unless he begins by doing it to them. They are very mindful of rendering the last Honours to their Dead, according to their several Customs, and observe a great Resignation on the several Accidents of Life.

Punctual in paying their Debts.

Tormented with scorbutick Humours.

As the Nourishment which they are accustomed to take is very unwholesome, and for the most part crude, they are grievously tormented with

with scorbutick Distempers, which eat the Parts infected like a kind of Gangrene, and infect one Part after another till it kills them. The *Samoyeds* especially, and the *Ostiaks* are very subject to these Maladies; but the most of them search after no Remedy, and very patiently see themselves rotting alive, because they say they have no Knowledge in Physick.

Rot alive for want of Remedies.

§ II. *The MOHAMMEDAN Tatars.*

The *Mohammedan Tatars* make the second Part of the present Inhabitants of *Siberia*. They are of the Posterity of those who were in possession of this Country when the *Russians* conquer'd it; the greater Part of whom thought it better to submit to those new Masters, than to follow the desperate Fortune of their *Chan*.

Whence descended.

These *Tatars* dwell for the most part in the Country about *Tobolskoy*, and towards *Tumeen*, and live by Husbandry and the Trade they have with the *Buchars* and *Callmaks*. They possess a great Number of Burrows and Villages along the *Irtis* and the *Tobol*, and have the free Exercise of the *Mohammedan* Religion throughout *Siberia*. In short they enjoy the Protection of *Russia* as much as the natural Subjects of that Empire.

Enjoy Liberty of Conscience.

The *Mohammedan Tatars* of *Siberia* are not by much so ill-favour'd as the other *Mohammedan Tatars*, and have very pretty Women. Their Habit differs very little from the *Russian*, and they testify on all Occasions much Submission to the present Government of *Siberia*.

Women very pretty.

They have some *Murfa's* among them who are as their Chiefs: The most powerful of these petty Princes is called *Shabanoff*, and has his

Govern'd by Murfa's.

Abode

100000
Families
of 'em in
Siberia.

Abode in a Burrow of about seven hundred Houses, four Wersts from *Tobolskoy*. He has above twenty thousand *Tatar* Families under his Obedience, and 'tis suppos'd there are in all about an hundred thousand Families of *Mohammedan Tatars* settled in *Siberia*.

§ III. *The RUSSIANS.*

2000
Burrows
and 30
Towns
built by
the Russi-
ans.

The *Russians* who make the third Part of the Inhabitants of *Siberia*, have settled there since the Country has become subject to *Russia*; and the Number of them has increased so much in so short time, that they have built above thirty Towns since their Arrival in this Country, besides above two thousand large Burrows and Villages which they at present possess in different Cantons of this vast Continent. The Number would have been still greater, if the same inhuman *Waywodes*, whose ill Usage obliges them to quit their Country, did not also follow them into *Siberia*, where they think they have acquir'd a Right of oppressing the People at Discretion, because they are from under the Eye of the Government, and in a conquer'd Country.

Oppression
of the
Way-
wodes.

Nation of
Pied Peo-
ple fictious.

I must not forget to observe here, that there should be in *Siberia* a certain People called by the *Russians Pestrava Orda*, that is to say the Pied Tribe, because they affirm that these People have naturally great black Spots all over the Body, and in the Face, like such as our Horses or other pied Beasts may have: But as among so many Persons who have been upon the Place, of whom I have enquir'd News, I have not met with one who could say he had seen such a Man, and that the late Monarch of *Russia* was

too curious in Matters of this Nature not to have had one of those People at his Court, in case there had really been such a Nation in *Siberia*: I believe that all which is told on that Subject is no more than Fiction.

S E C T. IV.

The Division, Government, Buildings, Towns.

Siberia is at present divided into as many Go-^{Division.}vernments as there are Towns in the Country; each of which hath its *Waywode*, who commands in chief throughout the Jurisdiction of that Town, under the Orders of the Governor General who resides at *Tobolskoy*. This last ^{Tobol-}Post is one of the most honourable, and profitable at the same time, in *Russia*, and the Court ^{skoy} usually nominates to it Persons of the first Quality; but since the last Governor-General of that Country desired to be recalled in 1722, they have thought fit to send only a Vice-Governor thither. ^{Seat of the} ^{Governor.}

The Spiritual Government in *Siberia* is in the ^{And of} Hands of a Metropolitan of the *Greek Church*, ^{the Greek} as establish'd in *Russia*, who resides at *Tobol-* ^{Metropo-} ^{litan.} ^{skoy.}

All the Towns and Villages of *Siberia* are ^{Buildings} built of Wood, after the common Manner of ^{of Wood.} *Russia*; and the Fortifications which most of those Towns have are likewise of Wood, which has been a Defence good enough hitherto against the People who have had no Knowledge of Fire-Arms: But since Powder and Cannon begin to be known to the *Callmaks*, and that the *Chinese* no longer take the Field without a

good Train of Artillery, they will be obliged to fortify the Frontier Towns after the European Manner.

Nerzinskoy.

Nerzinskoy is the only Town which the *Russians* have at present about the River *Amur*. It is situate upon the River *Nerza*, five hundred Toises [or Fathom] from its Fall into the *Amur*, about 52 Degrees 10 Minutes of Latitude and 128 Deg. of Longitude. 'Tis large and well peopled, with a strong Garison, and Cannon sufficient for its Defence in case of an Attack, which is not to be fear'd, considering the great Number of Rivers, and the great Extent of uncultivated Country, which the *Mungals* and *Chinese* have to pass, before they can come at it. The Parts about this Town are very mountainous, but for all that are very fertile.

These Mountains, which extend from the Lake *Baikal* along both sides of the River *Amur*, abound much on its Northern Bank in Mines of Brass, and also of Silver; but hitherto there has been no Conveniency for working therein.

Argunskoy.

The City of *Argunskoy* is situate upon the Northern Bank of the River [*Argun*] in 50 Deg. of Latit. 'Tis the farthest Town which the *Russians* possess at present towards the Frontiers of the *Mungals* of the East, and for that reason they always keep there a good Garison, with whatever else is necessary in a Frontier Town. 'Tis moreover well peopled, and the neighbouring Country very fertile: A great Trade is carry'd on there with the *Murgals* of the Frontiers, which does not fail to bring a great Resort of People from *Siberia*.

At some distance from *Argunskoy*, a small River, to which the *Russians* have given the Name of *Serebrenka*, falls from the North East into the River *Argun*; and it is about this little

River

River that the *Russians* have found Silver Mines, ^{Silver Mines.} which they have begun to work within these ten or twelve Years; hitherto they have indeed drawn much Iron out of it, but very little Silver.

The City of *Selinginskoy*, which is situate a-Selin-
bout the 52 Deg. of Latit. upon the Eastern ^{ginskoy.}
Bank of the River *Selinga*, is the most advanced
Fortress which the *Russians* at present possess on
the Frontiers of *China*. 'Tis by that Place, that
by virtue of the last Treaty of Commerce be-
tween the *Russians* and *Chinese*, the Carawans of
Siberia at present enter into the Lands under
the Dominion of the Emperor of *China*, instead
of passing, as they did heretofore, by *Nerzinskoy*
and *Argun*.

The *Russians* had built formerly a Town of ^{Albassien-}
about five hundred Houses, called *Albassinskoy*, ^{skey}
upon the southern Bank of the *Amur*, at the Place ^{Town.}
where the River *Albassien* falls into it from the
W.S.W. But the *Mungals*, jealous to see the *Rus-* ^{Taken by}
sians seizing by little and little the sides of that ^{the Mungals and}
River, came in the Year 1715 and besieged that ^{Chinese}
Place with the Assistance of t'ie *Chinese*: and ^{in 1717.}
inasmuch as *Russia* was too far engaged at that
time in a War with *Sweden*, to mind much what
was doing in a Country so remote, it fell at last
into their Hands after a Siege of two Years,
and was entirely demolish'd by the Commands ^{demolish'd.}
of the late Emperor of *China*. After *that* it
was agreed on by both Parties, that neither the
Russians nor the *Mungals* should for the time to
come build Towns on the Southern Bank of the
River *Amur* between the River *Argun* and that
of *Albassien*; but that Part should remain in the
Condition it is at present, as a common Bound
between the two Empires.

The Land hereabouts is exceeding fertile. See the River *Amur*.

S E C T. V.

Of the Lakes and Mountains of Siberia.

L A K E S.

Baikal
Lake of
fresh Wa-
ter.

Sea-Dogs.

Angara
the only
River issu-
ing out of
it.

floating
islands.

THE Lake *Baikal* [perhaps *Bai-kol*] may be about thirty *German* Leagues in length from East to West, and fifteen Leagues in its greatest breadth. Its Waters are fresh and white, and greatly abound in all sorts of Fish of an extraordinary Relish and Size. It also breeds Sea-Dogs, which is rare enough in fresh Water Lakes; nevertheless they are found also in the Lake of *Ladoga*, and that of *Onega*, which are to the North of *St. Petersburg*.

'Tis observable, that notwithstanding the great Number of Rivers which fall on all sides into this Lake, the River *Angara* is the only one that issues out of it, which runs to the North West, and empties it self into the *Yemisea* towards *Yemiseiskoy*: and in regard one perceives no other Channel by which that Lake can discharge its Waters, 'tis commonly believ'd in this Country that the great River *Lena*, which has its Spring in the Mountains two days Journey to the North of that Lake, issues out of it by some subterraneous Communication.

There are divers sailing Islands in this Lake, which are driven sometimes to one side, and sometimes to another, according as the Wind changes its Point.

This

This Lake is above fifty Fathom deep all over, and it is very difficult to cross it, as well in Summer as Winter, the least Wind raising upon it frightful Tempests, which supported by the great Depth of the Water are a long time before they come to a Calm: They make also in Winter Crevices in the Ice of some Pikes Breadth, which are very dangerous to Travelers. The Place where this Lake is passed in Winter by means of Sleds, is not above six good Leagues over.

The *Osera Teleskoy* [called by the *Callmaks Al-Osera Teleskoy*] is situate towards the 52 Deg. of Latit. North of the Lake *Sayffan*, and may be about 18 Leagues long and 12 broad: It is in this Lake that the great River *Oby* has its Source.

M O U N T A I N S.

Nature has separated *Russia* from *Siberia* by a long Chain of very high Mountains. Those Mountains begin at the Shore of the icy Sea, opposite to the Strait of *Nassaw*, and the new Country which the *Russians* call *Nova Semla*, and run directly from North to South, till having joined the River *Wolga* on the other side of the Town of *Samara*, they take the Name of *Arall-tag*, or the Mountain of the *Eagles*; from thence they turn off to the East South East, and running continually between *Siberia* and *Grand Tatory* they sink insensibly whilst they advance Eastward, insomuch that at last they appear but like common Hills, by the time they arrive in the North of *Turkestan*. In this Condition they continue running along the Borders of this Country, till coming to about the 50° of Latit. and 93 of Longit. they rise again to be high Mountains, and to the North of the *Cas-*

*Divides
into two
Branches
Uluk-tag.*

Kitzik-tag.

pian Sea divide themselves into two Branches: of which the first, called by the *Tatars Uluk-tag*, that is to say the great Mountain, runs directly East till it meets the River *Irtis* to the North of the Lake *Sayssan*; and the second called *Kitzik-tag*, or the Little Mountain, takes its Course southward towards the *Bucharias*. 'Tis of these two Branches that mention is made Page 10.

*Marshes in
the midst
of these
Moun-
tains.*

*Way in
Summer.*

I shall observe here, that one cannot go from *Russia* into *Siberia* without crossing this Chain of Mountains, which they effect by means of Sleds; for in the Summer 'tis absolutely impossible to pass them, because of the great Marshes which possess the middle Part of these Mountains throughout, and the only way in Summer of passing into *Siberia* is to sail up the Rivers *Kama* and *Susawaya*, which falls into the *Kama* from the South East, till you come to a Place called *Utka*, from whence you travel by Land to the River *Nevia*, on which you may pass down the Stream as far as *Tobolskoy*; but it is more than an hundred Leagues about, and besides that extremely fatiguing, by reason of the Rapidity of the Rivers *Kama* and *Susawaya*, which one must mount against the Stream.

*Excellent
Iron.*

*Cannon
of that
Iron as
good as
Brass.*

The best Iron in all *Russia*, and possibly in the whole World, which is known in that Country by the Name of Iron of *Siberia*, comes from these Mountains: 'Tis smelted and wrought with as much ease as Copper, and I have seen Cannons of this sort of Iron, which were not inferior to Brass Cannons, [either for Beauty or Goodness.

There is also nigh the ordinary Road, which is taken in the Winter to pass those Mountains in the way from *Solikamskoy*, which is the last Town of *Russia*, to *Werkaturia*, which is the first

first Town of *Siberia*, a very high Mountain which the *Russians* call *Geswinka Kamen*; the top whereof consists of a Plain of four Wersts in Diameter, where there is found much Silver *silver* Oar, and very rich; but to this Day they have *Mine* not been able to work there because of the North Wind which blows almost throughout the Year, with so great Violence, that there is no defending the Miners; neither is it good to stay any time upon the top of this Mountain, which properly is no other than the beginning of Mount *Caucasus*.

S E C T. VI.

Of the Rivers of Siberia.

THE River *Tura* has its Rise in that Part of *River Tura:* Mount *Caucasus* which separates *Siberia* from *Russia* in $59^{\circ} 30'$ Latit. to the North of the Kingdom of *Casan*, and running thence to the E. S. E. joins the River *Tobol* in $57^{\circ} 40'$ Lat. at some distance from the Town of *Tumeen*.

This River is very full of Fish, and its Banks *Fishy.* are very pleasant, and abound with all sorts of Game. The finest grey Squirrels of all *Siberia* *Finest grey Squirrels thereabouts.* come from the Country about this River; but the Inhabitants are not permitted to sell them to any but the Commissaries of the Treasury of *Siberia*. [The *Wogulitzi* dwell about this River.]

[The Country of *Tura*, mention'd p. 151. seems to take its Name from this River, as has been observ'd, p. 454.]

The River *Oby* which has its Rise from the *River Oby.* *Oseroy Teleskoy*, or *Altan Nor*, bears at first the

Name of *By*, and does not take that of *Oby* till after it has receiv'd the Waters of the River *Cbatun*, which falls into it from the S.E. about twenty Leagues from the *Osero Teleskoy*. The Course of the River *Oby* is nearly N.W. till such time as the River *Irtis* falls into it, coming from the S.S.W. in 60 Deg. 40 Min. of Latit. after which it turns directly North, and runs and empties it self about the 65th Deg. of Latit. into the *Guba Tassaukoya*, by which its Waters are carry'd into the icy Sea, over against *Nova Semla*, about the 70th Deg. of Latit. after a Course of about 500 Leagues.

Full of
Fish.

This great River abounds exceedingly in all kinds of Fish : Its Waters are pure and light, and its Sides are very high, and every where cover'd with great Forests ; but they are not cultivated, except in very few Places towards *Tomskoy* and *Kujnetzskoy*. There are found upon the Banks of the *Oby* very fair Stones of a fine Grain ; and among others transparent Stones red and white, every way resembling Agats, which the *Russians* have in great Esteem.

Sort of Agats found
in it.

No Towns
on it but
those
built by
the *Russians*.

There are no other Towns along the sides of this River, but those the *Russians* have built since they possessed themselves of *Siberia*. The great Number of Rivers which come from both sides, to mix their Waters with those of this River, inlarge it to that degree, that at the Town of *Narym*, above 150 Leagues from its Disembogation, it is half a League broad.

Guba Tassaukoy.

The *Guba Tassaukoya*, thro' which the River *Oby* discharges itself into the Icy Sea, is a great Gulf of that Sea, of which to this Day we have had little or no Knowledge. It extends from the 65th Degree, as far as the Straits of *Nassaw*, and is not less than seventy *German* Leagues in its greatest Breadth. Considering that besides
the

the *Oby*, the Rivers *Nadim*, *Pur* and *Tafs*, and a great Number of lesser Streams empty themselves in it, 'tis no wonder that the Waters of this Gulf should be fresh till very near the *Waygat*. Its Bottom is all over Clay, and pretty even: and inasmuch as the Cold in those Quarters is too excessive for all the Ice of the *Guba* to melt intirely in the Summer, it is continually cover'd with Pieces of Ice, which float from one side to the other upon this Gulf, according as the Winds and Current drive them: which is the Reason that the Stroufes, or Boats of the *Russians*, dare not venture far into the *Guba*.
 When the Spring happens to be so mild that the Ice which comes down the River *Oby* and *Yenisea* melts before it gets to the Mouths of those Rivers, then the Waters of the *Oby*, the *Yenisea*, the *Irtis*, and all the other Rivers which have a Communication with them, are low during all the Year: but if the Spring proves cold and moist, so that the Mouths of those Rivers are block'd up by the Ice, then they commonly swell in such a manner that they overflow on all sides, and cause all the other Rivers which have Communication with them to do the like.

The River which the *Russians* call *Yenisea* [and *Ab:lgazi Chan*, *Ikar*, or *Ikran Muran*] has its Springs directly to the South of the Springs of the *Selinga*, about the 45th Deg. of Latit. Its Course is at first N. W. but about the 47th Deg. of Latit. it turns of a sudden to the North, and afterwards keeps constantly the same Course, until after having run above 500 Leagues, it empties it self in the icy Sea at 71 Deg. of Latit.

The River *Yenisea* is one of the greatest Rivers in the World; its Waters are very pure and good, but it does not abound much with Fish.

No sailing
for Strou-
fes or
Boats on
the Guba.

Yenisea
River, or
Ikran Mu-
ran.

Fish. From its Springs as far as the 52d Deg its Banks are inhabited by the *Mungals* and *Callmaks*, but from thence to its Mouth it passes only thro' Countries subject to the *Russians*. The Town of *Abakan* towards the 53d Deg. 30 Min. of Latit. is the farthest Settlement which the *Russians* have on this River to the South; and the Town of *Turukan* at 65 Deg. of Latit. the farthest Settlement North. This great River receives in its Passage thro' so great a length of Country the Waters of so many Rivers which fall into it on both sides, that about 200 Leagues from its Mouth at the Town of *Yeniseiskoy* in 59° 10' of Latit. *it is a good half League in breadth, and towards its Mouth above five Leagues.

Yeniseiskoy.

In the Spring when the Snow begins to melt, this River, as well as those of the *Oby* and *Lena*, sometimes swell to such a degree that they carry along with them considerable Pieces of Mountains which they meet in their way; and it is in these Places that they find very often beyond the 60th Deg. of Latit. deep in the frozen Earth, a kind of Horns which in all respects resemble Ivory; they have the Colour, the Lustre, the Veins, and even the hardness of it, and differ from the true Ivory only in this, that they are more brittle, and consequently more difficult to be wrought, and that they sooner lose their first Whiteness and grow yellowish. These Horns are commonly of seventy or eighty Pound Weight: the Inhabitants of the Country give them the Name of *Mamut*, but they know not to this minute what they really are; some pretending they are the Teeth of Elephants drown'd in the

Horns like Ivory.

Mamut.

[* By *Isbrandt Ide's Map*, where he pretends the Places he passed thro' were set down according to his Observation, *Yenizeiskoy* lies in about 56° 40' of Latit. but *de Lisle* raises it to 64 Deg. in his published in 1723.]

universal Deluge, and preserv'd to this Day in the frozen Earth of these Quarters ; others affirming that they are the Horns of a great Beast which lives under Ground, and dies as soon as he comes to breathe the Air : Moreover they give an exact and circumstantial Description of it, which to me has altogether the Air of Invention, no one having hitherto been able to vouch that he hath seen such a Beast. What may be depended on is, that I have learned from the Mouth of many Persons of Distinction, that they have seen these Horns with a Piece of the Skull fasten'd to them ; that they have also seen entire Jaw Bones of this pretended Beast, with Teeth of eighteen or twenty pound Weight each ; but that it was impossible for them to know for certain if they were true Bone, or some other Substance ; and that in as many of these Horns as they have seen, they have observ'd all the Roots to be hollow, and filled with a certain Matter resembling dry and coagulated Blood.

[There are commonly found in *Ireland* Horns with the Scull of a Beast called the *Moose*, of such Dimensions as demonstrate it to have been of a vast size, yet no such Beasts are now to be seen there ; nor do the Histories of the Country, as far as I can find, give any Account of them, or have the People any Tradition relating to such Animals.]

The River *Argun* carries its Waters into the *River Amur* ; and as this great River is very little known to this time, I shall give some small Description of it in this Place.

In the Mountains which run between the *Selinga* and the River *Argun*, towards the 50th Deg. of Latit. two Rivers have their Springs ; of which that which is nearest the *Selinga* is called

led *Ingoda*, and the other *Onon*. These two Rivers after having run separately long enough from the S. S. W. to the N. N. E. join at length about the 52d Deg. 30 Min. of Latit. and take the Name of *Shilka*; that River running thence E. S. E. receives about the 135th Deg. of Longit. the Waters of the River *Argun*, and then changing again its Name it takes that of *Amur*, which it retains thence-forward till it falls into the Gulf of *Kamtzchatka*, about the 44th Deg. 30 Min. of Latit. and 152 Deg. of Longit. From the Place where it takes the Name of *Shilka* to its Mouth, its Course is constantly E. S. E.

Course.

The River *Amur* is not less than 400 Leagues in Length, reckoning from its Springs; and as several considerable Rivers discharge themselves on both sides into this great River, its Breadth at the Mouth is not less than 6 Leagues.

*Between
Moun-
tains.*

Its Banks are very high, and bounded on either side by great Chains of Mountains interspersed here and there with little Valleys of an extraordinary Fertility. Its Waters are clean and good, abounding with all sorts of excellent Fish. It is of a great Depth all along, and near *Nerzinskoy*, where the River *Nerza* falls into it from the N. N. W. it is as broad as the *Rhine* at the Town of *Arnheim* in *Guelderland*, and deep enough to bear Gallies.

*Divides
Siberia
from the
Mungals.*

This River makes at present the Frontier between the Country of the *Mungals*, who are subject to *China*, and the eastern Part of *Siberia* which belongs to the *Russians*. By virtue of the last Treaty between the two Empires [after the demolishing of the Town of *Albassin*] the two sides of that River, from its Springs to the Place where it begins to take the Name of *Amur*, belong to *Russia*, and the River *Argun* determines the Limits of it with its southern Bank, as the

Gorbitza

Gorbitza determines them with its northern Bank. But from the River *Argun* to the Mouth of the *Amur*, all the southern Bank of that great River is in the Possession of the *Mungals* subject to *China*; and with regard to its northern Bank it is stipulated, that the *Russians* should not build any Towns to the East of the River of *Gorbitza*.

The Land about the Place where *Albassinskoy Banks* formerly stood, is so fertile, that the Harvest of one ^{til.} Years sowing was sufficient to support the Inhabitants of the Town for three Years: And they pretend that in the Year 1721 there still grew Corn, of its own accord, sown ever since the Year 1716, which was the last wherein the *Russians* sowed Grain there.

The Parts about the River *Amur* afford ^{Skins.} much Skins; but those which are found on the South side of the River fall very short in Goodness of those which are found on the northern side.

Since the *Mungals* of the East have been in *The People* possession of *China*, the Inhabitants of *Corea* ^{of Corea} come by the River *Amur*, ascending the Rivers ^{come up} *Songora* and *Sbingal* to trade with the *Mungals*; ^{the River} and they advance at present as far as the *Naun*, ^{to trade.} which is a Town that the *Mungals* and the *Chinese* have built some years ago upon the River *Nauda*, in 46 Deg. of Latit. and 136 Deg. of Longit.

S E C T. VII.

Of the Icy Sea and Streights of Waygat: Asia
not contiguous to America

*Icy Sea,
or Azoch
Zingis.*

THE northern Coast of *Siberia* is washed by the Icy Sea, which is bounded on the West side by the Streights of *Nassaw*, and by *Nova Semla*, or the new Country (the Extent of which is unknown to this Day) to the N. E. 'Tis this Sea which is referr'd to, p. 39. by the Name of *Azoch Zingis*, or bitter Sea, which implies in general all Seas whose Waters are salt; and it is for that reason that the *Callmaks* give that Name as well to the Icy Sea, as to the Sea of *Japon* and the *Caspian* Sea, which are the three Seas known to them.

*Streights
of Nassaw,
Waygat,
or Waigat.*

The Streights of *Nassaw*, commonly called *Waygat*, is inclosed on both sides from the N. E. of the Isle of the *States*, which is at the Entrance of the *Waygat*, far beyond to the N. E. of the Mouth of the River *Yenisea*, by a Range of Rocks of Ice of a prodigious Height, which running nearly from West to East hinders the Sun from penetrating enough in Winter to melt the Ice in this Strait; insomuch that it never thaws, unless some violent Storm, raised by the N. E. Wind which reigns most in this Streight, comes and breaks the Ice, which does not long continue so.

*Rocks of
Ice.*

In all Probability 'tis these two Ranges of icy Rocks, whose Height increases every Year, which make the North Wind so piercing in the neighbouring Countries which lie almost directly South of *Nova Semla*, that it is almost impossible to guard sufficiently against it. The *Sa-moyeds* and *Ostiaks* which dwell beside the *Guba* and

and the Icy Sea, pass from time to time these Rocks and the Streights, to go into *Nova Semla* and hunt Bears, Elks, and Rein Deer; but they take care not to advance far for fear of the North Wind, which especially in Winter infallibly kills all those whom it surprizes in the Plain: And forasmuch as these People can tell by certain Tokens when that Wind is coming, they retire to the Entrance of some Cavern shelter'd from the North, in order to have it in their Power to lodge themselves in case of need un- till the Wind changes: However, let them take what Measures they will on that Occasion, they always leave some of their Company behind them; on which Account there are not many that will venture to go there: and 'tis for this same Reason that we cannot tell exactly whether this Country be inhabited or not.

In regard the Streight between *Nova Semla* and *Siberia* is always cover'd with Ice, there is no sailing for Vessels out of the River *Oby* or *Yenisea* which have their Mouths in this Streight: But from the *Lena* and other Rivers to the East of that great River, they pass out in Summer going along the Coast from one River to another to carry on their Traffick: But in order to that they must be careful to mind the Wind, and nick the Opportunity when the Ice is dispersed by the South Wind which comes from the Landward; for as soon as it changes and shifts about to the North, they must immediately seek to shelter themselves in the neighbouring Bays and little Rivers, seeing that as many of them as the Ice intercepts in their Return are infallibly dash'd to pieces.

It has been believ'd till the present, that *Asia* was joined on the N.E. to North *America*, and that for this Reason it was impossible to sail from

*North
Wind sail-
tal.*

*No sailing
till beyond
the Yeni-
sea for the
Ice.*

*Asia not
contiguous
to Ame-
rica.*

from the Icy Sea into the eastern Ocean ; but since the Discovery of the Country of *Kamtzchatka*, 'tis known for certain that *America* is not contiguous to *Asia*, for the *Russian* Ships coasting the firm Land, pass at present Cape *Suetoi Nos*, or *Holy Cape*, and go traffick with the *Kamtzchadals* upon the Coast of the eastern Sea, about the 50th Deg. of Latit. but they must for this purpose pass between the Continent and a great Island which lies to the N. E. of Cape *Suetoi Nos*. It is so lately since the Country of *Kamtzchatka* has been discover'd, and it is so remote from the other Dominions of *Russia*, that we have not yet come to an exact Knowledge of it ; what has been already related is all that I have been able to learn for certain of it, after a diligent Enquiry.





SOME
OBSERVATIONS

CONCERNING

GREAT RUSSIA, TURKEY,
ARABIA, PERSIA, INDIA
and CHINA.

PART II.

CHAP. I.

OBSERVATIONS *relating to*
GREAT RUSSIA.

SECT. I.

Its Extent, Bounds, Nature of the Soil, Commodities.



RUSSIA in it self, exclusive of Si-
beria, extends at present from the ^{Extent.}
Town of Terki near the Caspian Sea,
situate in $43^{\circ} 15'$ of Latit. as far as
Petzora towards the Waygat, situate
in 70 Deg. and from the western Point of the
Ile of Oesel in 41 Deg. of Longit. to the Moun-
tains

tains of *Eagles* [*Aral-tag*] to the East of the Town of *Casim*, situate in 78 Deg. of Longit. which does not contain less than a Space of 400 *German Leagues* from South to North, and 350 Leagues from West to East.

Boun:ds.

'Tis bounded on the North by the Icy Sea, on the East by that Part of *Caucasus*, called the *Mountain of Eagles*; on the South by *Persia* and *Turkey*, and to the West by *Poland*, the *Baltic Sea* and *Sweden*.

Never afflicted with a general Scarcity.

This vast Country enjoys this great Advantage, that as it is situate under divers Climates, it is never afflicted with a general Scarcity; for if Corn does not thrive in *Lithonia*, it does in *Ucraina*, and if not in *Ucraina*, it grows in the Kingdom of *Casim*, or about the Springs of the *Volga* and the *Dnieper*. And forasmuch as all those different Provinces are extremely fertile, 'tis enough if one of them affords a good Harvest to supply the Necessities of all the rest; so that *Russia* finds Relief within it self in such publick Calamities.

Soil fruitful below 60 Degrees.

Corn ripens in very few Places beyond 60 Deg. of Latit. but below that all the Country is exceeding fertile in all sorts of Grains, and even Fruits. Towards the Mouth of the River *Dnieper* and the Coast of the *Palus Mæotis*, the Soil is very good for Vines; and about *Astracan*, there are Places to be found where Mulberries thrive as well as they do in *Lombardy*; but the Wine they make is very poor, tho the Grapes 'tis made of have an excellent Flavour, and are extraordinary large.

Mulberry Wine.

Commodities.

The principal Commodities which are brought at present from *Russia*, are Furs, Leather, Corn, Tallow, Hemp, Cavear, Rhubarb, Potashes, Singlafs, Sails, Timber, Wax, Honey, Hogs Bristles, Pitch and Tar of all sorts, and Feathers:

thers: In a word, would they but a little improve the Advantage this Country possesses, it would soon surpass all the rest of *Europe*, whereas few of the *European* Dominions exceed *Russia*.

One meets with as many Melons in *Moscow* ^{Delicious} as in any Place in the World, and so cheap, ^{Melons called Buchar-} that a very fine one may be had for the Value ^{ski.} of a Penny; however the biggest are not the best, for there is a sort of Melons which are very little, and quite round like Oranges, with a green Rind, and these are the best, not yielding in the least to the choicest Melons of *Tours*, if they do not even surpass them. These Melons are called *Bucharski*, because the Seed of them comes from *Great Bucharia*.

There grows a particular kind of Apples in *Transpa-* the Gardens about that City, which have the ^{rent Ap-} Quality of being quite transparent as an Apple ^{ples.} of Wax may be; so that when they are full ripe, one may count all the Pippins which are in the Apple, holding it up to the Light. These Ap- ^{Of an ex-} ples are very juicy, and of an excellent Taste; ^{quisite Taste.} the *Russians* call them *Nalivi*. 'Tis plain that it is the Soil about *Moscow* abounding exceedingly with Salt Petre which gives them that Quality; for some of the principal foreign Merchants of that Town have assured me that they have sent ^{Trans-} Trees from thence to *Holland* and *England*, but ^{planted} that the Apples which those Trees bore in those ^{they lose} Countries have not been more transparent than ^{that Qua-} the common Apples of those Parts; and that ^{lity.} on the other hand Trees sent from thence to *Moscow* have taken the Quality of the *Nalivi*.

The great Cucumbers green and full of Wa- ^{Excellent} ter, which our Physicians maintain to be very ^{Cucum-} unwholesom, and which truly in these Climates ^{bers.}

are so, have a quite contrary Quality in *Russia*, seeing they sweeten and cool the Blood without loading in the least the Stomach; so that let one eat what Quantity one will, he shall never find himself disorder'd by them, especially if they be kept in salt Pickle.

*The Animal Plant
a Fiction.*

[*Kæmpfer* has shewn that the *Agnus Scythicus*, or *Boromets*, commonly called the Animal Plant, supposed to be produced in the southern Part of the *Tsar's* Dominions, about the Kingdom of *Astrachan*, and confidently reported by so many Authors, is a meer Fiction, occasioned by the Affinity between that Word, *viz.* *Boromets* and the *Russian Borannets* (in the *Polish Boranek*) whereby is denoted certain Sheep about the *Caspian* Sea, in the *Bulgarian Tatory* and *Chowarazm*. See the Preface to *Dr. Kæmpfer's History of Japan*, and his *Amœnitates Exoticæ*.]

S E C T. II.

*The Original, Name, and Qualities of the
RUSSIANS.*

*Russians
Original.*

THE Orientals pretend that the *Russians* draw their Original from *Russ*, fourth Son of *Japhet*. This is certain, that they have been always known to their Neighbours by the Name of *Russians*, and that they did not begin to call them *Muscovites*, but since the *Tsars* of *Russia* establish'd their Residence in the City of *Moscow*.

*Name of
Muscovites
not known
till of late.*

[We are inform'd by the Author of the *Life* of the late *Tsar*, that the *Russians* disown the Name of *Muscovites*, which other Nations have given

given them, not themselves, upon *Daniel Alexandrowitz* taking the Title of Duke of *Moskwa* in 1300, and removing his Residence [from *Wolodimer*] but the Name of *Moscovy* must be the oldest of the two according to Mr. *le Croix* the younger, in his Notes on the History of *Timur-bec*, where p. 180 of the *English* Edition he affirms that *Urufs Chan*, Cotemporary with *Timur-bec*, gave the Name to all *Russia*, of which he was Sovereign. But without doubt he fell into this great Absurdity by mistaking *Urufs Chan*, King of *Kissak*, and Conqueror of *Russia*, for *Rufs* the Son of *Japhet*, to whom the Orientals ascribe the Founding of the Nation of the *Vrusses*, or *Russians*.

The Nation of the *Russians* is so well known at present, that there is no Necessity to speak of it in this Place; and those who would fully satisfy their Curiosity upon this Head, need only read the Relation written sometime ago by the *Sieur Olearius*, which is as particular and faithful as can be desir'd. But if to that one adds the Account given of that Country, which Mr. *Weber* Minister of the Court of *Hanover* residing at *St. Petersburg* has lately publish'd, he will be thorowly inform'd of every thing relating to it.

Nevertheless I cannot forbear observing by the way, that there are not to be found in any Country of *Europe* Peasants so well made and ingenious as are the Peasants of *Russia*. They are commonly of a middle size, but well set, with broad Shoulders, and have all Legs finely shaped. They also run as well as *Biscayers*, and 'tis a Pleasure to see with what Agility they skip over the Hedges and Ditches which lie in their way; whereas most of the other Peasants of

Europe are clumsy and stiff, narrow shoulder'd, and without either Buttocks or Calfs to their Legs.

Witty
to Admi-
ration.

The *Peasants* of *Russia* don't only surpass all other Peasants in the Exterior, but they exceed them yet infinitely farther in point of Wit and sprightlineſs of Imagination; and I have often been charm'd to ſee with what Eaſe they imitate Instruments and Machines which they never ſaw before. In ſhort the Difference is ſo great in this Reſpect betwixt the Peasants of *Russia* and thoſe of *Poland* and *Livonia*, who are their Neighbours, that the laſt ſeem to be perfect Loggerheads compar'd with the firſt. They are beſides very induſtrious and good at Invention, ſo that they might ſoon get over that Miſery, which one ſees the greateſt part of them live in, if they did not know too well that all which they ſhould do to that purpoſe would not bring them out of it, and would only ſerve to enrich the Lords, whoſe Slaves they are, or their Officers; and hence ariſes that great Sloth with which they are commonly accuſed: for otherwiſe, when they can reckon what they get by their Labour as their own, they are far from being idle.

harden'd
to Inſenſi-
bility.

With theſe good Qualities which the Peasants of *Russia* poſſeſs, it muſt be own'd they are Thieves, Robbers, Drunkards, and harden'd beyond any thing that can well be imagin'd. If a *Russian* Peaſant has once reſolv'd to conceal a thing, there is no getting him to ſpeak, tho he ſhould be cut Limb from Limb; of which I have my ſelf ſeen very remarkable Inſtances. The greateſt Criminals among them ſuffer the moſt cruel Death, with an Unconcern'dneſs enough to ſhock the moſt inſenſible Spectators, and one would be apt to attribute that great In-
difference

difference which they shew for Life to some exalted stoical Sentiments, if it was not well known that they have no Notion of those sorts of sublime Opinions, and that 'tis nothing but a Desire of seeing an End to their Miseries which makes them face Death, if not with Pleasure, at least with a very visible Tranquility. I have *Instances* seen a Peasant broken alive upon the Wheel for *of it.*

robbing on the Highway, ask for Garlick and eat it with a good Appetite upon the Rack on Sunday at Noon, after having had all the Bones of his Arms and Legs broken on the Friday before, without shewing the least sign of Pain, during a full half Hour that I was looking at that unhappy Wretch. Another Peasant having been hang'd by the Ribs for the same Crime in the Town of *Moscow*, the Soldier who was on Duty near the Gibbet, observing a Silk Handkerchief about his Head, which was the Remains of his Robbery, had a mind for it: and as the Robber seem'd to be near his End, he concluded he had already lost his Senses, wherefore with a crooked Stick he endeavour'd to draw the Handkerchief off his Head; but every time the Soldier put his Stick near it, the Robber, who very well understood his Design, gave a Twist with his Body to the Hook at which he hung, which made him turn like a Top; so that the Soldier could not possibly gain his End: Nevertheless as he had a great Desire for the Handkerchief, and the Hour for his being reliev'd drew nigh, he came to an Agreement with the Robber, which was, that the Soldier should pay him half a Pint of Brandy, and then he would let him take the Handkerchief. According to that Agreement, the Soldier having fasten'd the half Pint with the Brandy at the end of a Stick, and made him drink it off in that

manner, the Robber let him take the Handkerchief, and died some Hours after. I thought fit to give the Reader these two Instances of the Insensibility of the common People of that Nation, to enable them to judge thereby of the rest.

*Cradles
not used
by the
Russians.*

'Tis observable, that the ordinary People of *Russia* don't employ Cradles to rest their Children in as we do, rocking them from side to side, but they make use of a Board about three Foot square, hung by four Cords of equal length which are fasten'd to the four Corners of the Board, and keep it exactly level: These Cords end at a Pole which depends in balance from the Ceiling of the Room, at one end of which that Board is hung as the Scale to its Beam, and at the other end a Cord is fasten'd, by means of which they gently to's the *Infant* which lies upon the Board. I know not if it be not owing to this way of sleeping their Children that the *Russians* are so little subject to Distempers in the Head; at least this gentle Motion up and down seems to me more proper to preserve and strengthen the natural Situation of the tender Parts of the Head of an Infant, than the violent Rocking of our Cradles from side to side.

*Fair Women
rare
in Russia.*

Russia is the Country for fine Hands and beautiful black. Eyes fair Women are very rare, and the Princess *Elizabeth*, Daughter of the late Emperor of *Russia*, is almost the only comely fair Woman that I have seen in all *Russia*.

*Pickled
Apples.*

When the Ladies visit one another, they always cause a small Collation of all sorts of Sweetmeats and Fruits to be served up; and on these Occasions a Plate of pickled Apples, which do not differ much from rotten Apples, is a Collation which they prefer for the most part to all other Dainties.

If

If *Russia* was peopled proportionable to its ^{Not half} vast Extent, it would be formidable to all *Eu-*^{so populous} *rope*; but considering the great Forests and o-^{as Ger-}ther uncultivated Parts which still are found ^{many, tho} there, it has not half so many Inhabitants as ^{four times} Germany, tho it be near four times as big. Ne-^{as big.}vertheless there are Parts of it as well peopled and cultivated as the best Lands in *France* or *Germany*; such are the sides of the River *Wol-
dowa*, from *Novogorod* as far as the Lake of *Ladoga*, the Banks of the River *Twerza*, those of the Rivers *Occa* and *Kama*; and, in short, several other Quarters of that vast Country.

S E C T. III.

The Government of RUSSIA, and of the City
of MOSCOW.

THAT which contributes much to the ^{Severity of} dispeopling *Russia*, is the Severity of the ^{the Go-} Government; for as all the Peasants there are ^{dispeoples} Slaves, the Gentleman and his Stewards, or ^{it.} *Prikashiks*, who are upon the Spot, begin by pillaging them without Mercy: and inasmuch as every time one of those Gentlemen falls in disgrace at Court all his Lands are ordinarily confiscated to the Government, every one makes what haste he can to fleece the poor Tenant, in order to provide against Accidents; so that afterwards when the Crown comes to demand Contributions, the Peasant has nothing left to pay it. And as the Receivers of the Contributions are not accustom'd to give much Credit, they are not contented with completing the
Plunder

Plunder of the Peasant, but they also abuse him so into the Bargain, that reduced to Despair he abandons his Family, and goes either to rob upon the Highway, or seek Shelter in the Neighbouring Countries; which is so notoriously true, that within these ten or twelve Years, above 200000 Subjects of *Russia* have fled, some into *Poland* and *Turkey*, others into the Mountains of *Caucasus* and *Georgia*, and even among the *Tatars* and *Callmaks*, being persuaded they cannot fare worse than they did at home; which would not happen in case the Landlord was obliged to pay the Contribution for the Tenant, as is practis'd in all the Provinces of *Germany* where the Subjects are Slaves, for then he would do his best to preserve his Peasants, because their Indigence would bring a Charge upon him, whereas at present he does all he can to ruin them. And when the Gentleman would have the Preservation of his Tenants at heart they would not be so fond of becoming Refugees, where they know they will not be better treated; for in reality the Contributions are very moderate in *Russia*, and 'tis only the Manner of exacting them, and the extraordinary Avarages with which the Subjects are loaded, which ruin them. So that would the Government abate but a little of its despotick Maxims, and restrain the Superiors from fleecing the Inferiors so inhumanly as they do, there is no doubt but in twenty Years time *Russia* would have double the Number of Inhabitants; whereas within these twenty Years they are diminish'd one third.

200000
Peasants
abandon'd
Russia
within
these 12
Years.

A Remedy
proposed.

Contribu-
tions mo-
derate in
Russia.

The Title
of Czaar
is
derived.

'Tis commonly thought that the Title of *Czaar* [or rather *Tsar*, as Mr. *Concet* assures us it should be written] which belongs to the Monarchs of *Russia*, signifies the same as *Cæsar*,
or

or Emperor; but 'tis a Mistake, seeing the *Russian* Language has no other Word to signify a Prince or Sovereign but that of *Czaar*, just as the *Tatar* Language has no other but that of *Chan*: and this is so notorious, that before the Reign of the *Czaar Ivan Wafilowitz*, they gave in the *Russian* Language the Name of *Czaar* to all the neighbouring Princes; for the Term *Caroll* which is made use of at present in the *Russian* Tongue to signify a King is perfectly new, and owes its Original to the Differences which the *Russians* have had from time to time, for these two Ages past, with the Crown of Sweden.

There is very little Silver Money in this vast Country, and 'tis most certain that the whole Revenue of *Russia* does not amount to 8 Millions of *Rubels per Ann.* so that it is astonishing with so small a Revenue how the late Emperor of *Russia* was able for so many Years to maintain so expensive a War abroad, and at the same time execute so many grand Designs at home. but it must be confess'd a despotick Government has great Helps, and can compass what would not be possible for another. This great Scarcity of Money is the Cause that the Number of *Russian* Troops, since their being establish'd on a regular Footing, is not proportioned as yet to the vast Extent of its Frontiers, and they have not been able hitherto to find the necessary Funds to maintain more; so that *Russia* to bring at present 60000 Men into the Field must quite drain its Frontiers, as appear'd very plain in the last War with the *Turks*.

M O S K W A,

M O S K O W A, or M O S C O W.

*Moskwa
described.*

*Scambling
ill-built
Town.*

As we have several Descriptions of this City, I refer the Reader to them, and shall content my self with saying in a few words, that *Moscow* is at present a great scambling Town, which has many Parts of it lying waste, several little darksome ill-built Churches, and Streets impassable in any other Season but Winter. Three fourths of the Houses of the Town are of Wood, and those that are of Brick are more like Prisons than Palaces, as they call them in the *Russian* Language, for all the Rooms of them are vaulted, with Windows extremely small, and guarded with great Iron Bars to keep out the Thieves, which darken these Houses very much. They have besides this Iron Shutters and Doors, to prevent the Flames in case of Fires, (which are very frequent in this Town on account of the wooden Houses,) from catching hold of them: Nevertheless there are three or four which might pass for Palaces in case of Necessity.

*Castle ruinous but
splendid.*

The Castle which is called *Cremelin* is indeed of great Extent, but there is nothing to be seen all thro' it but Rubbish, and Buildings threatening Ruin. The finest thing to be seen in it are some Towers, whose Tops are gilded over with great Magnificence, and a vast Silver Branch hung in the great Church which stands in the Court of the Castle; and I really believe it is the greatest Piece of that kind now in *Europe*: It was a Present of the *Dutch* to the Court of *Russia*. Because of the bad Condition of this Castle, the late Emperor of *Russia* always when he came to *Moscow* went to lodge in the Suburb called *Preobraschinskoy*, where he had a little wooden House
just

just like one of the other private Houses of the Town.

There was formerly a very pretty Church in *Church* this Town, with a very fine Steeple, which Prince *consumed* *Mentzikoff* built after the *Italian* Manner, and *by Light-* which was a great Ornament to *Moscow*; but *ning.* both Church and Steeple were in the Year 1723 consumed by Lightning which fell upon it. For the Melons and transparent Apples produced near this City, see *Seet. I.*

S E C T. IV.

The Rivers of RUSSIA.

AS large as *Russia* is, it is wash'd on all sides *Full of* by many great Rivers extraordinary fishy, *great Ri-* molt of which are navigable; for the *Wolga,* *vers.* the *Occa*, the *Don*, the *Kama*, the *Dwina*, the *Twerza* and the *Wolchow*, are Rivers running thro' the Heart of the Country, and yet they all carry Boats, and even great loaded ones, which is something very extraordinary, and at the same time very advantageous to *Russia*, on account of the Trade and Communication which the different Provinces may by their means carry on with each other.

The River *Wolga*, which the *Tatars* call *Atell,* *River* is one of the greatest Rivers in the World; it *Wolga, or* rises in the Lake *Wronow*, at a small distance *Atell.* from the Town of *Rzeva Ulodimerski* in *Russia*, towards the Frontiers of *Lithuania*, in $56^{\circ} 15'$ of Latit. After a Course of two Leagues it passes thro' the Lake of *Wolgo*, and at its going out of it, it begins to take the Name of *Wolga*. Near the Town of *Twer*, which is about twenty Leagues

Leagues from its Source, it is capable of bearing large loaded Boats. This River runs thro' almost all *Russia*. From *Twer* to the Town of *Niesna*, where the River *Occa*, which is another very considerable River, throws it self into it from the South West, its Course is pretty nearly from West to East: From *Nienfa* to sixty Wersts beyond the City of *Casan*, where the River *Kama* falls into it from the North, its Course is South East; and from thence it turns suddenly to the South, and rushes into the *Caspian* Sea, after a Course of more than four hundred *German* Leagues, twelve Leagues on the other side the City of *Ajrackan*, in $45^{\circ} 40'$ of Latit.

Full of
Fish, Star-
geon,
Salmon,
Pike.

Aspara-
gus.

This River abounds with all sorts of Fish, and especially *Salmons*, *Sturgeons*, and *Pike* of an extraordinary bigness and exquisite Taste: Its Banks are equally fertil from beginning to end, which is the more surprizing, considering the length of its Course, and the Rigour of the Climate in those Provinces which it runs thro' on this side the City of *Casan*. And tho to the South of this Town its Borders are but little cultivated, on account of the frequent Inroads of the *Kuban Tatars*, yet they fail not to be of such an extraordinary Fertility, that the *Asparagus* grow there of themselves in abundance, and that of a very particular Largeness and Quality; not to mention *Swine-bread*, and variety of other Potherbs which Nature alone produces there in great plenty without the Help of Man; inso-much that one may say the finest Country of *Russia* is in a manner quite desart, while the Provinces, in other Respects unprofitable, are well cultivated. To remedy as much as possible this Inconvenience, the late Emperor has caused an Intrenchment to be made which begins at the

Volga on this side the Town of *Zaritzza*, and runs to meet the River *Don* near the Town of *Twia*: and by this means that part of the Country within the Intrenchment is cover'd; but all that lies without it, and which can't be less than an Extent of eighty Leagues, as well in Length as Breadth, is quite abandon'd a Prey to the *Kuban Tatars*. *Russia* affords almost no Oaks *Oaks.* but what grow about this River in the Kingdom of *Casan*.

The River of *Tin* which the *Russians* call *Don*, *Tin or* is the *Tanais* of the Antients. This River is one *Don or* of the largest in *Russia*, and has its Source in the *Tanais.* Lake *Ivan*, in 52 Deg. 40' Latit. and 62° of Longit. its Course at first is from the West to East, then it winds to the S. S. E. and by degrees approaches the River *Volga*; insomuch that on this side the Town of *Twia*, where the Intrench-*Intrench-*ment ends which the late Emperor caused to be *ment.* made against the *Kuban Tatars*, it is but eight Leagues distant. On the other side of this Town it comes about to the S. W. and continues its Course in that manner, until, after a Course of above 250 Leagues, it discharges it self near the City of *Affoff* into the *Palus Mæotis*, in 47° 50' Min. of Latit. and 65° of Longit. The Banks of this River are every where nearly of the same Fertility with those of the *Volga*; but it must be confess'd it is not so fruitful in all kinds of Fish as the last, tho it has also what are very good.

This River is every where so deep, that after *Very deep.* the last Peace of *Prutt*, by virtue of which the *Russians* were obliged to demolish *Taganrok*, which was a Port the late Emperor had caused to be built on the Shore of the *Palus Mæotis*, sixteen Leagues from *Affoff*, they have been able to sail all the Ships of War which were then

then in that Port, and whereof there were some of fifty and sixty Guns, up the River *Don* as far as the Town of *Woronitz*, which is but a little way from the Lake *Ivan*, where that River rises. These Ships are there still in a very fair Bason, which the late Emperor caused to be made for that purpose, and where they were carefully preserv'd while he lived, to be always in a Condition to be employ'd again in case of a Rupture with the *Turks*. The greatest Difficulty to be surmounted on such an Occasion, lies at the Mouth of the River, where there is but ten Foot of Water; but by help of certain flat Vessels, whereof the late Monarch had learned the Use in *Holland*, they have overcome it at last, after a great deal of Trouble.

Depth at
the Mouth.

Palus
Mæotis but
18 Foot
deep at
most.

In short, as the *Palus Mæotis* has every where throughout very little Water, insomuch that in the deepest Parts it has not above 18 Foot; 'tis very easy to apprehend that that Prince did not cause such great War Ships to be built, which drew at least 18 Foot Water, to serve upon the *Palus Mæotis*, and that his Designs went much farther: 'Tis believ'd that it was the Town of *Kirk*, situate in the *Crimea*, upon the Strait which joins the *Palus Mæotis* to the *Euxine*, upon which he had fixt his Views, the Port whereof (which is said to be one of the best in *Turkey*) would have render'd him in some measure Master of all the *Black Sea*.

Canals.

The late *Tsar*, that his Subjects might yet farther reap the Advantage of so extraordinary a Conveniency as the Rivers afford, caused five Canals to be made to join all those Rivers together. Of these Canals the

1. Canal.

1. Which is the greatest, begins at *Neva*, over against the Fortrefs of *Sleutelburg*, and ends at the *Welchowa*, near the Town of *Novaya Ladoga*, to the South of the Lake of *Ladoga*. This Canal

This Canal is 16 *German Leagues* long, but is not quite finish'd. The Design of cutting this Canal was, that the Boats going from *Russia* to *St. Petersburg* might avoid passing thro' the Lake of *Ladoga*, which is very tempestuous and full of Rocks.

2. Canal begins at the River *Twerza*, which falls into the *Wolga* near the Town of *Twzer*, and ends at the River *Msta*, which falls into the Lake of *Ilmen* near the Town of *Novogorod*: This Canal is quite finish'd, and opens the River *Wolga* to *St. Petersburg*; so that one may at present go by Boat from that Town to the *Caspian Sea*.

3. Canal begins at the River *Wolga* at some distance from its Springs and the Town of *Rzeva*, and ends at the River *Moscwa*. This Canal, which is also finish'd, opens a Communication between the *Baltick Sea*, the City of *Moscow*, and the River *Occa*.

4. Canal begins at the River *Tula*, which falls into the *Occa* over against the Town of *Coga*, and ends at another River which empties itself into the Lake of *Jwan*, out of which the *Don* rises: This Canal was design'd for a Communication between the *Baltick* and the *Black Sea*; but since by the Peace of *Prutt*, the Town of *Affoff* is fallen into the Hands of the *Turks*, they have given over that Undertaking.

5. Canal begins at the River *Ilawla*, which falls into the *Don* near the Town of *Ilawa*, and ends at the River *Kamishinka*, which falls into the *Wolga* opposite to the Town of *Kamishin*. This Canal was to serve for a Communication between the *Caspian* and the *Black Sea*; but since the *Turks* have repossessed themselves of *Affoff*, it has also been neglected.

All these great Works are doubtless of vast Advantage to *Russia*, and would not fail to make Trade flourish there, if the Liberty which Commerce requires could agree with the Yoke of an arbitrary Government.



C H A P. II.

OBSERVATIONS upon TURKEY.

S E C T. I.

Why Turkey is called Rûm by the Orientals, and the Othman Sultan, Chalifah. An Error to call his Subjects Turks.

Rûm.

BY the Country of *Rûm*, mention'd p. 188 and elsewhere, must be understood the Provinces of *Asia* which lie beyond the *Euphrates*, with respect to *Persia*, because that River has always serv'd for a Bound to the Dominion of the *Romans* in *Asia*.

*Emperor of
Turks
called Sol-
tan of
Ruhm,
and why.*

[The Name of *Rûm* is a general Name given by the Orientals to the Subjects of the *Roman* Empire, and to the Countries possessed by them whether in *Europe* or in *Asia*: Thus the Emperor of the *Turks* is called the Soltân of *Rûm* or of the *Romans*, because he succeeded to a great Part at least of the Dominions of the *Roman* Emperors in both those Continents.

After the *Arabians* had taken all they could from the *Grecian* Emperors in *Asia*, the Name of *Rûm* seems to have been confined to the

Coun

Countries left to these last, which were most of *Romania*, *Asia Minor*, and some Parts of *Armenia* towards *Trapezond*, to which the *Greeks* gave the Name ^{when and why so called.} of *Romania*, probably to distinguish that Part of *Asia Minor*, &c. which belong'd to them, from the Part possessed by the *Arabians*, who from thence call'd it *Balâd al Rum*: and the *Turks* who succeeded them, and afterwards conquer'd the whole, *Rum-ily*, or the Country of the *Romans*; which in our Historians is corruptly written *Romelia*.]

'Tis the great Sultan of the *Turks* whom our ^{Soltan;} Author means, p. 291. by the Sultan Chalif of ^{Chalif of Rûm:} *Rûm*; for since the several Chalifs of *Bagdat*, *Damascus* and *Cairo*, who pretended to be the lawful Successors of *Mohammed*, subsist no longer, the greater Part of the rigid *Mohammedans* are accusom'd to regard the *Turkish* Emperors as their Successors in the right of commanding all the *Musulmanns*; and 'tis for that reason the *Turks* have so blind a Love for the Posterity of *Ottoman*, the first Founder of the House which reigns at present in *Turky*, that they would rather suffer the worst of Treatment from a Prince of that House, than obey a Prince of another Race, how mild and equitable soever his Government might be.

[It is to be observ'd, that after an end had been put to the *Chalifate* of *Bagdad* by *Hulaku* the *Tatar* in 1257. one of the Family of *Al Mostassem*, the last *Chalifa*, who escaped the Slaughter, fled to *Egypt* where he was acknowledg'd *Chalifa*, and his Posterity continued in possession of that Dignity, till the Conquest of *Egypt* by *Soltân Selim* Emperor of the *Turks*, who in the Year 1516 having taken *Câbera*, corruptly called *Cairo*, hang'd *Tuman Bay*, last *Soltân* of the *Mamluks*, carry'd away the *Chalifa*. *Al Mota-wakke'*,

wakkel, whom he found in that City, to *Constantinople*, where he allow'd him a Pension, and treated him with the Respect due to a Person of his Dignity while he lived. Now it may be in some measure on this Account that the *Turks*, the *Tatars*, and in short all the *Mohammedans* that are not of the *Persian* Sect qualify the *Turkish* Soltan with the Title once so glorious as that of *Chalifab.*]

Rûm or
Turky.

Error to
call the
Othmans
Turks.

The *Tatars* as well as the most Part of the other Nations of the East, do not know the Emperor of the *Turks* by any other Name but that of *Sultan* [or *Chalifa*] of *Rûm*, because the *Romans* possessed heretofore precisely the same Dominions in *Asia* which the *Turks* possess there at present; and that after the Division of the *Roman* Empire the City of *Constantinople* always retain'd in the Provinces the Name of *New Rome* which it had at first; so that it is an Error in us to call the Subjects of the *Ottoman* Port by the Name of *Turks*, which is the true Original Name of those Nations which we comprehend at present under the Name of *Tatars*, and which have no Affinity with those whom now-a-days we call *Turks*, which are only a Medley of *Saracens*, *Arabs*, *Greeks*, *Sclavonians*, and other Nations of doubtful Origin blended together. For as to the first *Turks* who over-ran *Asia* in the 9th Age, from whom 'tis commonly pretended they are sprung, all Footsteps of them had been lost long before the Invasion of *Zingis* *Coan* into the *Southern Asia*, and consequently more than two Ages before the Establishment of the Monarchy of the *Ottomans*.

[* In my Opinion, it is not a greater Fault to make the *Saracens*, or rather *Sarakins*, that is *Easterlings*, and the *Arabs* two different Nations, than to call the *Arabs* *Saracens*. as some Authors even in their *Oriental* Translations have done.]

S E C T.

S E C T. II.

The Provinces of Dyarbekr, Curdistan, and Erak ;
with an Account of Mount Ararat.

PROVINCE of DYARBEK R.

THE Provinces of [*Baker* or] *Diarbekir* and *Curdistan* which are mention'd in p. 149. are situate in the Neighbourhood of the River *Tigris*, and comprehend one Part of the *Mesopotamia* and *Assyria* of the Antients.

The Province of *Diarbekr* in particular is **Dyarbekr.** situate between the River *Euphrates* and the Source of the River *Tigris*, to the North of the desert Country which is inclosed between those two Rivers, and to the South of the Country of the *Turcomanns*. It is at present in the Hands of **Subject to** the *Ottoman* Port, which governs it by a *Basha* **the Turks.** who is one of the prime *Visiers* of the *Turkish* Empire.

Diarbekr, where the *Basha* resides, is situate **Dyarbekr** upon the eastern side of the *Tigris* in 38 Deg. of **City Resi-** Latit. 'Tis very well fortify'd, having a very **dence of** thick double Wall towards the Land-side, and a **the Basha.** Precipice towards the River, because it is situate upon a pretty high Eminence. The River *Tigris* is so low hereabouts in Summer, that it may be forded over against the Town all that Season. This City is very populous, and all **Populous.** the Necessaries of Life are there very cheap; the Wine, the Bread, and especially Meat is there very excellent. 'Tis reported that there are dwelling in this City 20000 Christians, both *Armenians* and *Roman Catholicks*; and 'tis the

Famous for the best red Marrokins in Turkey. great Trade carried on in this Town which draws them thither, seeing that the red Marrokins which are made there are the best throughout *Turky*. One sees a magnificent *Mosk* in this Town, which is supposed to have been heretofore a Church of the Christians.

Province of CURDISTAN.

Curdistan. The Province of *Curdistan* is situate to the East of the River *Tigris*, and extends from the sides of that River to within three Days Journey of the City of *Tauris*; having the Province of *Aran*, which belongs to *Persia*, to the North, and the Government of *Bagdad*, which is part of *Turky*, to the South.

Curds brutal, but brave. This Province is exceeding mountainous, and inhabited by a Nation call'd *Curds*, who are indeed brutal, but as brave as possible, and very good Horsemen. They obey divers petty Sovereigns who take the Title of *Bey*, of whom he of *Betlis* is the most powerful, being able to bring into the Field 25000 Horse.

Under Protection, but still independent. These petty Sovereigns have been accustomed hitherto to put themselves sometimes under the Protection of the *Port*, and sometimes under that of *Persia*, according as the Situation of their petty Dominions and their Interests required, without submitting at the same time to either of those Powers. For besides that it was not very easy to constrain them by force, because of the advantageous Situation of their Country, thro'out which there are found Passages so narrow that fifty Men might easily stop an Army how numerous soever it be; it was still dangerous to push them too far, because that might lay them under the Necessity of

Country inaccessible.

of going over to the opposite side, which might prove very prejudicial, on occasion, to the Power concern'd: but 'tis probable if the *Turks* can keep all the great Conquests which they have made at present in *Persia*, they will soon be able to reduce these petty Lords under their Obedience.

The Country of the *Curds*, notwithstanding *Products*, the high Mountains which cross it every way, affords great Plenty of all the Necessaries for the support of Life. The Mountains themselves are cover'd with Walnut and Oak Trees, which bear the best Gallnuts that are brought from the *Levant*; and the Plains are all planted with Tobacco, which thrives exceeding well in that Country, and brings a great Trade and Wealth to it. Vines also are found there in abundance; but as the Inhabitants drink no Wine they make Raisins of the Grapes.

The *Curds* profess the *Mohammedan* Worship; *The Curds* but except in Circumcision and Abstinence *Moham-* from Wine, they don't observe the *Alcoran* *medans* much; neither have they *Mullas* or *Mosks*, except in three or four of their principal Towns in the Country. See *the Voyages of Tavernier*.

The Town of *Musal* is situate in 36 Deg. *Musal*, 30 Min. of Latitude, on the right side of the River *Tigris*, in the Province of *Curdistan* towards the Frontiers of *Persia*. It is of no great Account at present. That which is most remarkable in it is a very fair Bridge over the *Tigris*. There are to be seen at some distance from the Town, on the other side of the River, the Ruins of a City, which they pretend was the antient City of *Ninive*. See *the Voyages of Nineveh*. *Tavernier*.

[You will find a more particular Description of *Musal* in *Thevenot*, who travelling purely for

Information should be suppos'd more exact in his Accounts than *Tavernier*, who had other Business to mind.]

Province of ERAK.

Erakain. [The Country of *Irak*, or rather *Erak*, call'd also *Erak Arabi*, or *Babeli*, to distinguish it from *Erak Agemi* in *Persia*, is another Province of *Turky*, and seems to comprehend the antient *Chaldea*, with part of *Mesopotamia* and *Affyria*.

In the early Times of the *Arabs* it was divided into two Provinces, viz. of *Basrah* and *Cufah*, each of which had a Governor; and these are they which are meant in the *Arab* Authors by *Erakain*, or the two *Eraks*; and not *Erak Arabi* in general, and *Erak Agemi*, as the excellent *Gouus*, in his Notes on *Alfargani*, happens inadvertently to suggest, for which he is too severely blamed by *Dr. Hyde*, in his Notes on *Persia's Itinera Mundi*, p. 65.

Inhabitants noted for Turbulency and Perfidiousness.

Severely punish'd.

Bagdad.

This Province was one of the most considerable and populous of all those which fell under the Power of the *Arabs*, and was divided into two Governments, rarely united, the better to keep in awe the Inhabitants, who thro'out the *Arabian* Histories are remarkable for their Turbulency and Perfidiousness: of which there needs no better Proof than their base Usage to *Aly* and his Family, after inviting him among them, whose Misfortunes were truly deplorable. But they were severely chastised some time after by *He'gag* and his Deputy, who in the Province *Basrah* only, I think, put to death 60000 of them in the half Year of his Government.]

Bagdad, at present the Capital of *Erak*, is a modern City, situate on the left [or East] side of

of the River *Tigris*, in 33 Deg. 10 Min. * Latit. 'Tis large, and has been very populous and well built in Times past, when it was in the Hands of the *Persians*: but since the *Turks* have been in possession of that Place, it hath gone intirely to ruin, occasion'd by the extreme Insolence of the *Turkish* Garison, who have abused the Inhabitants of the Town to that degree, that such as could get away, have gone and settled elsewhere; so that at present nothing is to be seen there but Ruins and great void Places.

It has a Castle upon the River to the North of the Town, which makes a good Appearance without, because 'tis built of very curious white Stone; but within there are nothing but Ruins, with some Cabins to lodge the Soldiers. Ne-^{One of the} vertheless, as *Bagdad* is one of the great Passa-^{great Pas-} ges for entering *Persia* on the side of *Turky*,^{sages on} Turkey there are always found there many foreign^{side.} Merchants, and all sorts of Commodities, tho both are very subject to the Impositions of the Militia. The *Bazars* are very fair as well as the publick Baths; one also sees several pretty handsom *Mosks*, and among the *Carawan-Sarays* there are also some commodious enough; but all these Buildings are the Remains of the Works of the *Persians*.

There is a great Suburbs on the other [or West] side of the River, where most of the Tradesmen live; to which they pass from the Town by a Bridge of Boats, tho the River be ^{Bridge of} very broad there; and every Night this Bridge ^{Boats.} is taken away to prevent Surprize.

Bagdad is built along the River, and its Walls ^{Circuit.} are two good Hours Journey about, but it is not very strong on the Land side. The Heats there are so great in the Summer that every

* [Rather 33 Deg. 20 or 25 Min. Latitude, according to the actual Observations of the Arabs.]

Body lies upon the Terrasses, which serve for Tops to the Houses.

Capucins. The *Capucines* have a House in this Town, and are very welcome to the *Turkish* Government, because they practise Physick in *Bagdat* with a great deal of Charity. 'Tis commonly reported that the Carrier Pidgeons of the best Breed are found in this Town. See *the Voyages of Thevenot*.

Best Breed of Carrier Pidgeons here.

Mount Ararat.

Mount *Ararat*, which is referr'd to p. 5. is situate between *Armenia*, *Media*, and *Assyria*, and is properly a Branch of *Caucasus*, which joins *Mount Taurus*: the *Turks* and *Persians* call'd that Mountain *Alwend*. The particular Mountain on which 'tis suppos'd *Noah's Ark* rested after the Deluge, is an inaccessible Rock of prodigious height, of a blackish Colour, without any Verdure, and always cover'd with Snow both in Summer and Winter. The *Armenians* and *Persians* pretend, that the Remains of the Ark are still found on the Top of that Rock, but that Time has so harden'd the Wood that it is not to be distinguish'd from the Rock it self. See *the Voyages of Olearius*.

Remains of the Ark.

[But if you will believe *Struys*, a Monk went up in his Time and brought away a Piece of the Wood, of which he produces a Certificate. What *Olearius* delivers concerning this famous Mountain is only upon Hear-say, not having been near it himself, and therefore I should rather refer the Reader to *Tavernier* or *Tournefort*, who were there, especially to the latter, who had the Curiosity to ascend it as far as possibly ever any one did, and gives a very particular Description of it. Mount *Ararat*, or the Mountain which passes for it, cannot be a Part of *Caucasus*, for it is a Mountain by it self. There are several whimsical Conjectures of Au-

Ararat no part of Caucasus.

thors

thors about the Situation of *Ararat*, some pretending to shew Reasons why it should be on the other side of the *Caspian Sea* beyond the *Oxus*; but without taking the Trouble of giving such Dotages a serious Answer, it is sufficient to observe, that the Mount cannot be there, because it is expressly said to be in *Armenia.*]



C H A P. III.

Observations on ARABIA *and the*
MOHAMMEDANS.

S E C T. I.

Of ARABISTAN. *The Inundations of the*
Persian Gulf. Of MEKKA and MEDI-
NAH.

[AS the *French Editor* of the *Tatar Histo-Arabia*.
[A ry has occasionally given an Account
of *Mekka* and *Medinah*, *Mohammed* and the
Mohammedans, I have brought the several Notes
together under the Title of *Arabia*, as the
Country to which they properly belong, tho no
express mention be made of it by *Abulgazi Chan*,
as the Editor supposes: For by *Arabistan*, p. 32.
is not to be understood *Arabia*, or the proper
Country of the *Arabs*, which never was pos-
sessed, either in whole or in part, by Sultan *Mo-* Not pos-
bammed Chowarazm Shah; but those Countries sessed by
to the South of the River *Gibun* or *Amu*, com- the Shah
prehended generally under the Name of *Iran* of *Chowa-*
that razm.

that is *Persia* at large, which had been conquer'd by the *Arabs*, and which might still, in some measure, be call'd their Country, on Account of the spiritual Jurisdiction which the Chalifa's of *Bagdad* retain'd over them; tho they had lost all the temporal Power there long before. Besides, the *Shah* of *Chowarazm* about that time possess'd almost all that the Chalifa's of *Bagdad* had possess'd on the other side the River *Tigris*, since the time the Chalifa's of *Egypt* sprung up; who, besides *Egypt* and the Western Provinces of *Africa*, carried away from him in *Asia* all *Syria*.]

Part of
Arabia
over-
flow'd.

'Tis to be observ'd here, that *Arabia*, which is at present contiguous with *Persia* only by a small space of Land about *Balsora*, [*Basrah*] was otherwise in Times past, before the Waters of the Gulf of *Persia* had cover'd a great Extent of Country, which made formerly the Frontiers between *Arabia* and *Persia*. We find this by very evident Marks in antient History; and *Marco Polo*, who return'd from his Voyages in 1295, says, that even in his Time the Town of *Balsora*, which is at present but fifteen Leagues from the Mouth of the *Euphrates*, was situate between *Bagdad* and a Town call'd *Chisi*, which then stood at the Mouth of that River, [eighteen Days Journey distant.] The Waters also of the *Persian* Gulf, which are every where exceeding shallow to the West of the Streights of *Ormuz*, give us sufficiently to understand, that all this Gulf can be no other than the Effect of some great Inundation of the *Indian* Sea.

[Tis very likely a great deal of Land has been swallow'd up by the Sea about the Mouth of the *Sbat al Arab* (as the Inhabitants call the united Stream of the *Euphrates* and *Tygris*, which passes near *Basrah*.) These Inundations

too have perhaps happen'd since the *Arabians* began their Conquests, who to keep out the Sea for the future, the Coast of *Arabia* thereabouts being very low, did, at a Place call'd *alChashabat* * six Miles from *Abadan*, a Castle at the Mouth of the *Tygris*, raise Bulwarks against it: and *Bulwarks* the more than ordinary Shallowness of the *Per-* ^{at the} *Iran* Gulf at that End, observ'd by Voyagers, ^{Mouth of} particularly *Thevenot*, increases the Suspicion of ^{the Shat al} Arab, to its having been once dry Land. However, I ^{stop the In-} cannot think the Space between *Basrab* and the ^{undations.} Mouth of the River was ever so great, or any thing like it, as for that Town to stand half way between the Sea and *Bagdad*, which from *Basrab* is above fourteen Days Journey by Land, according to *Al Edrisi* †; much less can I allow that it was so in the Time of *Marco Polo*: for the afore said Castle of *Abadan*, which is but thirty six Miles at most distant from *Basrab*, was standing on the Sea at the Mouth of the *Sbat al* ^{Inunda-} *Arab* on the *Arabian* side, in the Time of *Al* ^{tions not so} *Edrisi* † (commonly call'd the *Nubian* Geogra- ^{great as} *pher*) who wrote about 1150, which was above ^{suppos'd.} a hundred Years before *Marco Polo*. So that *Marco Polo* must either have been mistaken in the Situation of *Chisi*, or in the Distance between *Basrab* and *Bagdad*; which some later Authors, thro' Misinformation, have affirm'd to be but two Days Journey; in which Case *Marco Polo's* Observation wou'd be right, without the Sea gaining any Ground since his Time. But upon the whole, perhaps it is the Fault of the Copy; for according to that given us by *Grynæus*, which is reckon'd the best by some, it is only said, (*Chat. X.*) That there is a City between *Baldach* and *Chisi*, call'd *Bascia*. From

* *Geog. Nub.* p. 121. † *Idem*, p. 203. † *Idem*, p. 121.
whence

whence it can neither be proved that the City stands half way between (as the Editor seems to suggest) or even that *Basrab* is meant by it besides if it did, that ought to be no ground for such an Assertion as the Editor advances; for it is to be consider'd, *Marco Polo* does not deliver what he says in this Place, as an Eye-Witness, but rather as it should seem by Hearsay; the Uncertainty of which Authority sufficiently appears, by his telling us just before, on the Report of others, that the *Euphrates* falls into a Lake in *Zorzania*, which by the Situation of it should be *Georgia*.]

Mekka.

The Town of *Mekka* is situate in the *Happy Arabia*, [it belongs to *He'gaz* or *Tahama*, reckon'd Part of *He'gaz*] at ten Leagues distance [rather three Stages] from the *Red Sea*, in 22 Deg. 30 Min. of Latitude *. 'Tis very famous on account of the great Number of Pilgrims who annually resort thither from all the Countries where the *Mohammedan* Worship is received, there to perform their Devotions; in order to which they ought to be there by the 10th of the Month *Dsilbotza*, [*Du'lba'gab*] which is their grand Day of Devotion.

Soil barren.

This City is quite encompass'd with Rocks, and very difficult to approach; but as its Soil is very barren [till beyond the Hills] (insomuch that besides some Grass, and some few of one kind of large Water Melons, call'd in *Russia* *Arbus*, it produces almost nothing at all) they are oblig'd to fetch from the City of *Cair*, by the *Red Sea*, whatever is necessary for the Subsistence of that Multitude of People

[* *De Lisle* computes the Latitude to be 21 Deg. 40 Min. which agrees with two of *Abulfeda's* Authors; and in the *Portuguese Asia*, *Gidda*, which is the Port of *Mecca*, is put at 21 Deg. 30 Min.]

which

which flock thither from all Quarters towards the Month of *Dsilhotza*, [*Du'lbah'gab.*]

After the Pilgrims have perform'd the De-*Great* votions which the Religion requires from their *Trade.* Zeal, they stay yet some time longer in this Place, to follow their Business; and as at that time People of so many different Countries are met together, there is a very considerable Traffick carried on there by that Means.

At their Departure from *Mekka*, the Pilgrims [if they have a mind, not that they are obliged] go to visit the Tomb of *Mohammed* at *Medina tal Nabi*, [*Medinat'al Nabi*] which is *Medinat'al* eight [or rather ten] Days Journey of the Cara-*Nabi.* wan distant. The Mosk [*Mesgid*] where this Tomb is seen, stands in the Middle of the Town. It is encompass'd with gilt Rails, near which they go and pay their Devotions; because none are permitted to go within side. There are five or six black Eunuchs appointed to guard that Tomb, who never stir from the *Mesgid*, having for that End Chambers made about the Entrance of it, to lodge them in. These *Govern'd* Cities are in the Hands of the *Arabs*, and they *by Emirs.* have each their particular *Amir*. See the *Voyages of John Wild.*

They give the Name of *Hadsi* [*Hag'i*] to all *Hadsi or* those who have perform'd the Voyage to *Ha'gi Pil-* *Mekka*; and they are respected afterwards during their Lives, with a particular Veneration, *grims.* by all the *Mohammedans*.

S E C T. II.

Of Mohammed and his Religion.

European
Authors
mistaken
about the
Moham-
medan Af-
fairs.

[WITH regard to the Parentage of *Mahomet*, or rather *Mohammed*, and his Assistants, in framing his very politick Religion, the Author of these Observations, following the *European* Historians, runs into the Errors long since exploded by those who have given an Account of him from the *Oriental*s; who make it evident that *Mohammed* was of noble Extraction, and of the most illustrious of all the *Arabian* Tribes; which was that of the *Koraish*. However we shall give you his Words with Amendments here and there, where it can be done conveniently, reserving a more full and exact Account of these Matters to another Opportunity.]

Mohammed was an *Arab* by Nation, and born, according to some Authors, the 5th of *May* 570 of the Christian *Æra*. His Father was a Pagan, named *Abdalla*: His Mother was of *Jewish* Extraction, and called *Emina**: His Family was nothing more than ordinary, as well on the Father's as the Mother's side †. He composed his System of Religion, which is commonly call'd the *Alcoran*, with the Help of a *Jacobe* Christian call'd *Batiras* ††, and of *Sergius* a *Nestorian* Monk ‡, assisted by some *Jews*, Relations of his Mother. As it was politick enough to permit his Followers to have as many Wives †† and Concubines as they could maintain,

[* *Amena*. † On the contrary both were descended from *Koraish*. †† *Bohaira*. ‡ *Bohaira* and *Sergius* were the same. †† They are allow'd but four, and seldom take above one.]

maintain, a thing rigorously forbidden to *Jews* and Christians; and to make the Joys of Paradise, which he promis'd to the faithful Observers of his Law, in a great measure to consist in sensual Pleasures, which the *Oriental*s are extremely addicted to: *Mohammed* in this did not a little contribute to engage an infinite Number of People to embrace this new Doctrine †. On the other side, he practis'd the detestable Maxim which permits the making of Proselytes by Fire and Sword, that did not fail to spread and firmly establish his System of Religion, in all the neighbouring Countries where he could once get Footing. [*Mohammed* makes it a Merit, 'tis true, to propagate his Religion; but he forbids Persecution, the Method practis'd by some who call themselves Christians. He even carries his Humanity so far, as to order that all shall be spared and unmolested who ask Quarter and pay Tribute. It were only to be wish'd, that Church from which the Accusation and Misrepresentation on this as well as other Articles originally comes, wou'd prove themselves as Orthodox by following as exactly the Christian Rule.]

The *Mohammedans* profess to adore one only God, Almighty, Eternal, and Indivisible; who neither is begotten, nor has begotten: Who communicates his Essence to none: Who is the sole Creator, all the rest being his Creatures. And they are so scrupulous about every thing which might hurt this Unity of the divine Essence, that they look upon Christians as true Idolaters, because they adore the Trinity, which appears to them altogether incompatible

Mohammedans
Unitarians.

Esteem
Christians
Idolaters.

[* *The Jews were allow'd a Plurality by their Law.*]

† *He was obliged to yield in many things to the Perverseness of the Arabs, as Moses did to that of the Jews.]*

with the Ideas which they have of the Unity of the Supreme Being.

Honour Christ as a great Prophet. They honour Jesus Christ as a great Prophet, whom they hold to have been very far from making himself a God as the Christians suppose him; and they have the *Jews* in great Abomination, on account of their having put to Death so holy a Prophet. Neither do they suffer a *Jew* to embrace the *Mohammedan* Worship, except he turns Christian first, of which nevertheless an implicit Profession is deemed sufficient in certain Cases.

Mohammed took many things from Scripture. They confess that *Mohammed* has taken many things out of the sacred Books of the Christians; but as these last found the Doctrine of the Trinity, which the others esteem as a Blasphemy, upon the Doctrine of Jesus Christ, they prefer *Mohammed* to him, as sent by God to re-establish Religion in its first Purity.

Fest of Ramadan. All the *Mohammedans*, of whatsoever Sect they be, observe to fast during the Moon of *Ramadan*, in Commemoration, that during that Moon the *Alcoran*, as they believe, was dictated to *Mohammed* from Heaven. To this Purpose they carefully observe the first Appearance of that Moon; and as soon as the Men posted on certain high Places perceive it, they give the usual Signal upon that Occasion, and immediately they cry aloud, that *The Moon of Ramadan appears*. They illuminate at the same time all the *Minarets* † with Lamps, which represent all sorts of Figures; and these Illuminations are continued every Night of this Moon.

What they abstain from. The *Mohammedans* are forbidden to have to do with any Woman, or to drink or eat between

† *Menâras* or Steeples.

Sun-rise and Sun-set during this whole Moon ; but from Sun-set to Day-break they may drink, eat, see Women, and divert themselves as they please : wherefore one sees in all *Mohammedan* Towns, during this Month, all the Streets full of People all night long, and in the Day every one goes to sleep till the Hour comes when the *Muezzins* call to the Night Prayer ; then they begin to drink and eat again till the next Morning.

This Fast is very convenient when it falls in ^{*Easiest*} Winter, because the Days being then very short, ^{*when it falls in*} the Abstinence they are to undergo is not so ^{*Winter.*} long as at other times ; but when it happens in Summer 'tis exceeding inconvenient, especially in hot Countries, on account of the great Thirst they suffer during the extreme Heat of the Day ; and yet the greatest Part of the *Mohammedans* observe this Fast very religiously. But when ^{*Eat and*} they happen to be on some Journey during this ^{*drink as*} Month, they are permitted to eat and drink as ^{*usual on*} usual, provided they do not fail to fast in the ^{*Journeys.*} same manner for another Month of thirty days, as soon as they have an Opportunity of doing it.

The *Turks* especially are so scrupulous in the ^{*Turks*} Observation of this Fast, that they won't mar- ^{*very exact*} ry during this Month ; and if any of them should ^{*in this*} be taken drinking Wine between Sun-rise and ^{*Fast.*} Sun-set in the Month of *Ramedan*, he would be infallibly put to death. But among the ^{*Persians*} *Persians* they are not rigorous in this Point ; and by ^{*less rig-*} giving some Money to the *Mullas*, one may ^{*orous.*} obtain a Dispensation for eating and drinking that whole Month as usual. This Fast ends with the Month of *Ramadan*, and the Appearance of the next Moon begins the *Bayram* of

the *Mohammedans*. See the Voyages of *Thevenot*.

*Head of
the Law
in each
Moham-
medan
Govern-
ment.*

Among the *Mohammedans* each Government has a particular Head of the Law, who decides absolutely in all Matters which concern Religion and Conscience. All the People of the Religion in the Territories depending on his Orders, and the Cadies, or Judges themselves, must receive their Instructions from him for the Administration of Justice. He has besides that the intire Disposal, thro'out the whole Jurisdiction, of all the Effects bequeath'd to Moskees, Hospitals, and all other pious Uses. And as these Effects are very considerable among all the *Mohammedans*, because the Rich make it a Duty of Religion to bequeath at their Deaths a Part of their Goods to these sorts of charitable Uses, insomuch that there are very few Moskees where there are not daily some Distribution made to the Poor; 'tis easy to imagine, that being so well stock'd, he does not fail to serve himself plentifully first.

*His Power
dangerous
to the Go-
vernment.*

So large a Power renders this Office of great Consequence to the Government; and it has been often observ'd, that when the Head of the Law was disposed to disturb it, all the Precautions of the Prince could not hinder the State from falling into strange Disorders.

The Name of *Mufti* is particularly affected by the Head of the Law of the *Ottoman* Empire, and the Name of *Sadre* by that of *Persia*.

Cadi.

The *Cadi* is the ordinary Judge in Towns inhabited by *Mohammedans*: he renders immediate Justice upon the Depositions of Witnesses, and all other authentick Proofs which the Parties are able to produce, and that without any Formality or Charges, but for all that they don't want Ways and Means to raise Perquisites.

*Justice
without
Delay or
Expence.*

sites. Nevertheless, in weighty and doubtful Cases, he takes Advice of the *Mullas* or Doctors of the Law; and if it be a Crime which deserves Death, he dare not proceed to execute the Criminal, without giving Notice before-hand to the Government. The *Cadi* Cadi. ought of Necessity to study the *Al'coran*, which is to be to him the Rule and Foundation in the Exercise of his Office.

The Name of *Sbeich* is given to Men who Sheich. are reputed very knowing in Theology; and 'tis for that reason all their Saints are honour'd with it: [it is also given to Princes, and properly signifies an Elder.]

The *Mosks* * of the *Mohammedans* are usu-*Mesgids.* ally built square, with small Towers at the four Corners, from which the *Muezzins*, who are like our Churchwardens, call the People to Divine Service at the Hours appointed by the Law.

These *Mosks* are for the most part vaulted within, and enlighten'd by many cross-work'd Windows. Nothing is to be seen but Carpets or Mats spread on the Ground, instead of Benches which are in our Churches, upon which those who come to assist at Divine Service sit cross-leg'd, after the usual Manner of the Orientals. There is besides that a Place raised like a kind of small Pulpit, where the *Imâm* or Priest, who makes the Prayer, takes his Place; and *Imâm.* they always observe to set this Pulpit on that side of the *Mosks* which looks towards *Mecka*.

[* *Mosk* is a Corruption of the Persian Word *Mesku*, which signifies a Temple or Place of Worship; but the proper Arabick Word is *Mesgid*.]

To enlighten these *Mosks* in the Hours of the Night, they use a great Number of Lamps, suspended from the Vault about the Height of a Pike. For the rest, every thing within the *Mohammedan Mosks* appears exceeding neat, and the Men who enter therein, observe carefully to leave their Slippers at the Door, that they might not dirty the Pavement. For want of Gold and Azure which shine throughout the chief *Mosks*, those which are poor have at least their Walls well whiten'd, upon which there are Passages of the *Alcoran* written in several Places.

Court before the
Mesgids.

Before the *Mosks* there is commonly found a little square Court, surrounded with a Gallery well whiten'd, where also one sees the Name of God, with some of his Attributes, written in many Places; and in the midst of this Court there is always a Fountain, for those who would go into the *Mosks*, to perform the Ablutions commanded by the Law.

Imams
and Mullas their
Qualifications.

Those who would be receiv'd *Imams* or *Mullas* must of Necessity understand the *Arabic*, because the *Alcoran* is written in that Language; and they ought, besides that, to have read some of the best Commentaries which have been wrote upon that Book.

The Coran
always
read in
Arabick.

In the *Mosks* they always read the *Alcoran* in *Arabic*, tho the Vulgar among the *Turks*, *Persians*, and *Tatars*, don't understand a word of that Language; and it seems the *Mohammedan* Doctors have taken the same Affection for the *Arabic* Language, which our Roman Catholick Clergy have for the Latin Tongue. Nevertheless among the *Mohammedans*, there is at least that Regard had to the Ignorance of the People, that the *Mulla*, after he has read the Passage of the *Alcoran*, set apart for the Devotion
of

of the Day, usually subjoins a short Explication in the Vulgar Tongue, for the Instruction of such as do not understand the *Arabic*.

The *Imam* is properly among the *Mohamme-Imâm-dans*, the same as the Curate with Roman Catholics; and the *Mulla* is like a Doctor in Divinity.

Whereas the Christians confirm what they promise, or affirm on important Occasions, upon the Gospel, the *Mohammedans* are accusom'd to do it upon the *Alcoran*, which only they pretend contains the divine Truths, which the Christians on their side believe to be contain'd in the Gospel.

The Name of God, which is signify'd by the word *Allah*, is always in the Mouth of the *Mohammedans*, of whatever Sect they be, which might have been practis'd at first with a good Design, but at present they have made so great an Abuse of it, that they will bring that holy Name into their most trifling Chat, and even into indecent Discourse: in which the *Mohammedans* differ much from the Maxim of the *Jews*, who never pronounced the holy Name of God, but very rare, and with the most profound Respect.

[The *Arabs* think they honour God in having his Name often in their Mouths, even in Swearing and Cursing; and that is the Reason we so often find, in the best *Mohammedan* Writers, Execrations, such as, *God burn him, God curse him, or confound him*, tack'd to the Names of Persons who have render'd themselves odious, for some Actions, to all *Mohammedans* in general, or to some Sect in particular.]

The *Æra* of the *Mohammedans* commences from the Flight of *Mohammed*, from *Mekka* to *Medinab*; for seeing that from that time

Guilty of what we call taking the Name of God in vain.

Think they honour God by it.

Æra of the Hegra, or Flight of Mohammed.

Arab
Years Lu-
nar.

very thing succeeded to his Wish, he * order'd that they should reckon the Years to come from the Day of his Flight, which was the 16th of July, A. D. 622. The Word *Hegira*, by which the *Mahammedan Æra* is commonly expressed, signifies in the *Arabick* Language a Persecution on the Score of Religion †. The *Mohammedans* have that in common with the greatest Part of the People of Antiquity, and with almost all the Orientals at present, that their Years are Lunar, and are reckon'd from new Moon to new Moon; so that they have always interchangeably four Months running, each of thirty days, and then three Months succeed of twenty nine days each; whence it happens, that the Lunar Year has eleven days less than the Solar. As this Flight of *Mohammed* happen'd on a *Friday*, the *Mahammedans* in order to perpetuate the Memory of it, have consecrated that Day to publick Devotion, and they celebrate it with no less Exactness than the *Jews* do *Saturday*, and the *Christians* *Sunday*. See on this Head, the *Historical Dictionary* of *Morery*.

Morery
faulty in
his Ac-
count of
Moham-
medan
Matters.

[I am very sorry the Annotator should pitch upon an Author for his Guide, who has altogether made use of the western Historians, in most things very faulty, as to what is found in them relating to Oriental Affairs, when he had his Choice of so many Books, which being

[* It was not Mohammed, but Omar, the second Chalifah, or Successor of him, who instituted the Æra of the Hegira.]

[† Hegrah is an Arabick Word which signifies a Flight; so that the Year of the Hegrah signifies only the Year of the Flight, or from the Flight of Mohammed; tho it must be owned, upon this Occasion, the Mohammedans have appropriated it to a Flight upon Account of Religion or Persecution.]

either

either Translations, or Extracts, from eastern Historians, must be supposed more fit to inform him in Matters concerning those People and Countries. Thus, I should think, in an Enquiry of of this Nature, one would rather consult the Dictionary of *Herbelot*, which bears the Title of Oriental, than that of *Morery*, which has misled him in several Particulars relating to *Mohammed*. And as to the Nature of *Mohammedan* Years, and Manner of intercalating Days, the Annotator had better have consulted *Thevenot*, an Author he quotes elsewhere, who would have been a much surer Guide than *Morery* to go by, who has also misled him in that Affair. For a just Insight into these Matters, the Reader may consult *Herbelot*, or *Prideaux's*, or rather *Abulfeda's* Life of *Mohammed*, lately published by the Reverend Mr. *Gagnier*, whose Translations from the *Arabick* I hope will not want all imaginable Encouragement.]



C H A P. IV.

OBSERVATIONS relating to
the Country of IRAN, or Persia at
large.

S E C T. I.

Of the Name and Extent of PERSIA.
Women Dancers.

Name.

THAT great Monarchy known to us by the Name of *Persia*, consists of several spacious Countries, which at different times have had their particular Kings, and to which the *Persians* give the Name of *Irân*: a Name they derive from *Irige*, eldest Son of *Fraydûn*, 7th King of the first Race of their Monarchs called *Pishdad*, as they deduce that of *Tarân* from *Tur* another of *Fraydûn*'s Sons, according to what we have already observ'd in the Accounts of *Great Bucharìa* and *Turkestan*. As for *Pars* which the *Arabs* for want of the P write *Fars*, or *Fares*, and from whence our Name of *Persia* comes, it denotes no more than that particular Country whereof *Sbiráz* is the Capital, which makes but one Province of the Dominions of the Shah, or of the Empire of *Irân*.

That of
Agem a
Nickname.

The Name of *Agem* is mistakenly ascribed to it by most Authors, as if it was a Name used by the Natives; whereas it is a Name of Contempt or Reproach given to it by the *Arabs* and *Turks*, out of Aversion to the *Persians*, both upon a religious and political Account, whom from thence they call *Agem*, which signifies Strangers,
or

or outlandish People, and is apply'd by them in the same Sense that *Barbarian* has all along been by *Europeans* to other Nations, who deserve it, at the same time, less than themselves.]

By the Country of *Irân*, must be understood *Extent.* all the Countries which are situate to the South of the River *Amu*, between the River *Indus*, the Gulf of *Persia*, and the River *Euphrates*, which comprehends very nearly all the Kingdom of *Persia*, in the Condition it was in just before the Troubles which at present are tearing it in pieces.

[The Extent of *Irân* is not ascertain'd by Authors. Some would comprehend under that Name all the Provinces which ever were at any time subject to the *Persian* Monarchy: p. 18. it is made to include *Syria* and *Egypt*, *Sham* or *Damascus*, and *Misser* or *Mesr*, which is *Cairo*, being said to belong to it: But the most general Boundaries ascribed to it are the Rivers *Tigris*, and *Gibun* or *Amu*.]

The *Persians* are accustom'd to shave the *Persians* Beard, and let only the Mustachios grow; al- *wear only* ledging that it is very ornamental in a Man to *Mustachi-* have large Mustachios, and they never let their *os.* Beards grow but in some extraordinary Affliction: This is the reason why the Embassador of *Shah Tamas II.* who was at *St. Petersburg* in the Year 1723, to demand Succours from the late Emperor of *Russia*, in the Name of his Master, against the Rebel *Miri Weis*, [*Mir Awis*] who had put to death his Father, wore a long Beard, to testify the Share he had in the publick Calamities which laid waste his Country, and the Royal House of the *Sofis* [*Shabs*]: But the *Uzbek Tatars*, as well as all the other *Tatars*, let all their Beard grow three or four Inches broad, and ridicule extremely that Affectation of the *Persians* in cherishing only the

the Mustachios. The Quality, as *Tavernie* acquaints us, ride on Mules [like the Governour of *Meru*, p. 135.]

*Women
Dancers
in Persia.*

As the *Persians* are great Lovers of the Sex and that nevertheless it is very rare that one can enjoy the Conversation of any honest Woman throughout the East, it is the Custom in *Persia*, at all the Feasts or other Diversions which they give their Friends, to call for certain Women, who make it their Business to divert the Company on those Occasions, by dancing and playing on several sorts of Instruments.

These Women ordinarily cut a very grand Figure, and wear Habits in Summer of a very thin Gawze, which exposes all the Parts of their Bodies to the View of the Beholders, excepting those which are cover'd with Cotton Drawers, which all the Women of *Persia* commonly wear; but in Winter they put on Gowns of Gold Brocade, or of Silk, which discover to a Nicety the Shape, which in most of the Women of those Provinces is very elegant.

*Common
Prostitutes.*

These Women are no other than common Prostitutes, whom the Master of the House, to make the better Cheer for his Guests, does not fail to offer to them to choose which they like; and as the major Part of them are not ugly, it always happens that one of the Company takes a Fancy to one or other of these Creatures, and then without Ceremony, he goes with her he likes into the next Chamber, does what he has to do, and returns after that very quietly to join the Company. The Lady, on her side, returns also to dance or play as if there had been nothing of it, and without shewing the least sign of Shame for what she had been doing in the other Room.

The

The same thing is practis'd in the *Indies*; and there are also at the Court of the *Great Mogul*, and that of *Persia*, Companies of these Women, retained by the Court, who constantly follow it wherever it goes, to make Diversion for the Prince and his Lords.

The Cubit of *Persia* is twenty four Inches, ^{Cubit of Persia.} eight of which make six Royal Inches of *French* Measure; so that the Cubit is exactly a Foot and half, or eighteen Royal Inches, which answer to three quarters of a *Brabant* Ell. See *Thevenot's Voyages*.

S E C T. II.

Of the Title of Chan still given to Governors in Persia. The Points in which the Persians differ in Opinion from the Turks and other Moham-medans.

THE Title of *Chan*, which is given in *Persia* to the Governors of Provinces, is a Monument of the Dominion of the *Tatars* in that Kingdom; for when the Power of the Princes of the Posterity of *Zingis Chan*, which reign'd in *Persia*, began to decline, most of the Governors of Provinces, shaking off the Yoke of the *Chans* of that House, usurp'd themselves the Title of *Chan*, and made their Sons and Relations take the Title of *Sultan*; among whom they distributed the Governments of the Towns of their Dependence, in imitation of that Custom of the *Tatar* Princes. *Ussum Cassan* [*Uzun Hassan*] and after him *Shah Ismael*, having reunited all the Empire of *Persia* under one Scepter, found it convenient to leave this vain Shadow of Sovereignty to those

^{Title of Chan in the Governments of Persia.}
^{Why retained.}

those who were at that time in possession of it, and to content themselves with the Solid, that is to say, of having reduc'd them to be no more than their Subjects for the time to come; and since then the Title of *Chan* properly belongs to the Governors of Provinces, and that of *Sultan* to the Governors of Towns.

All the Governments at the Disposal of the Shah,

Except Candahar.

At first these pretended *Chans* were left in possession of the Provinces they possessed, a certain annual Tribute being impos'd on them, and the Government pass'd to their Children; but *Shah Abas* the Great thought fit to abolish this Custom, and after the Death of the *Chans* to dispose of their Governments according to his Pleasure: and since then all the Governments of *Persia* are at the Nomination of the King, excepting only the Government of *Candahar*, which has been always hereditary, because the *Chans* of that Province submitted voluntarily to the Crown of *Persia*. And 'tis this dangerous Prerogative which has made the *Chans* of *Candahar* so very powerful as to attempt to dethrone their Masters, by plunging the Kingdom of *Persia* into that unhappy State which we see it is in at present.

Daruga.

The Office also of *Daruga* [introduced by the *Tatars*] subsists still in *Persia*; for in each Town there is a *Daruga* who commands in chief there, and throughout the Extent of his Jurisdiction, all the Affairs of Justice and Policy are at his Decision: He has also the receiving of the Royal Treasures, and the Administration of the Domains of the Crown throughout his District: He is obliged to render an Account of the Finances which pass thro' his Hands, to the Calenter of the Province, and one may appeal from his Sentence to the *Chan*, Governor of the Province.

vince. There is none but the *Daruga* of *Isphan*, who depends immediately on the Court.

The Title which the Emperors of the *Turks* are accustom'd to give the *Shahs* of *Persia*, is that of *Sheich Ogli*, of which we have an Instance, p. 291. As by their Principles they can not but look upon them as Usurpers and downright Arch-Hereticks, they reckon it unworthy of their Grandeur and Zeal for the true *Mohammedan* Worship to give them the Title of *Shah*.

Title of Sheich Ogli given by the Turk to the Shah.

'Tis the Custom in many Parts of the East, when one is about to salute a Monarch, to fall on the Knees, and then the Prince puts his Right Hand upon the Left Shoulder of the Person who salutes him, in case he be agreeable to him, to signify that he is well pleas'd to see him; agreeable to what is related, p. 273.

Manner of Saluting Kings in the East.

As the Memory of *Sheich Sefi*, Great Great Grandfather of *Shah Ismael*, was in great Veneration with the *Persians*, on account of his pretended Sanctity, *Shah Ismael*, when he set about making himself Master of *Persia*, knew how to make a dextrous use of his being sprung from so great a Man, who was descended in a direct Line from *Aly*, *Mohammed's* Son-in-Law, to render his Person agreeable to the *Persians*: and as *Sheich Sefi* had maintain'd in his time that *Abubeker*, *Omar* and *Osman*, who were the immediate Successors of *Mohammed*, were only Intruders, who had usurp'd the Dignity of *Chalif* over *Aly*, Son-in-Law to *Mohammed*, who ought himself to have succeeded immediately, according to the Will of *Mohammed*, *Shah Ismael* saw it for his Purpose to revive that Opinion, to animate his Partisans against the *Turks*, who then possess'd a great part of *Persia*, because the *Turks* have always had those three first Successors of *Mohammed* in great Veneration: and he so effectually

Memory of Sheich Sefi dear to the Persians.

Shah Ismael introduces a Change in Religion.

fectually insinuated to his Followers, that none but one who was of the Race of *Aly* had a Right to govern the true *Mohammedans*, that it contributed much to the sudden Revolution which drove the *Turks* intirely out of *Persia*, and placed *Shah Ismael* upon the Throne.

Points in which the Shiais and the Sunnis differ in Religion. 'Tis to the time of the advancement of this Prince to the Throne of *Persia*, that the Epocha of the Separation of the *Persians* from the rest of the *Mohammedans* is to be fixt. The principal Points in which these latter, and the other Followers of *Aly*, differ from the rest of the *Mohammedans*, may be reduced to these, viz.

Persians hold Ali to be the true immediate Successor of Moham- med. 1. The *Persians* pretend that *Aly* is the true immediate Successor of *Mohammed*, and that *Abubeker*, *Omar* and *Osman*, who reign'd before *Aly* after *Mohammed's* Death, are but Usurpers, which should not be reckon'd in the Number of the lawful Successors of their Prophet; which is wholly contrary to the Sentiments of all the other *Mohammedans*, who acknowledge *Abubeker*, *Omar* and *Osman*, for legitimate Successors of *Mohammed*, and only reckon *Aly* for the fourth Successor of their Law-giver. [After the Formula there is no God but God, and *Mohammed* is the Messenger of God, which the *Turks* use; the *Persians* add, *Aly* is the Friend of God*.]

Admit but one Commentary of Ali on the Coran. 2. The *Persians* admit but one sole Commentary of *Aly* upon the *Alcoran* as orthodox; whereas the other *Mohammedans* do not indeed wholly reject *Aly's* Commentary, but they prefer those of *Abubeker*, *Omar* and *Othman* far before it, which are the Aversion of the *Persians*.

[* Hyde in *Notis Persicis*. p. 168. It is Prophet of God in the Place cited; but I hope I shall be excused this Alteration, since the Doctor in the same Book, de Prec. Moham. p. 2. allows the Word *Resul* rather signifies Messenger.]

3. The

3. The *Persians* make use of the *Alcoran* translated into the *Persian* Language, which is deem'd a great Impiety by the other *Mohammedans*, seeing they are persuaded that it was God himself who caused the *Alcoran* to be written in the *Arabic* by the Angel *Gabriel*. Notwithstanding the *Persians* agree in the main with the other *Mohammedans* upon this Article, since they don't care to have a true Translation of the *Alcoran* in their Tongue; instead of which they only put under each *Arabic* Word the Signification in the *Persian* Language between the Lines, for the Instruction of the Ignorant, without adding any Connexion, or reducing those words to a coherent Sense, as should be done to give it the Name of a Translation: for they are fully persuaded, like the other *Mohammedans*, that there is no other Language worthy to explain the Mysteries of the *Alcoran*. [They reckon it indeed the most worthy, but they both admit of and have Translations of the *Coran* in several other Languages.]

4. The *Persians* adhere to the Observation of that which the Law expressly ordains; whereas the other *Mohammedans* add thereto many other Precepts which they call the Councils of Devotion, much like as the *Roman Catholics* add the Commandments of the Church to the Commandments of God.

5. The *Persians* pretend it is enough to make the Prayer three times a day, viz. at Sun-rise, at Noon, and at Sun-set; but the other *Mohammedans* maintain that 'tis obligatory to pray five times a day.

6. The *Persians* admit of a Free-will, and bestow a figurative Sense on several Passages of the *Alcoran*, which renders their Doctrine reasonable enough; whereas the other *Mohammedans*

are for absolute Predestination, and strictly follow the literal Sense of the *Alcoran*.

Differ in several other Ceremonies and Opinions.

These are the principal Points which divide the Sectaries of *Aly* from the other *Mohammedans*; but they differ besides in abundance of Ceremonies and particular Opinions, which are of very little Moment to us. Nevertheless it is fit to know that the Month of *Ramadan*, and all the other Months of the Year, begin always a Day sooner with the *Persians* than the other *Mohammedans*; because being more learned in Astronomy than the latter, they don't reckon the new Moon from the Day it becomes visible, but from the Day before.

Hate each other more than the Christians.

The *Persians* assume the Name of *Schiais*, in opposition to the *Turks*, their greatest Adversaries, who take the Name of *Sunnis*: and the Hatred betwixt those two Nations on account of their different Opinions about Religion, is not less than that which reigns between the *Roman Catholics* and *Protestants*, be it ever so violent.

Turbans differ.

The *Turks* commonly wrap their Bonnets only with a *Turban* of some Ells of *Muslin*, or some other fine white Cloth; but the *Persians* first wind some white Cloths about them to swell them, and afterwards cover them with several Ells of colour'd *Silk*, strip'd with *Gold* or *Silver*, if for Persons of Distinction, which makes their *Turbans* very deform'd and clumsy. See *Thuret* and *Olearius*.

S E C T.

S E C T. III.

Of the Provinces and Cities of PERSIA.§ 1. *The Province of ARAN.*

TH E Country which at present goes by the *Extent.* Name of the Province of *Arân*, makes the greatest Part of the antient *Armenia*, and comprehends almost all that which is situate between the Rivers *Kur* and *Aras*. 'Tis one of the finest, largest, and richest Provinces of *Persia*. [*De Fer* and some other Authors confound the Name of this Province with that of *Irân* or *Persia* at large.] 'Tis true 'tis very mountainous, but for all that 'tis very productive of all sorts of Pulse and Fruits; they also make there very good Wine, and a great deal of it. This Province is one of those of *Persia* which produces most Silk, with which the *Armenian* *Silk Trade.* Christians who are very numerous in this Country, carry on a great Trade: It has been these two Years past in the Hands of the *Turks*.

The Town of *Eriwân* is at present the Capital *Eriwan, or Rivân.* of the Province of *Arân*; 'tis situate upon the eastern side of a small River which falls into the *Aras* four Leagues to the South of the Town. This Town is not considerable in it self, tho' it be pretty well fortify'd, and there is only the *Jan*, the Governor of the Province, who lives there with the Soldiers appointed for the Defence of the Place, which is built intirely upon a Rock: All the Merchants, Artisans, and other Inhabitants dwell on the West side of the

- River, in a sort of Suburb, which is much larger and better peopled than the Town it self.
- Bridge.* One passes from the Suburbs to the Town over a fair Stone Bridge, where they have made Chambers level with the River to take the fresh Air in Summer. *Erivân* is one of the great Passages to enter *Persia* on the side of *Turky*; which joined to the Trade of Silk which is driven in this City, affords the Inhabitants Means to live comfortably. The *Armenian* Christians have there four Churches, and the Country is over-spread with their Convents.
- One of the Passages into Persia.*
- Trade in Slaves.* The *Daghestân* *Tatars* come in Troops to *Erivân*, with Slaves of all Ages and Sexes, which they sell or truck at the best Rate they can.
- Nacivân.* The Town of *Nacivân* is situate in this Province, and reckon'd one of the most ancient in all *Persia*: but as it has been a vast Sufferer in the late Wars between the *Turks* and *Persians*, 'tis now in a very sorry Condition in comparison of what it was formerly, before *Shah Abbas* the Great caused it to be demolish'd, to hinder the *Turks* from making use of it against himself.
- Demolish'd by Shah Abbas.*
- Carabach.* *Carabach* is a Place in the Province of *Arân*, towards the River *Arax*, which is not very considerable at present.

§ 2. *The Province of Adherbigân, including that of Shîrwân.*

THE Province which the Orientals call *Extent, Adirbeitzan* *, is properly the *Media* of the Antients. 'Tis bounded on the North by *Georgia*; on the East by the *Caspian Sea*; on the South by the Province of *Gilân* and *Erâk A'gemi*, and to the West by *Armenia*. 'Tis at present intirely in the Hands of the *Persians*, who have made two Provinces of it, whereof one is call'd *Shîrwân*, and has the City of *Sbarmachi* for the Capital; and the other retains the Name of *Adherbigân*, whose Capital is *Ardebil*.

The City of *Tebrîz* or *Tauris* is situate to the East † of the Town of *Ardebil*; and 'tis suppos'd to be the *Ecbatana* of the Antients ‡. It is still one of the best in *Persia*, because it has always been a great Thorough-fair, and that a great Trade has been at all times carried on there: 'Tis large, populous, and well enough built; but there are none but the *Mosks*, and such like publick Buildings, which are built with Brick or Stone, all the private Houses being built with Bricks baked in the Sun, and that is the Reason why they are not usually above one or two Stories high: They are all flat at Top, and the Chambers within are vaulted, and well white wash'd. One finds there several *Bazars* well built, and *Carawanse-razes* very commodious.

The little River which passes thro' the Town furnishes it with very good Water; but 'tis very subject to overflow about Spring and Au-
River.

[* *Adherbigân*. † West. ‡ *Others reckon Hamadân, perhaps with as much Probability.*]

turnn, and then it usually lays a great part of the City under Water. There are three Stone Bridges over it, each of a single Arch, which serve for Communication between as many great Streets which cross the Town from one End to the other.

Shagrine made here.

The fairest *Shagrine Skins* in all *Persia* are made in this Town, for which they have yearly a great Vent, because all the *Persians* who pretend to be ever so little above the common Rank, don't think themselves well shod if they have not Boots of *Shagrine*.

Silks.

The silk Stuffs manufactured in this Town are likewise much esteem'd ; and they also make there all sorts of small Ware in Iron, which are in great Request in *Persia*, where there are very few Locksmiths and such like Artisans. There is also a great Trade for Horses in this Place, in regard the Horses of those Parts are reckon'd the best in *Persia*.

Horses the best in Persia.

Money and Provisions plenty.

All these things make Money more plenty in *Tauris* than in any other Place in *Persia* ; and as the Country round the City is moreover very fruitful in all the Necessaries of Life, they are in great Plenty too and very cheap. One generally finds there foreign Merchants of most Nations of *Europe* and *Asia*, which Commerce and the great Thorough-fair bring thither. The *Capucines* have there also a House, where they exercise the *Roman Catholick Religion* in full liberty.

Subject to Earthquakes.

The City of *Tauris* has from time to time suffer'd much by Earthquakes, and the Wars between the *Turks* and *Persians*, nevertheless it has always recovered its Losses with Advantage: but I know not whether it will be able to make as much of the Misfortune which lately happen'd to it : For the *Turks* having carried the
Town

Town by Assault last Year [viz. 1725.] after a bloody Siege, put to the Sword all the Inhabitants without Distinction of Age or Sex, and afterwards intirely plunder'd the Town. 'Tis said that no less than 100000 Souls perish'd on that Occasion. Taken by
the Turks,
and
100000
slain.

§ 3. *The Province of Shîrwân.*

This is the most mountainous Province of *Persia*: It extends along the *Caspian* Sea, from the Town of *Derbend* and the Frontiers of *Daghestân*, to the Mouth of the River *Kur*; and 'tis suppos'd to have been properly the northern Part of the antient *Media*, [and at present, according to what is observ'd before, makes the eastern Part of the Province of *Adrabâgân*.] *Extent.*

The City of *Shamachy* is the Capital of the Province of *Shîrwân*, and is situate in 40 Deg. 50 Min. Latitude, in a Valley between two Mountains, which hide it in suchwise that one can scarce see it till he is at the Gates of the Town. 'Tis divided into two Parts by a Valley, which serves as a common Bound to both. The northern Part is inclosed with a good Wall, but the southern Part is quite open. This Town has five Gates, and may have in all 2000 Houses; its Streets are narrow, the Houses low and for the most part built of Earth. The Inhabitants are *Armenians* and *Georgians*, and speak the *Turkish* Language for sake of conversing together, that Language being very much used thro'out *Persia*. It has a great Trade for Silk and Cotton Stuffs, which are made there in great abundance. The Merchants dwell mostly in the southern Part, where there are several cover'd Streets *Trade.*

for the Convenience of Shops. The *Circassians* and *Dighehins* resort there also in great Numbers with Horses, Women, young Boys, and pretty Girls, which they steal from their Neighbours to sell in this Town. See *the Voyages of Olearius*.

[The Author of these Remarks supposes it to be the City of *Sham*, mention'd p. 5. on account, as I judge, of the Situation assign'd to Mount *gad*: or *Amrat*; which seems to agree better with one than the other, and is somewhat favour'd by the affinity of Names. But as *Abulgazi Chan* uses that Name elsewhere to denote *Damascus*, to which it unquestionably belongs, and there are no Instances, that I know of, in Authors, of its being ever applied to *Shamakh*; I have therefore thought fit to differ from that Gentleman.]

Baku

The City of *Baku* is situate in 40 Deg. 30 Min. Latitude, and is the only Port to be found on the western Coast of the *Caspian Sea*: 'Tis none of the greatest, but to make amends 'tis well built and populous: 'Tis seated on the Descent of a Hill, which advancing with a Point into the Sea forms a pretty safe and large Port, provided it was deep enough: It has a Castle which commands the whole Town, but 'tis commanded in its Turn by the neighbouring Rocks. *Baku* has been in the Hands of the *Russians* ever since the Year 1723. 'Tis in the neighbourhood of this Town that those famous Springs of *Naphtha* are to be seen; which is a liquid *Bitumen* of a dark Colour, used by the *Perians* instead of Lamp Oil, and in their Fireworks. These Springs are so numerous that they supply the Occasions of the greatest part of *Peria*, which brings a pretty good Trade to the

Naphtha

the Town of *Baku*. See *Olearius*, [and *Kemfer's Amœnitates exoticæ*.]

The Town of *Derbend* is situate upon the West side of the *Caspian* Sea, and is at present the Key of *Persia* on the Side of *Georgia* and *Daghestân*. The high Mountains of *Caucasus*, which run between the *Black* Sea and the *Caspian*, in this Place border upon the latter, leaving only between the Sea and the Mountains an Opening of the Space of a small League, in which *Derbend* is built. 'Tis divided into three Parts, the highest of which, built on the Top of the Mountain, is like a kind of Citadel, where the Governor and the Garison are usually lodg'd. The middle Part is built at the Foot of the Hill, and is properly the Town; for in the last Part or lower Town, which is the greatest and extends to the Sea-shore, there are very few Houses. *Derbend* has no Port, but only a sort of Road which is very dangerous, because all this Coast for two Leagues into the Sea is Rock, where there is no possibility of anchoring. There is very little Trade in this Town, except in Slaves, which the *Daghestân* Tatars bring thither in great Numbers. The Inhabitants of *Derbend* are *Mohammedans* or *Jews*. These last pretend to be of the Tribe of *Benjamin*, and carry on but a poor Trade in Rags. See the *Voyages* of *Olearius*. Since the *Russians* possess'd themselves of this Town in 1722. they have augmented its Fortifications considerably, in such wise that it will be very difficult to dislodge them.

'Tis suppos'd, that 'tis the Town of *Derbend* which the Antients call'd *Portæ Caspiæ*, and that 'twas *Alexander the Great* who built it: At least 'tis

Derbend
the Key of
Persia.

Road
dangerous
for Ships.

Trade in
Slaves.

The Portæ
Caspiæ
built by
Alexander.

'tis true that the lower part of the Town is still call'd by the *Persians ShaberYunân*, or the *Greeks* Town. *Derbend* may be about a League long from West to East, and 450 Paces broad from North to South. 'Tis fortify'd with good Walls, which descending from both sides of the Citadel extend to the Sea; and these Walls are built of the same Composition of which that call'd by the *Persians Naw-shirwan's* Wall is built, which is that without doubt whereof *Abuligazi Chan* speaks, p. 43.

Wall be-
twixt the
Caspian
and Eu-
xine Sea.

Consists
of petrify'd
Earth.

The Remains of this Wall which the *Persians* pretend their King *Naw-shirwan* caused to be drawn from the *Caspian* to the *Black Sea*, are at this Day to be seen upon the Confines of the Province of *Shirwân* and *Georgia*: It begins at the higher Town of *Derbend*, and extends thence West-North-Westward a-cross the Mountains of *Georgia* towards the *Black Sea*. These Remains are every where three Foot thick, but its height is very unequal; for in some Parts it is still six and seven Foot high, in others only one or two, and in some Places it is quite beaten down. It appears at first sight to be built of Stone, but when one comes to examine it near, it proves to be only a kind of petrify'd Earth, Sand and Shells, which has form'd so solid a Body that there is no Freestone better than it; and it is on this Account that our Author thinks it might be call'd a Wall of Earth. The late Emperor of *Russia*, in his *Persian Expedition*, had the Curiosity to go see the Remains of this Wall so far as the Situation of the Country and his Affairs would permit him; and he could not but admire the Solidity of that Composition, which he found every where so exceeding hard,
that

that there was no breaking off any Pieces of it without employing a good deal of Strength. He found also some Leagues within the Mountains a Skirt of it which seem'd to be intire, and was about fifteen Foot high. In all Probability this Wall had stood intire to this Day, if it had nothing to fear but Time, but the Hands of Men which built it have also destroy'd it, and most of the Towns, Burroughs and Villages of the Country thereabouts are built with the Ruins of this Wall.

§ 4. *The Province of Erâk Ağemy, Gebal or Kuhestan.*

There are two Provinces to the East of the *Erâk Ağemy* River *Euphrates* which the Oriental Historians, chiefly the *Arabs*, call by the Name of *Erâk*; one whereof, call'd *Erâk Arabi*, is situate [partly] between the River *Tygris* and *Euphrates*, and comprehends precisely the Province of *Babylon* of the Antients [for ought we know;] the second which they call *Erâk Azemi* [*Ağemi*] is bounded on the North by the Provinces of *Adberbîgân* and *Gilan*; to the East by the Country of *Chorasân*; to the South by the Provinces of *Fars*, and *Laabr*; and to the West by the Country of the *Curds*. 'Tis the true Country of the *Parthians* [as some conjecture.]

[*Erâk Ağemi* signifies *Erâk* of *Persia*, or of the *Persians*; the Word *Ağemi* is join'd to it to distinguish it from *Erâk* in *Arabia*. I have already observed in a Remark upon the latter, that this Province is not a Part of *Irâkain*; and from what has been said with regard to the Name of *Ağem* being given to *Persia*, it may be reasonably concluded that *Erâk Ağemy* is a Name for that Province not used by the *Persians*, but
by

by *Arabs* and *Turks*. In short, the *Persians* call this Province *Kubestân*, or the mountainous Country; and we find it as often for that Reason in the *Arab* Authors by the Name of *Gebal*, which signifies also a Mountain, as by that of *Erâk Ag'my.*]

Ispahân.

The City of *Ispahân* is the Capital not only of *Erâk* but of all *Persia*: 'Tis a very large spreading Town surrounded with Walls of Bricks baked in the Sun, and water'd by the little River *Zonderud*. The great *Maidan* is the finest thing to be seen there, and they even pretend that it is the most beautiful Place in all the East; it is about 700 Paces long and 300 broad, dispos'd regularly enough according to the *Oriental* Taste in Architecture.

Maidan
the fairest
in the
East.

As there are many Accounts of this City, I refer the Reader to them, and particularly to those of the *Sieurs Olearius* and *Tavernier*, which are the most particular. *Ispahân* has suffer'd within these late Years, on Occasion of the present Troubles which distract *Persia*, and is at present in the Hands of the Rebels, without seeing as yet any End of its Troubles.

Hamadân.

Hamadân is situate in the Province of *Erâk* towards the Frontiers of *Cardistân*: 'Tis one of the principal Cities of *Persia*, because 'tis the Door by which every thing that goes from *Bagdât* to *Ispahân* must necessarily enter into that Kingdom. Most of the Buildings of this Town are of Stone or Brick, and the adjacent Country is extremely fertile in all sorts of Pulse and delicious Fruits; there grows especially plenty of Rice in the neighbourhood of *Hamadân*.

Well water'd.

The Mountains which stand to the West of the Town furnish it with the finest Water imaginable by a great number of Springs, which
break

break out on all sides of them, and renders the Places about the Town extremely agreeable and pleasant. In time of Peace there is carried on a great Trade at *Hamadân* among the *Persians*, the *Curds*, and the *Turks* of the neighbouring Provinces, but at present 'tis in very sad Condition, the *Turks* having taken it by Assault in the Year 1723, and exercised there all the Cruelties imaginable: it is still in their Hands.

The City of *Soltânia* was built by Soltan *Mohammed Chodabenda*, the same whom *Abulgazi*, p. 187. calls *Ulseitu Chan*, to the East of the City of *Caswin*. This Town must have been very great and beautiful heretofore, as appears by the Ruins which are still to be seen about it; but since *Tamerlain* caused it to be destroy'd, it never was able to recover it self. So that at present it is only the Appearance of a Town, all within being nothing but Ruins and great desert Places; the Number of Inhabitants may amount to about 6000 at most.

The Castle is much in the same Condition with the Town, tho one may easily see by what remains of it, that it must have been a very magnificent Building. Nevertheless the *Mosk*, where is the Tomb of Soltan *Mohammed Chodabenda*, is still pretty entire, and might pass in any Country for a very fine Piece of Architecture: It has three magnificent Gates of Steel perfectly well polish'd, and wrought damask like, which are of an extraordinary Largeness, especially that of the Front, which faces the Maidan: The Grate thro' which one sees that Tomb is made of the same Metal, and so well wrought that tho its Branches are as thick as a Man's Arm, 'tis impossible to discover any joining in them. The *Persians* affirm that it is all of one Piece, and that it was seven Years in hand

Taken by
the Turks,
1723.

Soltâni-
yah.

Destroy'd
by Amir
Timûr.

Mosk, a
fine Piece of
Architec-
ture.

hand before it was brought to Perfection; and that it was brought from the *Indies* just as it appears at present. See *the Voyages of Olearius*.

Caswin.

The Town of *Caswin* is situate towards the Frontiers of the Province of *Gilân*, and is supposed to be the *Arsacia* of the Antients. This is still one of the finest Towns in all *Persia*, notwithstanding its disadvantageous Situation in a vast sandy Plain, without having any other fresh Water than what is brought thither by Aquaducts from a Branch of Mount *Alwend*, which is six Leagues distant. As the Town of *Caswin* lies a good way within *Persia*, it has no Fortifications, being intirely open on all sides:

Capital before Shah Abbas the Great.

'Tis a good *German* League in Compass, and still reckons about 100000 Inhabitants, tho it is no longer the Residence of the *Shahs* of *Persia*, as it was before *Shah Abbas the Great*.

The Houses of the Town make no great Appearance on the outside, because they are only built of Brick baked in the Sun, as are most of the Houses in *Persia*; but within they are all perfectly well order'd, and very light-some, and all the Rooms are vaulted. The common People are contented with having their Rooms well white-wash'd, but at the Houses of People of Distinction the Appartments are very neatly furnish'd and hung, and the Ceilings of them are painted with Gold and Azure, after the *Persian* Fancy.

Water scarce.

As Water is very scarce in this Town, each House has its Ice House for cooling the Drink in Summer, and they take great care to keep these Ice Houses very clean, that in case of need they may make use of the Snow and Ice which is kept there for want of Water.

There

There are two magnificent Squares in *Caswin*, ^{Noble Squares} upon the greatest of which is seen the Palace with a fine Garden adjoining, which the *Shahs* of *Persia* lodged in heretofore, when they made this Town their Residence: There is also another Garden close by it, which is reckon'd one of the most magnificent in *Persia*; and one finds, besides, divers other Palaces about that Place, which the principal Lords of the *Shah's* Court built there formerly.

The publick Buildings, as the *Metsbids*, [*Mesgid*, or rather *Mesku*, which is the *Persian* Word] the *Carawan Sarays*, the *Bazars*, and publick Baths, are also as well built and maintain'd as in any other City in *Persia*.

Divers kinds of Silk Merchandize are to be had there; and the Velvet with Gold and Silver Grounds, which are made at *Caswin*, are much esteem'd in the *East*. ^{Gold and Silver Velvets made here.}

§ 5. *The Cities of Sûs, Shîrâz, and Karmân; Capitals of the Provinces of Chuzestân, Pârs or Proper Persia, and Karmân.*

'Tis thought the Town of *Sûs* [or *Suster*,] is ^{Sûs, the Capital of Chuzestân.} the antient *Susa*, the Capital of *Persia* at the Time of *Alexander the Great's* Invasion in *Asia*. 'Tis situate in the Province of *Susistan* [rather *Chuzestân*, of which it is the Capital] about five Days Journey from the *Euphrates*, towards the Frontiers of *Erâk-Araby* or *Chaldea*. This Town is at present in a Condition very different from what it has been heretofore.

Shîrâz is situate in *Persia* [*Proper*, or *Pârs*, ^{Shîrâz Capital of Pârs:} call'd by the *Arabs* *Fâres*] to the South of *Is-pahân*. 'Tis suppos'd to be the *Persepolis* of the Antients. This City is at present one of the fairest, most agreeable, and populous, in *Persia*,

Unwall'd. *Persia* [at large,] it being of a great Compass, and very well built. It has no Walls, but only a sorry Ditch for its Fortifications; its Suburbs are very spacious and full of Gardens, where the Inhabitants of the Town resort to take the fresh Air in Summer. The principal Streets of the Town are very fair and lightsome, and the *Bazars* or Markets magnificent, and generally cover'd above, for the Preservation of the Merchandize, of which one at all times finds an exceeding Plenty, and of all sorts; each Merchandize having its particular *Bazar* to it self.

Bazars full, very wealthy.

College for studying the Sciences.

There are many *Mosks* tolerably handsome at *Shiráz*, and, besides that, a great College for studying Theology, Philosophy, and Physick: This College is one of the most famous and most frequented in *Persia*; and the Professors, who teach there the aforesaid Sciences, are maintain'd by the Income of certain very valuable Foundations appropriated to that Use.

Finest Glasses in the East.

The Inhabitants of this Town are said to have much Wit. The most beautiful Glasses in the East are made there. The Matter they are made of is a hard white Stone, not unlike Marble, which is brought from certain Mountains four Days Journey from the City. These Glasses yield in nothing to the fairest made in *Europe*, and especially the great Bottles, which those of *Shiráz* have the Art of blowing, are so clear and curious that our Glassmakers have much ado to come up to them, seeing there are of this sort of Bottles which hold thirty Pints and more.

Shiráz is situate in a Plain very fertile, and abounding in all sorts of Fruits and Pulse. To the East of it stands a Mountain cover'd all over with Orange, Citron, and such like Fruit Trees.

Trees. The River *Bendamîr*, which passes thro' ^{River} the Town, has its Spring in the Mountains to ^{Bendamîr.} the North of this Province, and falls into the Gulf of *Persia* to the South-West of the Town of *Sbirâz*, [*Siraf*, or rather *Bender Rik*.] This River is very small in Summer, insomuch that it may be forded in that Season; but in Spring and Autumn, the Water which falls from all sides of the neighbouring Mountains, swell it ^{Inundates} often to that Degree that it does much Damage ^{in Winter.} by its Inundations.

The Wine of *Sbirâz* is known all over the ^{Wine of} East, and in Reality 'tis by much the best which ^{Shirâz the} grows in *Asia*. 'Tis made about *Martlemass*, ^{best in} when the Grapes are yet half dry, and they ^{Asia.} wait purposely after that before they begin the Vintages. There is both red and white Corn of *Sbirâz*, but the red is the best: 'Tis very ^{Bears great} good for the Stomach, and bears a great Mix- ^{Mixture of} ture of Water, [*Thevenot* says, I think, two ^{Water.} Thirds,] nevertheless it influences exceedingly if it be drank to excess. They keep it in great earthen Pots, and when one of them is tap'd it must be emptied immediately, or the Wine must be drawn off in Bottles, otherwise it presently spoils. The Inhabitants have the Art of ^{Pickled} pickling the half ripe Grapes in Vinegar, ^{Grapes.} which is an excellent Refreshment in the great Heats of the Summer, and for that Reason they transport great Quantities of them into the *Indies*. The Parts about this Town produce also much Capers, Opium, and Roses, in such abundance that they furnish several neighbouring Provinces with the Water distill'd from them.

The Government of the City of *Sbirâz* was formerly one of the largest Governments of *Persia*; but the last Kings of the House of the

Sofis * have thought fit to divide it into several particular Governments, that they might have nothing to fear from the too great Power of the *Cbans*, who are Governors of that Province. See *the Voyages of Mandello and Thevenot*.

Kerman Province.

Extent. The Province of *Kermân* is one of the greatest of the Kingdom of *Persia*: it is situate between those of *Pars* and *Segistân*, and extends from the Frontiers of *Erâk Agency* to the Streight of *Ormus*.

Fruitful. The northern Part of this Province is very mountainous; but the Vallies, which are found there in several Parts, are extremely fruitful, and quite cover'd with all sorts of Fruits, Pulse, and Flowers. It produces *Roses* in great abundance, and the Inhabitants of the Country have the Industry to make excellent Waters of them, which are esteemed thro'out the East. You meet with, besides, in this Province, very good *Arms, Steel; beautiful Carpets; Turquoises; Tuthy; and the finest Wool of Persia,* which they take off the Sheep after a very particular manner: for as soon as they begin to eat the new Grass in the beginning of Spring, one may, some time after, take off the Fleece with the Hand, without the least Difficulty and with much more Husbandry than could be done by Sheering it; insomuch that they remain quite naked till the new Fleece comes on again. The Inhabitants of the Country never dye this Wool, but manufacture it in its natural Colour, which is either of a clear Brown, an ash Colour Grey, or beautiful White; but one

Rose Water.

Other Commodities.

[* It would be better to say the House of Sheich Sefi, or of the Shâhs, for Sofi or Sufi is no Title; nor does it belong to any of the Successors of Shah Ismael I. to whom it was peculiar.]

seldom

seldom sees any Stuffs of this last Colour, because all the white Wool which the Country produces is employ'd in certain Parts of the Garments of the Mullas, who must be clothed in white Wool; the other Wool they make in-<sup>Mullas in-
gross all the
white</sup> to thin Stuffs of a Beauty and Lustre which yield ^{Wool.} in nothing to those of Silk.

There are many *Gaurs* in this Province, ^{Gaurs.} who are sprung from the antient Inhabitants of *Persia*, and still preserve the Worship of Fire. 'Tis they which make the woollen Stuffs of which we have spoken.

The City of *Kermân*, Capital of the Pro-<sup>Kermân
City.</sup> vince, is a great scrambling Town which has nothing handsom in it except the Palace, where the *Chan* or Governor of the Province resides; however, very good Wine is to be found there, and Victuals are very cheap. The Vessels of <sup>Vessels like
Porcelain.</sup> baked Earth, which are made in this Town, come very near Porcelain.

The Town of *Gomron*, and the Isle of *Or-* <sup>Gomron
and Or-
mus.</sup> *mus*, [*Hormuz*] are Dependences of the Govern-ment of *Kermân*.

§ 6. *The Province of Gilân.*

The Province of *Gilân*, or *Kilân*, lies to the ^{Extent.} South-West of the *Caspian* Sea, and extends from the Mouth of the River *Isperus* to the sandy Grounds of *Mokan*. The *Caspian* Sea and the Province of *Masanderân* bound it on the East, the Province of *Erâk* on the South, that of *Adherbîgân* on the West, and the Desarts of *Mokan* on the North. 'Tis precisely the *Hyr-
cania* of the Antients, as 'tis easy to perceive by the Description which *Quintus Curtius* has given us of it.

Nothing is so beautiful as the Situation of this <sup>Situation
beautiful.</sup> Province, for it has on one side the Sea Coast, along which it extends in form of a half Circle;

and on the other side 'tis encompass'd with high Mountains, which separate it so effectually from the rest of *Persia*, that there is no entering it on the Land-side but by certain Passages very narrow and easily defended, and these Passages are to this Day call'd *Pylæ*, or Gates, by the *Persians*.

Mountains, one side frightful the other charming.

The Mountains we have been speaking of have this remarkable, that on the side towards *Persia* they are the most frightful Precipices and Rocks that can be imagin'd; and on the side towards *Gilan*, they appear the most charming in the World, cover'd over with Citron, Orange, Olive, Cypress, Fig, and a thousand other

Fruit Trees.

sorts of Fruit Trees; insomuch that instead of high Mountains, with which this Country is in reality surrounded, it seems to be border'd on all sides with great Forests perpetually green.

Beasts.

These Mountains abound with all sorts of Deer, neither do they want Bears, Wolves, Leopards, and Tigers: these last especially, are so numerous that they bring them by Dozens to the Town, to sell them, the *Persians* having the Secret of taming them in such a manner, that they make use of them in Hunting, as we do of Dogs; and when they are once train'd, they sit very quietly behind some Horsemen till 'tis time to send them after the Game.

Country level and well watered.

The Country of *Gilan* is in it self very beautiful and level: 'tis cut by several fine Rivers, which falling from the Mountains on all sides, discharge themselves into the *Caspian Sea*. This Sea is so fishy along the Coast [of *Gilan*,] and all the Rivers which fall into it on this side, are likewise so full of all sorts of excellent Fish,

Fish of all sorts.

that the Crown gets a considerable Revenue every Year by farming the Fishery of this Province.

As

As the Country is very marshy near the Sea-^{Marshy} Coast, they make Canals every where to drain^{towards} the Lands, whence it is that it is not very un-^{the Sea.}like *Flanders* in those Places; and for the Con-
veniency of Passage, which was formerly very
troublesome, by reason of the fat Lands and
Marshes of a Country where it rains much, *Shah*
Abas the Great caused a Causeway to be made, ^{Great}
raised eight Foot above the common Level of ^{Causeway}
the Country, which crosses the whole Province ^{thro' the}
from the western Bank of the River *Isperuth*, ^{Country.}
on the side coming from *Feralad*, as far as the
Town of *Astara*.

The Country of *Gilân* is at present the most ^{Products.}
fine and fruitful Province of all *Persia*; it pro-
duces such abundance of Silk, Oil, Wine, Rice,
Tobacco, and all sorts of the best Fruit in the
World, that it furnishes a great Part of *Persia*
with them, and several foreign Countries. One
finds there in many Places intire Forests of Mul-
bery Trees, Box and Walnut Trees; and this
is the reason one finds most of the wooden Mo-
vables in this Country made of Walnut or Box.
Every Peasant, let him live in ever so poor a
Cabin, fails not to have a Garden near his
House, where one sees Orange, Citron, and ^{Vines as}
Fig-Trees on all sides; and 'tis common in ^{thick as a}
this Country to see Vines as thick as a Man of ^{Man's}
the ordinary size about the Middle. ^{Body.}

The Inhabitants of the Country are *Son-* ^{Inhabi-}
nis, that is, of the same Sentiments with the ^{tants}
Turks. They are brave, haughty and indus- ^{Sonnis:}
trious: As they are acquainted with all the
Passages of their Country, they are not so easi-
ly kept under as the rest of the *Persians*, and
they still actually enjoy several Exemptions and
Privileges, which they are very careful to pre- ^{Enjoy}
serve, notwithstanding they have taken the Pre- ^{great Pri-}
caution ^{viliges.}

caution to disarm them in some measure, to hinder them from rising: They are of Stature tall and robust, and fairer than the other *Persians*: Their Habits are nearly the same with those of the rest of the *Persians*, excepting that they are shorter and plainer, and that their Bonnets are peaked.

The Kilek
and Talish.

Those who dwell to the South of the Town of *Kesker*, towards the Frontiers of the Province of *Masanderan*, are called *Kilek*; and the rest who inhabit to the North of that Town go by the Name of *Talish*. The Women of these latter are without dispute the most beautiful and well-shaped throughout *Persia*. They are not indeed so neat as the other *Persian* Women, but to make amends, they are of great Assistance to their Husbands in the Family, in regard they are seldom idle, which is a Rarity in all other Parts of *Persia*.

Women
most beautiful
in
Persia.

A Rarity.

Yielded to
the Rus-
sians in
1723.

The Province of *Gilan* was yielded to the *Russians* with all its Dependencies, by the Treaty concluded at *St. Petersburg* in the Year 1723, between the late Emperor of *Russia* and the *Shah* now living; but it does not appear that the *Russians* have ever taken Possession of it since. There is to be found a very full and exact Relation of this Country in the Voyages of *Olearius*.

Resht Ca-
pital of
Gilan.

The City of *Resht* is at present the Capital of *Gilan*: it stands at the Distance of 2 Leagues from the Sea, and wants nothing which might render a Town agreeable, rich and fair. Tho' it be very large and well peopled, yet the Houses are so cover'd with all sorts of Fruit-Trees, that at one's Arrival he thinks he is entering into a Forest, and 'tis impossible for one to be sensible that he is in the Town, before he finds himself in the very middle of it. The Houses
are

are cover'd with Tiles and Laths like ours, because it rains much in those Parts.

The other principal Towns in this Country are *Kesker* and *Astara*. Kesker.
Astara.

We know no Town at present in the Country of *Gilan* called *Istidura*, mention'd p. 130. but it must have been somewhere towards the North of that Country, near the Coast of the *Caspian Sea*. Istidura.

§ 7. The Province of Astarabad.

The Province of *Istarabat*, or *Astrabath*, Situation. [rather *Asterabad*, or *Esterabad*] as our Geographers commonly call it, is a Province of *Persia*, situate towards the Coast of the *Caspian Sea*, to the South of the Mouth of the River *Amu*, having the Province of *Chorasan* to the East and South; that of *Masanderan* to the West, and the *Caspian Sea* with the Country of *Chowarazm* to the North.

This Country is indeed of no great Extent, seeing there are about 35 Leagues from the Banks of the River *Amu* to the Frontiers of the Province of *Masanderan*, and about 15 from the *Caspian* Shore to the Mountains which separate it from the Province of *Chorasan*; but in return it is extremely agreeable and fertile, well peopled and cultivated, being water'd by several small Rivers which have their Springs in the aforefaid Mountains, and fall into the *Caspian Sea* after crossing this Province; so that the Province of *Astrabad* passes at present for one of the fairest Flowers in the Crown of *Persia*, notwithstanding it has suffer'd much from the neighbourhood of the *Uzbek Tatars* of the Province of *Chowarazm*, who make continual Inroads upon the Lands of this Province, and Not large,
but fruitful and
populous.
Suffer much by
the Inroads of
the Uzbeks.

plunder all the Habitations, Towns and Villages wherever they come. 'Tis for this reason that most of what lies to the North of the River *Kurgan*, which comes from the S. E. and falls into the *Caspian* near the Town of *Astrabad*, is almost entirely desert at present.

Who have seized the Lands near the Mouth of the Amu.

The *Uzbeks* of *Chowarazm* have by degrees possessed themselves of all the Lands of the Province of *Astrabad*, which are situate towards the Mouth of the River *Amu*, where they have settled divers Tribes of the *Turkmanns*, who pay them Tribute.

Asterabad.

The City of *Astrabad*, Capital of the Province, and Residence of the *Chan*, situate upon a Gulf of the *Caspian* Sea, is reckon'd one of the finest of *Persia*, being large, well built, rich and very populous: As it is a Frontier Town towards the Country of *Chowarazm*, the *Persians* take care to keep it always in a good Posture of Defence, having for that End inclosed it with good Brick Walls, and Ditches filled with Water. There are several fine Manufactures of Silk and Wool in this City, and they make here a sort of Camlets much esteem'd in *Persia*.

Camlets.

Soil fertil.

The Country about *Asterabad* is as agreeable as fertil in all the Necessaries of Life, and the neighbouring Mountains are cover'd with Forests of all sorts of Fruit-Trees: Nevertheless because of the frequent Inroads of the *Uzbek Tatars* of the Country of *Chowarazm*, all that lies to the North and East of that Town is very little inhabited; but to make amends, that which lies to the West of the Town is very populous and well cultivated, infomuch that the Country on that side looks like one continued Ortyard.

The Gulf of *Asterabâd* is about 15 Leagues ^{Gulf of} long from East to West, and about four or five ^{Asterabâd.} from North to South. It is fit only for small Vessels, because there is but ten or twelve Foot Water at the Entrance into the *Caspian* Sea; yet for all that 'tis of great Conveniency to the City, as making a Communication with the other Towns of *Persia* situate on the *Caspian* Sea.

[By the way, I cannot but take notice of a Mistake of Dr. *Hyde*, who in his Notes on *Perritsol's Itinera Mundi*, p. 67. occasionally mentioning *Asterabâd* to be three Parasangs distant from the Island of *Abofghun*, does it with a Caution that it is to be understood of *Asterabad* towards *Persia*; for elsewhere, says he, there is another City of that Name, which is the Port of *Gorgan*. Now it happens that *Asterabâd* near *Abofghun* is the Port of *Gorgan* or *Forjan*, a City now in Ruins, a days Journey from *Asterabâd*, and on the same River called *Kurgan*, which divides the Province of *Asterabâd* from that of *Gorgan*: But it seems as if the Doctor had taken *Gorgan* for the Country of *Georgia*, or the City of *Gorganiab*, or *Urgens* in *Chowarazm*; so liable are the greatest Men to commit Mistakes, especially when they have to do with so confused, imperfect, and uncertain a Science as Geography.]

The Island of Abofghun.

By the Country of *Abasum Casira*, I believe ^{Mistake of} must be understood the Country of the *Abasses*, ^{the Au-} who are certain People inhabiting the Mountains ^{thor.} of *Caucasus*, towards the *Black Sea*--- [and it is to this Mistake of the Author of the Notes that we owe the Account which he has given of those People.]

We

We have observ'd a Mistake like this of Dr. Hyde's, about *Asterabád*. *Teixeira* *, led also by the Similitude of Names, falls into just such an Error concerning *Cerkas*, or rather *Serkas*, which he supposes to be *Circassia*, near the *Abasses*, tho' it be a City of *Chorasan*, as *Abascum Casira* belongs to the Province of *Asterabád*.

This appears not only by comparing this Place with other Authors who speak of the Death of *Sultan Mobammed Chowarazm Shah*, and particularly with *de la Croix* †, who tells us, that Monarch flying from the *Moguls* by the *Caspian Sea*, stop'd at the Isle of *Abiscon* and died there; but also in a good measure from the Passage it self, for *Abascum Casira* is plainly no other than a Corruption of *Aboscun Gezira*. *D'Herbelot*, from *Ebn Kassef*, informs us, at the Word *Abeskun*, that it is an Isle in the *Caspian Sea* three Parasangs from *Asterabád*, in which there is a Town and a River which bear the same Name. He also observes that some say the Isle is situate at the Mouth of the River, which is called *Abes* and *Abeskun*, but he does not mention where that River is to be found; however Dr. Hyde ‡ supplies that Defect, observing that the River *Abghún* flowing out of *Chorazmia*, [that is *Chowarazm*] falls not far from the Island of *Abisghún* or *Abosghún* into the *Caspian*, and even gives Name to that Sea: He also places this Island at the Distance of three Parasangs from *Asterabád*. 'Tis true the Map of the *Caspian Sea*, publish'd by the late *Tsar*, places no Island within a great many Leagues of that Coast: and in all Probability it was the Observation of

* *Hist. Persia*, p. 267.

† *Hist. Genghiz*, p. 237.

‡ *In Notis Perisfol*, p. 67.

this, joined to the Ambiguity of the word *Gezîra*, signifying both an Island and a Peninsula, the *Arabs* having but one Word to express those two things, which led *de Lisle* to place it as a Town at the end of that Tongue of Land which forms the Gulf of *Asterabâd*; and which, I think, *Chardin* in his *Coronation of Soliman* calls *Mione Kielle*, or the Middle sized Horn: But in all Probability, if that had been the Case, the *Moguls* would have soon found out Soltân *Mohammed*, and not given over the Pursuit; however I shall not venture to be positive.]

River Kurgan.

The River *Kurgan* has its Spring in the Province of *Chorasan*, towards the 35 Deg. of Lat. and 85 of Longit. to the North of the Mountains which possess the southern Part of that Province. The Course of this River is N. W. and after it has run turning and winding for some time in the Province of *Chorasan*, it throws itself into the Province of *Asterabâd*, athwart the Mountains which separate those two Provinces, and at length falls into the *Caspian Sea*, to the West of the Town of *Asterabad*, after a Course of about 60 *German Leagues*.

This River abounds with Fish, and its *Wa-Waters* ters are the best to be found in those Parts; so best in that the Quarters which it washes in the Pro-^{those} vince of *Chorasan*, are as it were the Paradise of ^{Parts.} that Province; but in the Province of *Asterabad* its Banks are too high to enjoy the same Fertility.

§ 8. *The Province of Chorasan.*

Situation. *Chorasán* is without dispute the most beautiful, rich, and fertile Province of all *Persia*. 'Tis situate between the 32 and 38 Deg. of Latit. and between the 83 and 91 Deg. of Longit. being bounded by the Mountains of *Balk*, which separate it from *Great Bucharia*, and by the Province of *Candabar* on the East, by the Province of *Segestán* on the South, by the Provinces of *Erák* and *Masanderán* to the West, and by the Province of *Astrabád* and the River *Amu*, which separate it from the Country of *Chowarazm* to the North; so that it stretches no less than 100 *German* Leagues in Length, as well as in Breadth.

Gold and Silver Mines. As the Climate of this Country is excellent, and the most temperate of *Persia*, nothing can equal the Fruitfulness of its Soil: All sorts of exquisite Fruit, Cattle, Corn, Wine and Silk thrive there to a Miracle: Neither are there wanting Mines of Gold and Silver, and even of precious Stones. In short, one may say, that the Province of *Chorasán* abounds with every thing that can make a Country rich and agreeable.

Very populous and full of Cities. This Province has also been always very populous, and cover'd with great and fine Cities; but since the great Invasion of the *Tatars* into the southern Provinces of *Asia*, under the Conduct of *Zingis Chan*, it has lost much of its former Lustre; for besides a great Number of the richest Towns of this Province which were destroy'd on that Occasion, it has serv'd ever since as the Theatre of War between the *Persians* and the *Uzbek Tatars*, who have fixt themselves in the *Great Bucharia*, and the Country of *Chowarazm* since that Revolution. As neither Peace
nor

nor Treaty can put an entire Stop to the Rapines ^{Continual-} and Invasions of those terrible Neighbours, all ^{ly ravaged} the northern Part of this fine Country towards ^{by the Uz-} the River *Amu*, and the Mountains of *Balk*, ^{beks.} is in a manner quite desert at present. Nevertheless the greatest Part of the Province of *Chorasan* is still very populous, and well cultivated, as the fine Manufactures which are settled there, the great Trade which is driven there, and the fair Towns which are found there demonstrate.

Tho the River *Amu* separates the Province of *Chorasan* from that of *Chowarazm*, the *Uzbeks* of ^{The Parts} the latter and of *Great Bucharia* have appropriated to themselves all the southern Bank of that ^{next the} River, with the Lands adjoining; whereof the ^{River A-} *Uzbeks* of *Great Bucharia* possess at the present ^{mu sub-} the eastern Part, and those of *Chowarazm* the ^{ject to the} western Part. ^{Uzbeks.}

As no Rivers are to be found in the Heart of ^{sandy De-} the Kingdom of *Persia*, 'tis no wonder it should ^{sarts.} be full of vast sandy Plains, which can neither be cultivated nor inhabited, excepting in a very few Places. The Province of *Chorasan* has a good Share of them; but the best on't is, that the greatest part of the sandy Desarts found in that Province lie towards the Frontiers of the *Usbek Tatars*, and the River *Amu*, whereof *Cara Kum* (which is the general Name for a Desert among the *Tatars*) mention'd p. 354. is one.

At present we know no Town of the Name ^{Carender.} of *Carender* in *Persia*; nevertheless it must have been situate some where about the 36th Deg. of Lat. upon the Confines of the Provinces of *Gilan* and *Masanderan* in the Mountains which separate those two Provinces. [This Situation seems more just than that which *de Lisle* gives it in his late Map of *Persia*, where it is placed between *Mashhad* and *Nesa*.]

Bastam

Bastam.

Bastam, or *Bastan*, is a Town of the Country of *Cborasan* towards the Borders of the Province of *Asterabad* and *Masanderan* [to which indeed it rather belongs] in 36 Deg. of Latit. and 82° 30' Longit. This Town is very strong by its Situation in the Mountains, being one of the principal Passages to enter from the Province of *Erak* into that of *Asterabad*, and the western Part of the Country of *Cborasan*.

The adjacent Parts of this Town, tho' mountainous, are nevertheless very fertil, and cover'd in many Places with Citron, Orange, Fig, Walnut and such like Fruit-Trees: They make also pretty good Wine at *Bastam*.

Neshabur.

Neshabur is a Town of the Province of *Cborasan*, to the West of the City of *Mesbed*; 'tis pretty large and well peopled, and drives a great Trade in all sorts of Silk Stuffs and Carpets.

Turquoises.

'Tis in the Mountains which are near this Town that the fairest *Turquoises* in all *Persia* are found; but the Inhabitants of the Town are allowed to trade only in the smaller sort; all the finest being reserv'd for the Treasure of the Crown. [It is also called *Iran Shaber*, *Aber Shaber*, and *Palava*.]

**Mashhad
Capital of
Chorasan.**

The City of *Mesbed*, [rather *Mashhad*, is the Capital of the Province of *Cborasan*, since the Princes of the House of the *Sofis* possessed the Throne of *Persia*. It is situate on a little River which falls into the *Kurgan*, towards the Mountains which separate the Province of *Asterabad* from that of *Cborasan*. This Town was formerly in a flourishing Condition on account of the several considerable Manufactures of Gold and Silver Brocades and other Silks made there. The Earthen-Ware of *Mesbed* was also much esteemed, and they had besides a great Trade in those beautiful Lamb-skins of a fine Silver

**Manufac-
tures.**

grey,

grey, the Wool of which is all curl'd and finer than Silk, inasmuch as those furnish'd by the Mountains to the South of that Town, and those which come from the Province of *Kirman* are the fairest of all *Persia*: In short it was on all Accounts a rich, beautiful, and populous City; the *Mosks, Baths, Carawan Sarays, Bazars,* and such like publick Buildings there, surpass'd in magnificence all that was seen of that kind throughout the rest of *Persia*: The great *Metsbed* ^{Stately} [*Mesgid*] especially, from whence that Town ^{Mesgid} takes its Name, where is to be seen the famous ^{and Tomb} Tomb of *Imam Riza*, was a Masterpiece of ^{of Imâm} Oriental Architecture, and drew from all sides a Croud of Devotees, who enrich'd the Temple with their Presents, and the City by their Charities.

[The Author of these Remarks, by the Affinity between the corrupt Name of *Metsbed* and that of *Mesbed*, has been led into the Mistake to believe the Town takes its Name from the Temple; but to shew the contrary, one need only reduce *Metsbed* to its true Orthography, which is *Mesged*. Now *Mesbed*, or rather *Mashbad*, which signifies in *Arabic* a Place where a Martyr is interr'd, has been apply'd to the Sepulchres of the *Imâms*, most of whom have been slain or poison'd: and *Imâm Riza*, the eighth of the twelve *Imâms*, having been bury'd in a Burrow called *Pazuperhin*, not far from *This*, that City in time lost its former Name, and took that of *Mashbad*, growing very famous by the great Encouragement which *Shah Ismael* the first, by the Change he made in Religion, and other Means, gave to the Pilgrimage perform'd thither all along by the Followers of *Ali*.] But there is nothing of all this at present, at least it must be in a very bad Condition; the *Uzbek Tatars* of *Great Bucharia* having some
Years

Years ago taken the Town and totally plunder'd it.

*Fine Coun-
try.*

The Country about *Mesbed* is the most charming in the World, and produces abundance of all sorts of Pulse and excellent Fruit. There are also Mountains in the Neighbourhood of this Town, where they find *Turquoise* Stones, and even Rubies.

*Turquoise
Stones, Ru-
bies.*

Nafai.

The Town of *Nafai* is situate to the South of the River *Amu*, towards the Confines of the Provinces of *Asterabad* and *Chorasan*, in $38^{\circ} 20'$ of Latit. 'Tis at present in the Hands of the *Uzbek Tatars* of *Chowarazm*, and has suffer'd much on several Occasions since the *Tatars* have come to settle about the Banks of the River *Amu*.

YaurSurdi.

Yaur Surdi lies two days Journey from the River *Amu*, about the 87th Deg. of Longit. 'Tis at present in the Hand of the *Uzbeks* of *Chowarazm*, and is to be reckon'd among the Towns of the smaller fort.

Duruhn.

Duruhn is a small Town half a days Journey from the River *Amu*, about the 88 Deg. of Longit. As it has been often taken and retaken within these two Centuries by the *Persians* and *Uzbeks*, it is at present in a very poor Condition; the *Uzbek Tatars* of *Chowarazm* are in possession of it at present.

Chogan.

Chodsan is situate towards the Frontiers of the Country of *Chowarazm* in 37 Deg. 50 *N.* Latit. This Town is not indeed very big, being but half a League in Compass; but it is very well built and peopled, by reason its Territory is exceeding fertil, and that good Water, so very scarce in other Parts, is found there in abundance, by means of a fine River which passes by the Town.

The *Chamlets* of the Town of *Chodsan* are the *Best Cham-*
lets in best in *Persia*, and certain fine half Silk Stuffs *Persia.*
 are also made there, which are much esteemed.

Bagabat is situate on the Confines of *Chowabagabad.*
razm and *Great Bucharía*, towards the southern
 Bank of the River *Amu*, and the 89th Deg. of
 Longit. This Town is very inconsiderable at
 present, having been several times taken, re-
 taken, and plunder'd since the *Uzbek Tatars* have
 been in possession of the Country of *Chow-*
razm, in whose Hands it is at present.

Meru stands in a very sandy Plain, in 37 Deg. *Meru.*
 of Latit. and 88 Degrees of Longitude. This
 was formerly one of the fairest and richest
 Towns of all *Persia*; but since the grand Inva-
 sion of the *Tatars* into the *Southern Asia*, it has
 suffer'd so much on several Occasions from those
 terrible Neighbours, that it is at present only
 the Shadow of what it was in times past; ne-
 vertheless there are still to be found Remains of
 its antient Magnificence. And during those fifty
 Years that it remain'd the last time, without In-
 terruption, in the Hands of the *Persians*, it re-
 cover'd much of its former Losses: But as it fell
 again some Years since into the Hands of the
Uzbek Tatars of *Great Bucharía*, the City is
 much the worse for it.

[There are two *Marús* in this Province: the
 most northern, which is, doubtless, meant in this
 Place, is called *Marú Shab'gán*, and is one of
 the four Capitals of *Chorasán*, having been the
 Seat of several Monarchs, especially of the Fa-
 mily of *Selgúk*; the other is named *Marú al*
Rúd.]

Herat is situate in the southern Part of the Pro- *Herát Ca-*
 vince of *Chorasán* about the 34th Deg. of Latit. *pital of*
 This City is at present the fairest and greatest *Chorasán.*

*Carpets
and Bro-
cades the
best in Per-
sia.*

*Great
Trade
with the
Indies.*

in all that Province, since the *Uzbek Tatars* have lately ruined the Town of *Mesbed*, which had before been the Capital. 'Tis very populous and rich. Besides all sorts of Stuffs, the finest Carpets and Brocades that are made in *Persia* come from thence: and as at the same time *Herat* has the Advantage of being the Staple of almost all the Commerce which is carry'd on between *Persia* and the *Indies*, on account of its lying in the Road from *Ispahan* to *Candahar*, 'tis easy to conceive it must be one of the richest Towns in *Persia*.

§ 9. *Of the Cities of Bost, Candahar, and Gazna.*

Bost.

Bost, or *Bast*, as our Author calls it, is situate in 32 Deg. of Latit. towards the Frontiers of the *Indies*, at present the Capital of *Sablejan*, pretty large and well-built; and the adjacent Country very agreeable and fertile, in proportion to the Barrenness which reigns in the rest of the Provinces. As this Town is one of the greatest Thoro'fares by Land betwixt *Persia* and the *Indies*, there is a pretty good Trade carry'd on there in all sorts of Merchandizes, and the *Baryán* Inhabitants, who are very numerous there, make the best of several considerable Manufactures of Silk and Cotton.

*Sagil or
Candahar.*

Sagil, mention'd p. 123. is the Town at present call'd *Candahar*: it is the Capital of the Province of that Name, and is situate at 33 Deg. 10 Min. of Lat. upon the Confines of *Persia*, and the Dominions of the *Great Mogul*.

*Only Pas-
sage from
Persia to
India.*

As *Candahar* is almost the only Passage to go from *Persia* to the *Indies* by Land, it is the eternal Subject of Difference between the

the *Great Mogul* and the Crown of *Persia*; nevertheless this last has possessed it for near an Age; and if the *Great Mogul* lets slip the present occasion of retaking it, by favour of the Troubles which rend *Persia* in Pieces, in all likelihood he will never recover it. It is extremely strong by its Situation, being *Strength.* surrounded on all sides by Fens and Rocks; but it is not very large tho it's well peopled. Merchandizes pay there five *per Cent.* for the Tax of Passage.

The Town of *Gazna*, call'd *Gasmien*, p. 123. *Gazna.* and elsewhere, is not known at present by that Name. Nevertheless it must have been situate somewhere upon the Frontiers of the *Indies*, about the 33 Deg. of Latit. between *Candabar* and *Cabull*.

[*Gazna* or *Gaznân*, is the proper Name of this Town, which in *Texeira* is often written *Gazneben*. *Mabmûd*, Son of *Sabektekin*, made it famous by taking the Name of *Gazni* from thence, which continued to his Family, and removing the royal Seat thither from *Herat*, in order to be nearer his *Indian* Conquests; so that it is reckon'd among the four Capital Cities, which at different times had been the Residence of the Kings of *Chorasan*, who for a long time held the Empire of *Irân* or *Persia*, with part of *Tatary*, and *India*.]

S E C T. II.

A Description of the Caspian Sea.

[THIS Sea, which the *Latins* call'd *Caspi-Names.*
um; from the Neighbourhood, as Dr.
Hyde thinks, of the City *Casbin*; and *Hyrca-*
num,

num, from the Province of *Erak*; has various Names given to it by the *Oriental* Geographers, according to the different Countries which border upon it. The most remarkable are those of *Chowarazm*, *Gerjan*, *Deilân*, *Ghilân*, *Tabrestân*, and *Mazanderan*; nay, it is even call'd the Sea of *Baku* (from a Town in *Sbirwân* of that Name) and of *Abosgûn*, as we have observed before in our Account of that Isle. Before the Time of *Zingis Chan* it was call'd the Sea of *Kézar*, the Country of the *Chazari*: the *Russians* call it *Gwalinskoi More*; the *Persians*, *Dicro Ghilan*; the *Turks*, *Kolzum Denghiz*; and the *Tatars*, *Zingis*; which, as is observed elsewhere, is a general Name with them for a Sea.]

*Eastern
Coast not
yet well
discover'd.*

'Tis not long since we have had a true Knowledge of this Sea, the *Sieur Olearius* being the first who hath given us an exact Account of it; and the Diligence of the late Emperor of *Russia* having completed our Instructions thereupon. Nevertheless we cannot say, that we have got a perfect Information of the eastern Coast of this Sea, tho' we are pretty well acquainted with all the Windings of it: This is what the late Emperor of *Russia* himself confess'd at his Return from *Perjia*, and that he had not found the Chart of this Sea; which he had caus'd to be communicated to the learned Men of *Europe*, so exact, with regard to the eastern Coast, as he had at first believed it was.

[*Lat. Jenkinson* had a very good Opportunity, in his Voyage from *Astrackan* to *Markisklak*, to have observ'd the eastern Coast, and has given us some Account of the Bearings and Distances; but 'tis either falsely related, or corrupted by others, as I have been credibly inform'd it was.]

The

The *Caspian* Sea, as it appears to us at present, is without dispute the greatest Lake in the World, that we have any Knowledge of: 'Tis situate between the 37th and 47th Degrees of Latitude, and the 77th and 83d Degrees of Longitude; so that it may contain about 150 Leagues in its greatest Length, reckoning from the Mouth of the River *Taik* to the Coast of the Province of *Mazanderan*; and about 70 *German* Leagues in Breadth, from the Mouth of the River *Kur*, South of the Province of *Shirwân*, to the Mouth of the River *Khesell* on the Coast of the Country of *Chowarazm*: The Compass of this Sea may be about 450 *German* Leagues.

The Waters of the *Caspian* Sea are extremely salt towards the Middle, but not so much along the Coasts, because of the great Number of Rivers which on all sides empty their Waters into it; infomuch that there are Parts of this Sea towards the Coasts of *Gilan* and *Mazanderan*, where the Waters are rather fresh than salt.

It abounds exceedingly with all sorts of excellent Fish, and the Sturgeons, Salmon, Whittings, Salmon Trouts, and several other sorts of Fish which this Sea breeds, crowd in Spring in such Shoals, to get into the Mouths of the Rivers, and the fresh Water, that 'tis incredible what Quantities are taken of them yearly in that Season. They catch also Carps and Bream, which is somewhat extraordinary for a Sea whose Waters are salt, as those of the *Caspian* really are. All these different sorts of Fish are larger and fatter than elsewhere, especially the Whittings, which the *Russians* call *Bielluga*: This Fish is peculiar to the *Caspian* and *Black* Sea, for which Reason some pretend these two

Seas have a subterraneous Communication. Some of these Fishes are 20 Foot long ; they are in some measure shaped like Pike, and eat like Sturgeon, but their Flesh is perfectly white, from which they take their Name. 'Tis the same sort of Fish which is taken in the *Danube*, and which is call'd *Hausen* in *Austria*. The Carps caught there are also of an extraordinary Size, and very often those are taken about the Mouth of the *Wolga*, which are five Foot long. This Sea also breeds Sea-Dogs, and a very monstrous Fish, which are all Head and Tail, and not good to eat. They say these last are so strong that they easily overturn small Fishing-Boats with their Tail.

Neither
ebbs nor
flows.

The *Caspian* Sea neither ebbs nor flows, it being nothing but the Winds which make it swell or beat upon one Coast or the other, according to the different Motions which they give its Waters, just as 'tis observed upon the Coasts of the *Baltick* Sea. The Waters of the *Caspian* Sea have the greenish Colour common to all Sea-Water, except towards the Coast of *Gilan*, where they appear white, occasion'd by the Clay-Bottom which runs all along that Coast, and in the Gulf of *Yemba*, where they appear black, because the Bottom is all over very marshy on that side.

Depth.

This Sea is 60 or 70 Fathom deep every where thro' the Middle of it, but towards the Coasts there is very little Water, and especially on the western Side, where, for a good League into the Sea, one seldom finds above 18 Foot Water ; particularly on the Coast of *Gilan*, one finds but from six to nine Foot within that Distance, which renders that Province altogether unaccessible from the Sea : and as towards the Province of *Shirwân*, all the Coast is but
one

one Rock, as far as the River *Agragan*, in the Country of *Dagbestan*, where no Anchor will hold, it is almost inaccessible also, tho there be Water enough.

There is no Port on all the West side of this *Destitute* Sea, except that of *Baku* in the Province of *Shir- of Ports.* *wân*, neither is that fit but for small Vessels, seeing it has but ten Foot of Water: the best Road along this Coast is that of *Terki*, where there is secure Anchorage enough between the Isle of *Zezen* and the Continent. But on the eastern Coast there is the Port of *Man-Mankish-kishlak*, in the Country of *Chowarazm*, to the *lak Port,* North of the Mouth of the River *Amu*, which is excellent, and the only good Port to be found in that Sea: nevertheless, as it is in the Hands of the *Tatars*, as well as all the Oriental Shores of this Sea, 'tis of very little use to those who frequent it, tho they have great need of Ports; because that Sea is very outrageous and dangerous when the East and West Winds blow, on account of its Narrowness.

The Philosophers and Physicians have hither-*What be-* to rack'd their Wits, to conceive how the *Cas-* comes of *comes of* *ian* Sea receiving the Waters of so many Ri-*the Waters* vers, and having no Communication with other *constantly* Seas, should always continue in the same Con-*running* dition, without any visible Augmentation; but without having Recourse to so many forced Reasons as have been given on this Subject, I see nothing to hinder why these Waters may not go off thro' the Bottom of the Sea, in the same manner that they enter by the Sides; for since so many Mines which have overflow'd, so many Lakes and Pools form'd by Earthquakes, leave us no room to doubt but the Earth is intersected by Veins of Water, which communicate every where with the Surface; those Veins can-

*Whirlpool
of Cara
Buga.*

not all meet at the Bottom of the Sea but to receive the Water of it, which they send out again upon the Land, by innumerable Springs. Without that continual Circulation of Waters, and if so many Rivers, which on all Sides empty themselves into the Seas, should draw their Sources elsewhere than from those same Seas, it would be impossible but the Earth would be overflow'd in less than a Year. In the mean while, they pretend there is a sort of Whirlpool in the great Gulf of *Carabuga*, upon the Coast of *Chowarazm*, about the 42 Degree of Latitude, by which the Waters of this Sea must partly discharge themselves. And even an Officer, who was for some time Prisoner among the *Uzbek Tatars* of the Country of *Chowarazm*, upon an Occasion of what I shall mention elsewhere, assured some of my Friends, that he had been upon that Gulf with a small Boat, and that his Rowers were obliged to use all their Strength to keep by the Coast ; inasmuch as he affirm'd, that from the Entrance of that Gulf into the *Caspian* Sea, the attractive Force of the Stream of that Whirlpool, which is in the Middle of that Gulf, is so great, that putting off ever so little from the Coast, one is infallibly swallow'd up by the Rapidity of the Current. The Name of that Gulf, which signifies in the *Tatar* Language, the *Black Mouth*, seems to give some Authority to that Relation ; but I dare not, for all that, warrant the Truth of it, which Time alone must discover. And supposing also that there was such an Abyss in the Gulf of *Carabuga*, 'tis impossible a Quantity of Waters should be discharg'd by it proportionable to that which enters by so many Rivers into this Sea : consequently one
must

must always have recourse to subteraneous Filtrations for the Remainder of those Waters.

I know not if the Troops of *Zingis Chan*, be *Never en-* not the only ones which have encompass'd the *compass'd* *Caspian* Sea since the World began ; at least we *by any* find no Traces in History, that any other *Troops but* Prince has ever attempted this Enterprize, nei- *Zingis.* *Chan's,* ther before nor after that Conqueror ; and, to say the Truth, I don't believe, as Affairs stand at present, any other Nation besides that of the *Tatars*, is capable of bringing such an Expedition to bear, seeing that above one half of the Shores of that Sea from the River *Bustro*, taking a Compass by the North as far as the Mouth of the River *Kesell*, is intirely uncultivated. Nevertheless, there is no doubt but the late Emperor of *Russia* would have undertaken, and probably executed so glorious a Design, if he had lived a while longer. And without some *Military* such military Expedition, we shall be a long *Expediti-* time yet coming at any tolerable Knowledge of *ons service-* the eastern Coasts of that Sea ; because private *able in* Persons, qualify'd with what Character they *Discove-* will, can never find means to visit the divers *ries.* *Tatar* Ords which inhabit those Coasts, without greatly exposing themselves to all sorts of Evils.



C H A P. V.

O B S E R V A T I O N S relating to
I N D I A.

S E C T. I.

*Of the Mohammedan Kingdoms founded in India
before the Conquest of the Moguls.*

*History of
India con-
fess'd.*

NOthing is more confus'd and imperfect than our Accounts of *Indian Affairs*; and if our Authors can run up the History of them as high as Soltân *Babor*, the first *Great Mogul*, who retired there about the Year of the *Hegra* 904, *A. D.* 1498. they are content to let all the former Ages lie bury'd in Oblivion; looking upon all which pass'd in *India* before that Period as insignificant, and not worth recording; but if they will consult that little which has been already given us by several Authors relating to the *Oriental History*, they will find that *India* was conquer'd by the *Arabs* at the Beginning of the eighth Century, and that *Babor* only succeeded to Part of a great Monarchy, which had been founded there 500 Years before by *Mahmûd Gazni*, the first who assum'd the Title of Soltân.

*India con-
quer'd by
Mahmûd
Gazni.*

This great Prince first entred *India* in the Year of the *Hegra* 392, and of Christ 1001, where his Father *Sabeetebin* had done mighty Exploits before him. *India* was then divided among several Kings; of which one, who had the Title of *Balbâra*, (which signifies King of Kings) and reign'd at *Kanug*, a City on the *Ganges*, was the Chief. The Oriental Authors,
who

who mightily celebrate the Actions of this Monarch, account the Conquest of the Kingdom of *Balbâra*, which at length he achieved, the greatest of all his Exploits. In short, they pretend that he conquer'd all the Country on this side the *Ganges*, from North to South; and to judge by the Descriptions they give of it, *India* must then, both for Riches and Magnificence, have far exceeded what it is at present.

The Successors of Soltân *Mahmûd Gazni* continued to enlarge their Conquests for some time, till their Power declining, as well thro' domestick Feuds as the prevailing Fortune of the Family of *Gaury*; *Khosrû Shâh* the 14th, and last Monarch of the House of *Gazny*, retired from *Gazna* to *Lawbûr* in *India*, where he fix'd his Seat about the 550 *He'gira*, *A. D.* 1155. and soon after was despoil'd of all by *Hussain Gaury*, Founder of the Family of *Gaur*, to which the Empire of *Persia* and the *Indies* pass'd from that of *Gazny*. *Shâheb Al din IV.* of that Race, conquer'd *Multân* and *Delly* (which had probably revolted on the Declension of the Family of *Gazny*) in the Year of the *Hegra* 571, 1135. And after his Death, which happen'd in 602, *A. D.* 1205, his Governors divided his Dominions into three Parts, of which *Gazna*, *Multân*, and *Delly*, were the Capitals. The two last Kingdoms became in a few Years united by *Iletmish*, surnam'd *Shams al dîn*, a *Turk*; who, after he had usurp'd the Crown of *Delly*, conquer'd that of *Multân* *. As we can trace his Successors as low as *Ala l'dîn*, who died in 717. *A. D.* 1317, in all Probability Soltân *Mahmûd*, Grandson of *Firûz Shâh*, who reign'd at *Delly* when *Timûr bek* conquer'd that Kingdom in 801. *A. D.* 1398, was of his Posterity.

* *Herb. p.* 288.† *Ibid.* 881.

What belong'd of the *Indies* to the Dominion of *Gazna*, pass'd from the Family of *Gaur* to that of the *Chowarazm Sultans*, in 611. *A. D.* 1214; when it was subdu'd by Sultan *Mohammed*; and from them to the *Moguls*, by the Death of Sultan *Gelâl aldîn*, in 628. *A. D.* 1230. After the Death of *Zingis Chan*, the Kingdom of *Gazna*, which reach'd as far as the *Indus*, fell to *Zagatai* in his Share of the Empire; but it was soon taken from his Successors by the Family of *Kurt*, (which sprung up in *Chorasán* after that of the *Gaurs*) to one of whom, *viz.* *Gayâth aldîn IV.* Soltân of that Dynasty, it was confirm'd by *Al'gâyetu**, while Governor of *Chorasán* under his Brother *Kazan Chan*, about the Year 698. *A. D.* 1298, and continued in his Posterity till *Timûr bek* united the *Indies* to the rest of his Conquests in the Year aforesaid.

On the Death of *Abufaid Mirza*, the 5th Successor of *Timûr bek*, his Dominions, which extended from *Cashgar* to *Tauris*, became divided among his Sons. *Olug bek*, his fifth Son, possess'd the Government of *Cabul* and *Gazna*, to which that of the *Indies*, at least so far as the *Indus*, as it had been all along, was join'd. *Omar Sbeich*, his sixth Son, had only the Government of the Town of *Andekan* to his Share; which on his Death in 899. *A. D.* 1492, fell to his Son Soltân *Bâbor*; who being driven out of his Territories, with the rest of the Posterity of *Timûr*, by *Sbâi bek* the *Uzbeek* in 904. *A. D.* 1498. fled first to *Gazna*, and thence to *India*; where the *Moguls* having already some Footing, he the more easily extended his Conquest over the Kingdom of *Delly*, which, after the Death of *Timûr bek*, seems to have return'd to the Obedience of its natural Lords.

* Herb. 775.

We see here a continued Succession of *Mohammedan* Princes reigning over the *Indies*, in those very Countries where the *Moguls* are now settled, for near 500 Years before Soltân *Babor* set Footing there. This shews the Error of a late History * of the *Mogul* Empire in *India*, which, accounting for the Original of the *Potans* or *Patans*, who conquer'd *Delly* and *Gezirat*, makes them a Colony of ordinary Merchants of *Arabia*, who first settling at *Masulipatan*, a Town on the Coast of *Coromandel*, (or rather *Cori bandel*) which they built, penetrated thro' the Country as far up as *Delly*, of which they made a Conquest about 400 Years before that of *Timûr bek*. So confounding the Original of those Kings whom the *Indians* or *Moguls*, by way, I suppose, of Nickname, call *Potans* or *Patans*, with that of the other *Mohammedan* Kings (found in the Peninsula's or Isles of the *Indies*, at the Time of the *Portuguese* first coming thither by Sea) who probably enough pass'd thither immediately from *Arabia*: whereas the Kings of *Delly*, *Gezirat*, and other Parts of the Continent of *India*, were of *Persian* Extraction, which might have been a Mixture of *Turks*, *Persians*, and *Arabians*. And the Difference between the two sorts of Kings may, in a great measure, be distinguish'd by their Titles; those of *Arab* Descent being stiled *Malek*; whereas the *Patans* are always qualify'd with the Title of *Shah*, which is peculiar to the *Persian* Kings.

[* This History, publish'd first in French by Father Catrou, from the Memoirs of M. Manouchi, pretended to be extracted from the *Mogul Chronicle*, is an injudicious Collection of Scraps from sundry Authors, mixt with Fables to fill up the History; which might have been tolerably well supply'd, if the Author, whoever he be, had taken more care to search proper Books for Materials.]

Hence

Hence also may plainly be discover'd, both how the *Mohammedan* Religion and the *Persian* Language came to prevail in the Heart of *Hindustan*; the one as well as the other, having, in all Probability, been introduced by the *Patans*, and not by the *Moguls*, as the Authors who have hitherto treated of *India* have imagin'd; for want of knowing so much of the History as I have briefly given of that Country, and which I hope to be able one Day to put in a better light.]

Moguls of India called Zagatais by the Orientals. By the *Zagatais*, mention'd p. 352. must be understood the Troops of the *Great Mogul*; for as the *Tatars* of *Great Bucharía* retain'd the Name of *Zagatais* when they conquer'd *Indostan*, under the Conduct of *Tamerlin*, and that their Descendants are still in Possession of that Empire under the Domination of the *Great Moguls*, whose Family is the only remaining Branch of the Posterity of *Tamerlin*, the *Tatars* as well as the other *Orientals* constantly confer on them the Name of *Zagatais*, to distinguish them on one side from the *Uzbek Tatars*, who at present possess *Great Bucharía*; and on the other side, from the antient Inhabitants of the Empire of *Indostan*, who are at present subject to the *Zagatais*; but among themselves they take the Name of *Moguls*.

Ten Idolaters to one Moham-medan in India. 'Tis since the Princes of the House of *Timur* have possess'd the *Indies*, that the *Mohammedan* Worship [introduced many Ages before] has been [firmly] establish'd there; so that this Religion is at present the prevailing Religion in the Dominions of the *Great Mogul*, tho there are above ten Idolaters to one *Mohammedan*. And as these Princes hold their Empire purely by right of Conquest, they are always obliged to maintain powerful Armies on foot, to keep their Subjects in awe, because divers *Rajas* or petty ido-

idolatrous Princes who possess the mountainous Provinces of that Country, and who all pretend to be descended from the antient Kings of the *Indies*, desire no better than to find some favourable Opportunity to recover their Rights.

The present *Great Mogul* is the 12th Descendant of *Tamerlan* in a right Line. See for the present State of the Empire of the *Great Mogul*, the Voyages of *Bernier* and *Thevenot*.

S E C T. II.

Of the Town, of Cabul, and Kingdom of Cashmir.

THE Town of *Cabul* is the Capital of a Province, which is at present under the Dominion of the *Great Mogul*. It is situate in 34 Deg. of Latit. towards the Frontiers of *Great Bucharìa*, at the southern Foot of the Mountains which separate the Dominions of the *Great Mogul* from that part of *Grana' Tatarý*: it is one of the finest Towns of the North of the *Indies*; 'tis great, rich, and well peopled, and because it is consider'd as the Key of the Dominions of the *Great Mogul*, on the side of *Persia* and *Great Bucharìa*, Care is had to keep it always in a good Posture of Defence. This Town is the Depository of all the Merchandizes which pass from the *Indies* into *Persia* and *Great Bucharìa*; the *Uzbeks* Subject to the *Chan* of *Balk* come thither in Troops, with Slaves of both Sexes, and especially with *Tatar* Horses, in which a considerable Trade is driven at this Town; for it is reported that above 60000 are brought there every Year.

The

The Country about the Town of *Cabul* is very fertile, and all the Necessaries of Life are found there in great Plenty, and at a moderate Price; there is also Wine made there, which is pretty good, but it does not keep. The Inhabitants of the Town are mostly *Pagans*, tho the *Mohammedan* Religion is the establish'd Worship there.

Kingdom of Cashmîr.

Cashmir. The Kingdom of *Cashemîr* is situate at the extreme Parts of the Dominions of the *Great Mogul*: 'Tis bounded on the East with *Tibet*, on the South with the Provinces of *Labor* and *Cabul*, to the West with *Grand Bucharìa*, and on the North by *Little Bucharìa*, or the Kingdom of *Cashgar*. It may be about thirty *German Leagues* long, and twenty broad, and is intirely inclosed with high Mountains which separate the *Indies* from *Great Tatarý*, infomuch that there is no entring on any side but by passing Rocks of a prodigious Height.

Once very powerful. This little Kingdom heretofore had the Dominion over the rest of the *Indies*, but at this present time, it is in a manner reduced to one single Valley, whose Fertility and Beauty make amends for what it wants in extent. One breathes there a temperate and charming Air, which partakes nothing of that burning Heat with which one is almost stifled all over the rest of the *Indies*; and all the Fruits and Pulse which we have in *Europe* grow there in abundance, without requiring looking after.

River. A thousand little Springs which issue on all sides from the Mountains, form there a fine River, which after watering the Plains of this little Kingdom falls down the Rocks of an astonishing Height, to go meet the River *Indus* at the Town of *Atez*. This River carries Boats

as large as the *Sein*, and passes thro' the middle of the Town of *Cashmîr*.

Cashmîr is the Capital of the Kingdom, si- *City Cash-*
tuate in $37^{\circ} 30'$ of Latit. on the side of a Lake *mîr*.
of fresh Water about six Leagues round. This
City has no Walls, but is very fair and populous,
being about three Quarters of a League long,
and half a League broad: The Houses are most-
ly of Wood, but are never the worst built for
that, and are commonly two or three Stories
high. The Situation of this Town is perfectly
magnificent; the Mountains which begin to rise
on the other side of the Lake, two Leagues from
the City, form the Prospect of an Amphithea-
tre the finest in the World, all over be-set with
Houses of Pleasure; beyond which one sees
the most distant Rocks, whose Tops are perpe-
tually cover'd with Snow, touching the very
Clouds.

The Inhabitants of the Kingdom of *Cash-Inhabit-*
mîr are for the most part *Mohammedans*. They ^{*ants very*}
have exceeding fair Complexions, and are alto- ^{*beautiful.*}
gether as well made as *Europeans*, partaking
nothing either of the *Tatars* their Neighbours,
or the other *Indians*; the Women especially are
inchantingly beautiful, for which reason they
are mightily sought after at *Agra*, and all over
the *Indies*. The *Cashmîreans* are reputed to be
more ingenious than the rest of the *Indians*, and
to excel in Poetry and all other Sciences: This
is certain, that they are very laborious and in-
dustrious. They possess the Secret of making
varnish'd Wainscot, and imbroider'd Stuffs,
which are mightily esteem'd in the *Indies*.

There are many other little Vallies amidst
the Mountains which belong to this Kingdom,
with regard to which nothing particular can be
said, because they are as so many Parts separa-

ted from the rest of the World, who have no more Commerce with their Neighbours than they think fit themselves, because it is impossible to enter amongst them against their Wills. All that we know for a certainty is, that the Inhabitants are very like the *Cashmîreans*, and enjoy much the same natural Advantages with them.

Government.

The Kingdom of *Cashmîr* has always had its own Kings, until the beginning of the last Age that it fell into the Hands of the *Great Moguls*, by means of a Civil War which then rag'd there; and ever since that time those Princes looking upon it as one of the fairest Jewels in their Crown, have done every thing which might contribute to the Embellishment of it. They also make small Progresses there from time to time, to enjoy the Delights which the happy Situation of the Country affords. See *the Voyage of Bernier*.

*Sirr Indi,
or Behat.*

The *Sirr Indi* or *Behat*, is a considerable River which has its Source towards the 34th Deg. of Latit. in the Mountains which separate the Country of *Balk* from the Dominions of the *Great Mogul*; its Course is nearly from N.N.W. and S. S. E. and after it has washed 100 Leagues of Land falls into the River *Indus* in 49 Deg. 50 Min. of Latit. to the North of the City of *Multan*. It is the same River to which our Geographers have given the Name of *Behat*.

C H A P.

C H A P. VI.

OBSERVATIONS relating to
CHINA, *subject to the Tatars, or
rather to the Mungals.*

S E C T. I.

*Kitay, or Cathay and China the same. Also
Chanbalik and Pekin the same. Of Nanking,
the Chinese Wall, and River Hoangho.*

THE Empire of *Kitay* or *Cathay* has been <sup>Kitay, or
Cathay.</sup> a long time the Object of the fruitless Enquiries of our Geographers, who right or wrong would place it in *Grand Tatar* [as they have done that of *Prester John*, as they call it in *Africa*] and God knows how many Whimfies they have publish'd on those Subjects within these three last Ages. Tho we have been plainly enough inform'd ever since the Year 1295, by *Marco Polo* in his Relations of the Eastern Countries, that *Cathay* is no other than the Empire which is known to us at present by the Name of *China*: nevertheless the grand Imaginations which this pretended *Tatarian* Empire had furnish'd them with, had made such an Impression on their Minds, that it is but within these few Years they could be thorowly undeceived upon that Article; and all agree unanimously at present that *Cathay* and *China* are one and the same Empire, tho the *Tatars*, *Turks*, *Persians*, *Russians*, and other eastern People always did and still do call *China* the Empire of *Kitay*.

By the Country of *Almak*, p. 96. our Au- <sup>Almak or
South
China, by
others</sup> thor understands *Southern China*, which com- prehends all the Provinces of that vast Empire <sup>which
Mangi.</sup>

which lie to the South of the River *Kiang*, and which fell not into the Hands of the *Moguls* till after the Death of *Zingis Chan*. Other Authors call this Part of *China Mangi*.

Chinese. The Empire of *Kitay* or *China* is too well known at present to need a Description in this Place; I shall content my self then with saying by the way, that the *Chinese* have for the most part the Complexion and Shape of the Face pretty like the *Europeans*, but the Eyes slit like the *Calimaks*, and the Nose a little flat: Nevertheless there are found many among them in whom these Deformities appear very little; and one of my Friends assured me he knew there a Man of the Posterity of *Confucius*, whose Eyes were as large, and Nose as proportionable as any Man's in *Europe*.

Peking, or Chan ba-lik. The City of *Peking* is situate in 40 Deg. of Latit. [tis now no longer a Dispute that it is the same City mention'd in *Marco Polo* by the Name of *Chan-balik*, which signifies the *Town of the Lord*. As this City is at present the Residence of the Emperors of *China*, one may well conclude that it is one of the greatest Cities and best peopled of that Empire. All the Fineries of *Europe* and the whole East are carry'd there in Quantities from all sides; and 'tis commonly believ'd that that City surpasses at present all the other Cities of the Universe in Riches and Number of Inhabitants; which did not hinder so good Order from reigning there in the Time of the deceased Emperor of *China*, that one of the Father Jesuits, a Favourite of that Monarch, assur'd a Friend of mine who was at *Peking* in 1720, that for the space of three Years none had been put to death for any Crime by the Hand of Justice: which may be look'd upon in some measure as an Effect of that great Severity

Great Order in the City.

verity which that Prince had employ'd in the first Years of his Reign.

Since the late Emperor had finish'd the Reduction of the *Chinese* Nation under the *Tatar* Yoke, he obliged all the *Chinese* who dwelt before in the inner Part of *Peking*, to quit it and go live in the outward Circumference of the City, in such a manner that the inside of *Peking* is inhabited at present only by *Tatars*, and those among the *Chinese* who are actually in the Service of the Court. The *Roman Catholics* have at present three publick Churches in that City, and the *Russians* have one of the *Greek* Worship. One may find an ample Description of *Peking* in the *Voyages to China* of *Nieuboff*, and *P. du Comte*.

Authors differ much among themselves about the Manner in which the Town of *Peking* fell into the Hands of *Zingis Chan*. Our Author reports that it was done without striking a Stroke. Other Oriental Authors affirm that it was not till after a very hard Siege, and that the Besieged had suffer'd a cruel Famine, that the Troops of *Zingis Chan* made themselves Masters of it: and the Monk *Carpin*, who was sent in the Year 1246 by Pope *Innocent IV.* into *Grand Tatar*, pretends they were the Besiegers who suffer'd such a horrible Famine that they were constrain'd to kill every tenth Man to subsist till Provisions came to them; and that they took the City at last by a subterranean Passage which they carry'd from their Camp to the very middle of the City, by which entering by Night it was not difficult to make themselves Masters of it. See thereupon the History of *Zingis Chan* by the *Sieur Petis de la Croix*.

The Taking of the City of *Peking* may be fix'd at the Year of the *Hegra* 607, which an-

*Moreri
mistaken.*

swers to the Year of the Christian Æra 1210: and thereby one may see that *Moreri* and the Authors whom he hath follow'd are much deceiv'd, when they affirm that the pretended *Tatars* of *Niucheu*, or of the North, made in the Year 1206 the first Invasion into *China*, and that they were chased thence by the *Tatars* of *Samarkant*, or of the West, in the Year 1278, who made themselves afterwards Masters of all the Country: for it was precisely about the Year 1206 that *Zingis Chan* made the first Irruption into *China*; in the Year 1210 he took the City of *Pekin*, and afterwards subdued all the Northern *China*; and about the Year 1268 his Grandson *Coplai Chan* completed the Conquest of all *China*, where his Descendants reigned after him during almost an Age. As hath been more than once observ'd already.

*Nanking
formerly
the Seat of
the Empe-
rors.*

The City of *Nanking* was heretofore the Residence of the Emperors of *China*; 'tis situate in 32 Deg. of Latit. and six Leagues from the southern Bank of the great River of *Kiang*. That Town has been formerly of a prodigious Extent, but at present that the Imperial Residence is remov'd to *Pekin*, the City of *Nankin* has lost much of its former Lustre: Nevertheless 'tis given out to be still above twelve *German* Leagues in Compass, and to have some Millions of Inhabitants.

*Magnifi-
cent
Streets.*

Nothing is to be seen more magnificent than the great Streets of that City; forasmuch as they are all as strait as a Line, and paved with great square blue Stones: They are all of a great breadth, and adorn'd in several Places with stately triumphal Arches of white Marble.

*Triumphal
Arches.*

At the end of every hundred Toises they have Gates, which are shut at Night to keep out Thieves; and the Houses which are on both sides these Streets appear with a charming Uniformity,

formity, tho they are no more than one Story high. *Nanking* is built square, as are almost all the Towns of *China*; and tho it is at some distance from the River of *Kiang*, they have made Canals in divers Places, by means of which Ships may come up even into the City. The Viceroy of the southern Provinces of *China* makes his Residence at present in this City, and a good Body of *Tatars* are always kept here to be at hand in case of any Revolt in those Parts. 'Tis in this City that that famous *Porcelain* Tower is to be seen, whereof one finds ample Descriptions in the Voyages to *China*.

Residence
of the
Viceroy
of the
Southern
Provinces.

Chinese Wall.

Every body has heard of the great Wall of *China*; wherefore I shall only observe here that it was rais'd * heretofore by the Emperors of *China* against the Incurfions of the *Tatars*, and begins at the River *Hoangso* on the Frontiers of the *Callmaks* about the 35th Deg. of Latitude, from whence it draws nearly to the N. N. E. until having come to the 42d Deg. of Latit. it turns directly East, and runs continually in near the same Line, till it arrives at the Gulf of *Corea* near the Fortrefs of *Shangh Hay* †, about the 40th

Chinese
Wall.

* [*This Wall, according to Couplet in his Tab. Chron. Monarchiæ Sinicæ, p. 16. was built in the 24th Year of Xi Hoam ti, or rather Shi Hoanght ti, (for Couplet as well as Mattini follows the Portugal Pronunciation) which answers to the Year before Christ 222. Kæmpfer refers it to the Year 246, by mistake placing the Building of the Wall in the first Year of that Monarch's Reign, as appears by adding 24 to 222. He also following the Japan Chronicle, calls him Sikwo or Sino Siko, giving him the Epithet of Cruel, which justly belong'd to him. Hist. Japan, p. 161.*]

[† *The Portugals, from whom our Accounts of China first came, write this Place Xam Hay, the French Cham Hay; from whence others have made Kam Hay, as it is the Original, p. 118. and thus Names are corrupted: for the Orthography according to our Language is Shangh Hay, the Portugal X being equivalent to Sh, and m Final to ng, or rather ngh.*]

Deg. of Latit. and because the Coasts of *China* are very low on that side, insomuch that the Tide of the Eastern Ocean coming in covers a great Space of the Country, which remains dry at Ebb; they have been obliged to continue this Wall for fifty Leagues (each of which is exactly 360 geometrical Paces) into the Sea, in order to prevent being surpriz'd that way. 'Tis reported that this Wall from beginning to end is above 350 *German* Leagues in length; and 'tis astonishing, that after subsisting so many Ages, it is still in as good a Condition as if it had not been built above thirty Years. The Foundation every where is of Free-stone, six Foot high, and the rest to the Height of five Fathom, is built of Brick, so that it is full six Fathom high, and about four Fathom broad. It is all cover'd on the out-side with Free-stone, at least in that Part thro' which one goes to *Selinginskoy*; and at the Distance of every 500 Fathom there are built great square Towers about 12 Fathom in height, which forbid the Approach. That which is most admirable in this Wall is, that it is continued over the highest Mountains equally the same as thro' the Plains and Valleys; insomuch that one of the Jesuits who was in great Esteem with the late Emperor of *China* affirms, that having had the Curiosity to measure the Height in a certain Place, he found it to be raised 1036 Foot above the Horizon. See the *Voyages of Nieuhoff, le Compte, and Ysbrandt Ides.*

River Hoangho.

*River
Hoang-
ho, or Cara
Muran.*

The River *Hoangho*, called by the *Tatars* *Cara Muran*, is one of the greatest Rivers in the World; it rises in 23 Deg. of Latit. upon the Confines of *Tangut* and *China*, out of a great Lake which is incompass'd with high Mountains which

which separate those two Dominions, and running from thence Northward it passes hard by the Frontiers of the Province of *Sbenji* and *Tangut* as far as the 37th Deg. of Latit. where it throws it self without the great Wall to water *Tibet*; afterwards it continues running North as far as the 39° 30' of Latit. when returning to the S. E. it again passes the great Wall about the 38th Deg. of Latit. and re-enters *China*; then it always pursues the same S. E. Course to the 34° 20' Latit. when it turns to the East: which Course it keeps till it falls into the *Chinese* Ocean in the 34° of Latit. after a Course of above 500 *German* Leagues.

The Water of this River is not good to drink, for it is very muddy, inclining to a dark yellow; which bad Quality it takes from the Salt-peter, wherewith the Mountains, which this River washes without the great Wall, are exceedingly stored; for from its Rise till it passes without the Wall, its Waters are good and clear. 'Tis on account of its Waters being of this brown Colour that the *Chinese* have given it the Name of *Hoangso*, or the *Brown River*, and the *Tatars* that of *Cara Muran*, or the *Black River*: However the *Chinese* have the Art of precipitating the saline Parts of this Water, and making it drinkable, by means of Alom.

Its Water of a dark yellow Colour.

Way of fining the Water.

As this River runs no less than 200 Leagues among Mountains and Rocks of a prodigious Height, there falls from all sides so great a Quantity of Water in the Spring and Autumn, that 'tis very subject to overflow and make frightful Havock in the neighbouring Provinces, of which the *Chinese* have had sad Experience but too often: For the same Reason also it is so rapid, that 'tis impossible to mount against the Stream either with Oars or Sails; but the Boats must be

Overflows in Spring and Autumn.

So rapid not to be ascended.

be

be hauled up the River either by Horses or Men : and yet tho this River be every where of a great Breadth, it is navigable but in few Places, on account of the great Inequality of its Bottom ; neither does it over-abound with Fish, which probably is the Effect of the bad Quality of its Waters. See the Relations of *China* by *Nieuboff* and *P. le Comte*.

S E C T. II.

Of the Expulsion of the Tatars by the Bonzas, and their second Conquest of China under Zungh te.

Tatars
driven out
of China
by the
Bonzas.

THE *Tatars* after they had been settled in *China* above an Age and a half from the time they first got Footing there under *Zingis Chan*, had been driven out again a little before the Expedition of *Amir Timur* thither by the Intrigues of the *Chine's Bonzas*, whom they had brought upon their Backs by endeavouring to introduce the Worship of the *Lamas* into the Empire to their Prejudice ; and as one Part of those fugitive *Tatars* pass'd out of the western Parts of *China*, 'tis likely that some of them went for Refuge to *Tamerlan*, and persuaded that Conqueror to turn his Arms on that side, in order to add one more fine Conquest to so many other Exploits, which had already spread the Terror of his Name thro' the whole Earth.

[Possibly the Person who set *Timur-bek* upon this Expedition was *Elchy Timur*, the same probably with *Taizy Aglen*, p. 531. who *le Croix* * tells us went to the Court of that Prince, and

[* *Abridgment of the History of the Successors of Genghiz Chan, at the end of his Life.*]

lived

lived with him till his Death, when returning to *Ulughiurt* [or *Ula* in the Eastern *Tatary*] he ascended the Throne in 1405. At this time the Empire of the *Moguls* seems to have been dwindled to nothing. All the Country of *Mogulistan* was in the Hands of the Princes of *Cashgar* or their Confederates when *Timur-bek* over-ran it; and by *le Croix's* Account, the two *Chans* of *Ulughiurt*, who were all that succeeded *Elchy Timur*, lived so obscurely that they are scarce reckon'd among the *Chans*. Be that as it will, 'twas doubtless this low Condition of the *Chans* of *Ula*, which gave the *Chinese Bonzas* an Opportunity of driving the *Tatars* out of *China*, who afterwards recover'd their Possession there when the Power of the *Chans* of *Ula* began to enlarge it self.]

I believe it will not be unacceptable to make some Observations upon the House which reigns at present in *China*, and on the Means which it has made use of to ascend the Throne of that vast Empire, and to secure it self therein, in such a manner that hereafter the *Chinese* will never be able to throw off the Yoke, except by some extraordinary Turn of Providence.

I am not astonish'd that *Zingis Chan* should ^{at-tempt} the Conquest of *China*, at a time when ^{quest of the} he had numerous Armies, considerable Riches, ^{Tatars} and powerful Allies at his Disposal: but that a ^{surprizing.} petty *Chan* of *Ula*, who was scarce able to take the Field with 15000 Men, durst form and execute the Design of seizing so powerful an Empire, is what surpasses all Imagination, and which ought necessarily to make us look upon the Prince, who undertook with so much Conduct and so few Forces, so vast a Design, as infinitely superior to our *Alexanders* and *Cæsars*.

Zungb te
Chan of
Ula con-
quers
China:

The Empire of *China* enjoy'd a profound Peace, and had also constrain'd the *Mungals* of the East to pay it a yearly Tribute, when *Zungt-by* [*Zungb te*] Grandfather of the deceased Emperor of *China*, having succeeded his Father *Mansucu Chan*, in the Dignity of *Chan of Ula*, conceiv'd the Design of freeing his Nation from the *Chinese* Yoke, and to carry the Theatre of War into the Provinces subject to that Empire, to try how far Fortune and his own Skill would carry him: But forasmuch as his Forces were in no manner answerable to a Project of that size, he held secret Intelligence with some great *Mandarins* who were banish'd into the Province of *Leaotun*, by whose Assistance he made an Irruption into that Province with 15000 Horse, took several considerable Towns, and began to make his Name formidable to the *Chinese*.

Takes several
Towns
in Leao-
tung.

Takes the
Capital
City.

The Court of *China* sent indeed a powerful Army against him; but *Zungt-by* having by a very particular Conduct found the Secret to captivate by his Affability and grand Air of Benevolence the Hearts of those whom he ruined, always gained his Point; and having at length carry'd the Capital of the Province, all that the *Chinese* Army which took the Field against him could do, seeing him supported by all the Inhabitants of the Province, was to hinder him from passing the great Wall, and penetrating into the Heart of the Empire.

Lycungz
takes Pe-
king, and
mounts
the Throne.

Whilst this was doing on the side of the East, very thick Clouds arose in the Provinces of the West: several Bands of Robbers which before infested those Provinces, having joined together about the Year 1630, under the Command of one *Lycungz*, took several Towns and Provinces, and went at length with innumerable Forces

Forces to besiege the Person of the Emperor in the City of *Pekin*: The Conclusion of that Siege was such, that the City having been taken, and the House of *Tai minga* suppress'd, *Lycungz* usurped the Throne; and seeing that *U-sanguai*, who commanded the *Chinese* Army which made head against the *Tatars*, was the only Person who might be afterwards in a Condition to dispute the Empire with him, he omitted nothing that might gain him: but *U-sanguai*, who aspir'd to the Throne himself, having refus'd all the Offers of *Lycungz*, that Usurper saw himself obliged to take the Field against him. *U-sanguai* finding himself too weak to resist two such powerful Enemies at a time, clap'd up a Peace immediately with *Zungt-by*, and propos'd to him also to come to his Assistance against the Usurper.

Zungt-by looking upon this Invitation as an Opportunity which might carry him a great way, accepted the Proposal; and having left 5000 *Tatars* in the Province of *Leaotun*, which was all in his Possession, he went to join the *Chinese* General at the Head of 10000 *Tatars* and 20000 *Leaotunians*; after which they march'd against *Lycungz*. In approaching the Army of the Rebels, *Zungt-by* propos'd to *U-sanguai*, that seeing the *Chinese* of the Southern and Western Provinces which compos'd almost all the Forces of the Enemies, dreaded extremely the *Tatars*, it would embarrass them terribly if he should cause the Hair of all his Soldiers to be cut after the *Tatar* Fashion, because at that Sight they would take them all infallibly for *Tatars*. *U-sanguai* having follow'd that Counsel, the Rebels were entirely defeated, and constrained to fly towards *Pekin*. The victorious Army follow'd them close, and the *Chinese* General by the vice of *Zungt-by*, made Proclamation that all those

those who did not take part with the Rebels should cut their Hair after the *Tatar* Manner, in order to distinguish them upon the Occasion.

Lycungz having abandon'd the Town of *Peking* upon the Approach of the Vanquishers, it was agreed that *Zungt-by* with his Troops should remain near the City, while *U-sanguai* with his Army continued in pursuit of the Rebels till he had entirely dispersed them : But in the Absence of *U-sanguai*, *Zungt-by* having set to work the same Talents which had been of so great use to him in the Conquest of the Province of *Leao-tun*, knew so well how to gain the Friendship of all the chief *Mandarins* of the Empire, and the Inhabitants of the Capital, that he found no Difficulty in getting himself proclaim'd Emperor of *China*, and to maintain himself in possession of the Throne with the Approbation of the greatest part of the Nation. After which he made no Delay to impart this great Event to other Princes of his Nation, and to invite them to come and take share of so fair a Conquest, in hopes to fish on their side also in troubled Waters ; but when they were once enter'd into *China* with their Troops, *Zungt-by* contrived to separate them so dextrously, that they were intirely at his Discretion, and saw themselves insensibly constrained to submit to his Orders.

Zungh te
proclaimed
Emperor of
China.

Brings the
Tatars into
China.

U-sanguai
submits to
Zungh te.

U-sanguai, who was carry'd away with the Zeal of pursuing the Rebels as far as the end of the Province of *Yunan*, having understood at length what pass'd at *Pekin*, return'd immediately with a firm Resolution not to suffer a foreign Prince to come to his Prejudice, and place himself upon a Throne, which he imagined he had so well merited himself ; but being advanced near *Pekin*, he found the new Emperor in so good a Posture, and his new Sub-
jects

jects so little inclin'd to change their Master, that he was obliged to rest contented with the Share which *Zungt-by* was willing to allow him of their common Conquest. But after the Death of *Zungt-by* and of his Son *Chuncht-by*, *U-san-Revolts.* *guei* seeing the fair Opportunity of revenging himself of the Trick the first had play'd him, erected his Standard against the *Tatars*; and he wanted but little of being in possession of all the southern *China*, when Death seiz'd him in a very advanced Age. His Death changed the Face of Affairs with his Party; and the deceas'd Emperor *Cang Hy*, having by little and little found means to reduce the revolted Provinces to their Duty, did not forget to sacrifice the two Sons, *All his Fu-* and in general all the Family of *U-sanguai*, to ^{mily cut} the Security of his Government, under the spe-^{off.} cious Pretence of the great Rigour of the *Chinese* Laws in Cases of Rebellion.

S E C T. III.

Of the Reign of Cangh Hy, the Laws he introduced, and the Methods he made use of to establish the Dominion of the Tatars in China.

THIS great Founder of the *Tatar* House of *Tai cing*, which reigns now in *China*, did not long enjoy the Fruit of his Labours; for *Zungh te* died in the Year 1644, and left his Son and Successor *Chuncht-by*, [*Shun Chi*] an Infant of 6 Years old, who died also in the flower of his Age in the Year 1662, at the time when his Son *Cang Hy*, *Cangh Hy.* who succeeded him, was no more than eight Years old. These two long Minorities ought naturally, it should seem, to have overturn'd a foreign

foreign Dominion which scarce had time to establish it self in *China*; but the Measures which *Zungt Hy* had taken during his Life, for the securing the Throne of *China* in his Family, were so well executed after his Death, that nothing as ye has been able to disturb so successful an Usurpation.

Nevertheless it must also be own'd, that he had the good Fortune to leave his Son *Chuncht Hy*, in the Person of his Brother *Amavang*, a Tutor of a very extraordinary Capacity and Fidelity, and to find in his said Son and in his Grandson, two Genius's of the first Order, who worthily maintain'd what he had begun with so much success: especially his Grandson *Cang Hy*, who died within these three Years, knew so well how to take his Measures, as soon as he came of Age, for reducing several Provinces which had declared themselves against the *Tatar* Government during his Minority, and to root out entirely for the Time to come all Occasions of such Practices, that the Empire has enjoy'd for these 50 Years so profound a Tranquillity as if it had been for ever subject to the Power of its new Masters.

'Tis true, it had never been able to have arrived to so durable a Repose, but by the Torrents of Blood which were made to run in several Provinces, and by an extraordinary Rigour which it was necessary to exercise against the Persons who might have been any way allied to the House of *Taiminga*, or to any other Pretenders to the Empire of *China*. But that Prince, tho very young then, acted his Part so well on that Occasion, that seeming to leave all those Persons to the ordinary Course of Law in the Country, they could not accuse him of any manifest Injustice or Violence with regard
to

Amavang
Brother to
Zungh te.

Peace settled by
much
Bloodshed.

to them, at the time that he spared none of those whom he might be jealous of.

At the same time, to take away all outward Difference between the *Tatars* and the *Chinese*, he order'd that the former should go cloth'd, for the future, after the *Chinese* Fashion; and that all the *Chinese* in general, after the Example of those of the northern Provinces, should cut their Hair the *Tatar* way, to signify the Affection they bore to his Government. And it was his Will, that all those who refus'd to obey that Ordinance, should be punish'd with Death without Remission, as Disturbers of the publick Repose. That Law was executed with so much Rigour, that it cost the Lives of several Thousands of southern *Chinese*, who chose rather to part with their Lives than their Hair.

He chang'd, moreover, all the Tribunals of the Empire which *Zungt Hy* had left in the Condition he found them, excepting that he had join'd to them some *Tatars*; ordaining, that they should continue in Reality as before, to be compos'd of an equal Number of *Chinese* and *Tatars*; but that none should arrive for the future to the Dignity of President, or Vice-President, of any Tribunal, without being naturaliz'd a *Tatar*.

After he had by these Acts of a necessary Severity, establish'd Repose in all the Provinces of the Empire, and thrown so great Terror into the Hearts of all the *Chinese*, that none durst only form the thought of caballing against his Government ever since, he caus'd of a sudden all further shedding of Blood to cease, and applied himself intirely to make his Dominions flourish; and to govern them with a Mildness and Equity little known in the other Empires of the East. To effect this, he en-

All Sentences in criminal Cases refer'd to the Emperor.

join'd all his Governors to cause exact Justice to be administred in all the Provinces of their Jurisdiction; but that in Crimes which merited Death, they should send the Acts to Court, and not proceed to the Execution of the Criminal, upon any Pretence whatever, before they had received an Order under his own Hand; which he observed to the Day of his Death.

Free entrance into China, and liberty of Conscience allow'd.

After which he permitted Entrance into his Empire to all the World, without Exception; and granted an entire Liberty of Conscience, as well to his Subjects as to all the Foreigners who should be settled in his Dominions. He caus'd several Cities of *China* to be rebuilt which had been destroy'd by the last Wars, and others to be founded upon the Frontiers, where he established his *Mongol* Subjects. He enriched the Neighbourhood of *Pekin* with several fair Castles, with magnificent Gardens and Parks, where he usually went to pass the pleasant Season of the Year. He forgot nothing which he judg'd might serve to make the Sciences flourish in his Dominions, and granted his Protection to learned Men on all Occasions. To augment the Number of *Tatars* in *China*, he order'd, that the Children born of a *Tatar* Father and *Chinese* Mother, or of a *Chinese* Father and *Tatar* Mother, should be educated after the *Tatar* manner, and instructed by their Parents in the *Tatar* Language; and that those Children should be deem'd natural *Tatars* like the others, and as such should arrive at all the great Posts of the Kingdom.

Learned Men encourag'd.

Those born of a Tatar Father or Mother deem'd Tatars.

Policy to secure his Majesty in the Throne.

After he had happily appeas'd all the Troubles within his Empire, he applied himself with all the Zeal imaginable to secure the Dominion of the Princes of his House upon so solid a Foundation, that nothing might shake it for the

time to come. To that effect having consider'd, that he had nothing to fear from the *Chinese*, so long as he should preserve a good Understanding with those of his own Nation; and that none but the *Tatars* themselves could again drive the *Tatars* out of *China*, if ever they should come to unite themselves against his Family; he began to make sure of the Fidelity of the *Mungals* of the *East*, whom he deemed as his natural Subjects; and to increase their Number, he drew into their Country as many of those *Tunguses* who dwell along the River *Amur* as he could prevail on to quit their antient Habitations; and he mixt them so well with the *Mungals*, his Subjects, that at present they pass for one and the same People. After which he set about, by means of the *Lamas*, to bring over the *Mungals* of the *West*, who till then had had but very little Amity with those of the *East*; and by Force of Presents, and some outward Marks of a particular Distinction, he so effectually gain'd the Friendship of those good Religious, that they never left off Intriguing till they had united all the *Mungals* of the *West* in favour of the Emperor of *China*, and engaged their *Chan*, the Father of *Tschiatu Chan*, who at present reigns over the *Mungals* of the *West*, to put himself under the Protection of that Empire.

This great Point gain'd, he stir'd up the *Mungals* to war upon the *Callmaks*, by all sorts of Insinuations and Suspicions spread dexterously among them: and under Pretence that those of the *Mungals* of the *West* who dwelt towards the Frontiers of *China*, between the great Wall and the northern Part of the Desert of *Gobi*, were at too great a Distance from their *Chan* to be able to serve him against the *Callmaks*; he

Secures the Mungals of the East.

Draws over the Mungals of the West.

Excites the Mungals to war with the Callmaks.

Mungals
transplan-
ted.

Build
Towns and
Villages a-
long the
Frontiers.

Lamas In-
fluence on
the People.

Supports
the Ku-
ructu un-
derhand a-
gainst the
Dalai La-
ma.

Lamas in
their Lives
more regu-
lar than
the Bonzes.

engaged him, by the Mediation of the *Lamas*, to remove them from thence and settle them nearer him, and to consent that he should supply their Places with the *Mungals* of the *East*, who have since then built Towns and Villages in those Parts; insomuch that at present there dwell none along the great Wall but *Mungals* of the *East*, by the Attachment of whom the Family which is at present upon the Throne of *China* deem their Possession much better fix'd, seeing they are his antient Subjects, than upon the uncertain Friendship of the *Mungals* of the *West*. He kept up this close Correspondence with the *Lamas* till his Death, and by their Means he was not less Master of the *Mungals* of the *West* than of his natural Subjects.

For the rest, tho on one side he supports the *Kutucitu* underhand against the *Dalai Lama*; yet, on the other hand, he keeps up a good Correspondence with the *Dalai Lama*, in order always, in case of Need, to keep a Door open to a Negotiation with the *Callmaks*; for you must know that the Worship of the *Lamas* was establish'd heretofore in *China* by the Princes of the House of *Zingis Chan*, who reign'd there in the thirteenth and fourteenth Ages; which brought upon their Backs the *Bonzes*, and all the other Ministers of the different Pagan Worship, which at that time subsisted in *China*, who observing with all the Envy imaginable that the *Lamas*, by their more regular Lives, and supported as they were by the Authority of the Court, made a great Progress in *China*, and went about to supplant them, never ceased caballing against the Government of the *Tatars* till they had driven them again out of *China*,
and

and all their *Lamas* with them, which happen'd about the Year 1368.

But since the *Mungals* of the *East*, who are *Emperor* descended from a Part of those same *Tatars* afraid to who were in that manner driven out of *China*, encourage have re-enter'd into Possession of that Empire, the *Dalai Lama* has not fail'd on many Occa-^{the Wor-} sions to insist strenuously on the re-establish-^{ship of the} ment of his *Worship* thro'out *China*, as the Reader may perceive, tho imperfectly, by what *Nieuboff* in his Relation of *China* reports concerning the *Embassadors* of the *Lamas*, who were in his time at *Pekin*: But the deceased *Bogdoi Chan*, who had Occasion to learn, at the Expense of his Ancestors, what the Rage of the *Ministers* of Religion is capable of, would never come into his Measures, and contented himself with permitting every one the Liberty of embracing the *Worship* of the *Lamas*, without obliging any one to do it, and without particularly favouring that *Worship*.

Nevertheless he did not fail from time to *Keeps up a* time to give the *Dalai Lama* some Hopes of *Correspon-* succeeding at last in his Wishes with regard to^{dence} his own *Worship*, and that only for a Handle^{with the} to keep up a *Correspondence* always with him.^{Dalai La-} For the same reason he very favourably received^{ma.} the *Embassadors* which the *Dalai Lama* often sent him about that *Affair*, and sent him also on his side *Embassadors* on the Occasion: the last which he dispatch'd to him was in 1721, which was the Year before his Death. All these Measures taken with the greatest Exactness, have not a little contributed to carry the Power of the *Tatar* House which reigns in *China*, to the Pitch we see it arrived to at present.

Keeps the
Russians
within
bounds.

The Pro-
vinces of
Chamil
and Tur-
fan con-
quer'd
from the
Callmaks.

Jesuits at
Pekin
greatly
counse-
lled.

Having thus secured all the *Mungals*, he took care on one side, to hinder the too great Increase of the Power of *Russia* on the Frontiers of his Dominions, from turning to their Prejudice; which he happily executed by putting the Frontiers between both Empires upon a Footing firm and advantageous to his Estates, after having caus'd the Town of *Albassinskoy* to be demolish'd. And on the other side, he remov'd the *Callmaks* from his Frontiers; and having entred in his Turn into their Country, he made himself Master of the Provinces of *Chamil* and *Turfan*, which serve at present for a Barrier to *China* on that side. In short, he was every way a great Prince, who seem'd to have taken the Emperor *Augustus* for a Pattern in all his Actions. He had also the good Fortune to exceed him in the Number of Years of his Reign, since he did not die till 1722, after having reigned 62 lunar Years.

We cannot dispute with the Fathers Jesuits, Missioners to *China*, their having a good Share in the glorious Reign of that Monarch; for they were in so great Credit with him, that he did nothing without consulting them. 'Tis believed even that he would have embraced publicly the *Roman* Catholick Religion, if Reasons of State had not hinder'd him; nevertheless he favour'd that Religion so openly, that all the Children of the principal *Mandarins* of the Empire, who studied under the Jesuits at *Pekin*, were oblig'd by his Orders to go every *Sunday* and *Holy-day* to their Churches, and to assist therein at divine Service; and on great *Holy-days*, he never fail'd to send thither the Musicians of his Court to assist during the Mass.

For the rest, That great Monarch had no-^{Character} thing in his Exterior, nor in his Manners, which ^{of Canghai} partook of his Nation; and it was only by his ^{Hy.} Cheek-Bones, which were pretty flat and broad about the Eyes, that one could any way know he was of *Tatar* Extraction. He had an exact knowledge of the Powers of *Europe* and *Asia*, and their Interests. His Memory was a true Effort of Nature, and his Judgment of an admirable Clearness. As reserv'd as he was with his Subjects, he knew how to distinguish Strangers with the best Grace in the World.

The first time M. *Ismailoff* was treated at the Court of *Pekin*, that Monarch having learned that the late Emperor of *Russia* was accustom'd to present sometimes in Person a Cup full of Liquor to those whom he had a mind to distinguish, made that Minister, and three of the chief of his Retinue, approach the Throne, and presented them in like manner, with his own Hand, each a Cup of Gold, with a kind of Hydromel.

He had seventeen Sons, three of which assisted ^{Leaves se-} at the Audience of M. *Ismailoff*, who all appear'd ^{venteen} to be very handsom, fair, and well made, and had ^{Sons.} none of those deform'd Features of other *Tatars*. Some Years before his Death, he confin'd his two eldest Sons in a close Prison, on account of some suppos'd rebellious Practices, and declar'd them at the same time excluded from the Succession to the Empire. 'Tis the ^{Third Son} Prince his third Son who has succeeded him, and ^{now reign-} who had, while he lived, the Command of the ^{ing.} Imperial Armies. 'Tis commonly believed the Jesuits had a great Hand in that Disposition. As soon as the new Emperor, whose Name at ^{Name not} present ^{yet known.}

present we know not, had taken possession of the Empire, he caus'd his elder Brothers to be set at liberty, augmented considerably their Pensions, and shew'd several other Marks of a very good Nature. Time will inform us if that Change passes without Disturbance.

Late Emperor took the Title of Bogdoi Chan.

It must be observ'd here, that the late Emperor of *China*, who bore the Name of *Cang Hy*, took the Title of *Bogdoi Chan*. The *Mungals* of the *East* who are establish'd in *China*, are commonly call'd *Mansueurs* by the *Chinese*, because they adopted that Name a little before their Invasion in *China*, to testify the Love they bore to *Mansueu Chan*, Father of *Zungt Hy*; and this Custom is very much practis'd among all the *Tatars*.



APPENDIX.



APPENDIX.

S E C T. III.

*Of the Tatars of Nagai or Nogai who inhabit
the Kingdom of ASTRACHAN.*

[This *Section* ought to have come in *p.* 582. in place of that about the *Cosaks*, which should have been the fourth; but having been mislaid, we thought fit to insert it here.]

THE Kingdom of *Astrachan* was formerly very powerful; it was conquer'd by the *Tsar Ivan Wasilowitz* soon after he had made himself Master of *Casan*.

The *Tatars of Nogai* who now inhabit the Kingdom of *Astrachan*, formerly extended their Dominion a great way: about the middle of the 16th Age, all the Country from the *Caspian Sea* as far as *Siberia*, and even some Parts of that Country, were under the Power of three Princes of the *Nogai Tatars*: The first called *Sbidak*,
reigned

reigned at *Sbaraitzik*, doubtless the same as *Sbarisaraizik*. The second named *Coffum*, possessed all the Land between the *Kama*, *Yaik* and *Wolga*: and the third, who ruled over part of the Province of *Siberia*, was called *Sbeich Mamai*. 'Tis very probable *Kutzium Chan*, who *Abulgazi Chan* observes, p. 209. was driven out of the Country of *Tura* by the *Russians* in 1595. was the Descendant of that Prince; but I will not venture to conclude that *Sbeich Mamai* is the same with *Mamudak Chan*, Grandfather of *Kutzium Chan*, tho' both the Agreement of the Name and Time seem to favour it.]

City Astrachan.

The City of *Astrachan* stands in 46 Deg. 20 Min. Latit. on an Island made by the River *Wolga*, 12 Leagues from its Mouth. The *Russians* call that Isle [on which *Astrachan* stands] *Dolgoi Ostroff*, i. e. the *Long Isle*, because 'tis in reality very long. It is one of the best Cities belonging to *Russia*; it every day grows more considerable by the great Trade driven there among the *Persians*, *Mohammedan Tatars*, the *Callmaks*, the *Georgians*, and the *Russians*.

Great Trade.

Sharisaraizik.

The Ruins of the Town of *Sbarisaraizik* are still to be seen upon the eastern Bank of the River *Wolga*, a little above *Zaritza*; and 'tis suppos'd also that it was destroy'd by *Tamerlan*.

We know not exactly at present where the Town of *Cocorda*, mention'd p. 194. stood, seeing *Tamerlan* in his Expedition against *Toktamish Chan* destroy'd most of the Towns situate on that side, as the great Ruins which are still seen on each side of the *Wolga* make appear. Nevertheless 'tis probable it must have stood some where to the East of that great River towards the Banks of the River *Urislaw*.

[The

[The Name of this Town seems to be compounded of *Coc* or *Cuc*, and *Orda*, signifying the *Orda* or Tribe of *Coc*; which possibly took its Name from that Tribe settling thereabouts, tho it must be confess'd we find no such Tribe among those mention'd by the Author: but as there were many inferior Branches of the *Moguls* and *Tatars* which he omits, probably it might be one of them, and so in the next Page we meet with the Tribe of *Ak-Orda*, occasionally *Ak-Orda.* mention'd, which is not to be found in the Author's Catalogue of Tribes.]

I will not say *Coc Orda* is the same as the City *Ocak*, which *D'Herbelot* at the Word *Sarai* observes depended upon that Town, and stood on the West side of the River *Wolga*.]

The *Tatars* of *Nagai* possess at present the *Tatars of Nagai.* eastern Part of the sandy Grounds belonging to *Astracan*, and inhabit towards the Coasts of the *Caspian* Sea, between the *Yaik* and the *Wolga*. They have the *Cosaks* of *Yaik* for their Neighbours on the East side, the *Callmaks* depending on *Ayuka Chan* on the North side, the *Circassians* on the West, and the *Caspian* Sea bounds them towards the South.

The *Tatars* of *Nagai* are made much like *Form.* the *Daghestan Tatars*, excepting that as an additional Deformity they have the Face all wrinkled like that of an old Woman.

They wear Vests of thick grey Cloth, over *Habit.* which they put on a sort of wide Coat of black Sheep-skin, turning the woolly side outwards in Summer, and inwards in Winter: Their Bonnets are round, and made also of black Sheep-skin, which they manage the same way they do their wide Coats. Their Boots are made of Horse Leather, and exceeding clouterly.

Their

Women.

Their Women are pretty handsome; they usually wear a Gown of white Linen, with a round pointed Bonnet of the same Cloth; and in Winter they put a black Sheep-skin over their Linen Gowns.

Livelihood.

These *Tatars* live by Hunting, Fishing, and their Cattle, which consist in Camels, Horses, Oxen, Cows and Sheep. Their Horses are very small, but run and bear Fatigue very well; the rest of their Cattle are much like those of the *Callmaks*. Heretofore they had not the way of cultivating their Lands; but of late they have begun by degrees to apply themselves to Agriculture.

Dwellings.

They dwell for the most part in Huts, and in Summer go and incamp in Places where they find the best Pasturage: But at the Approach of Winter they repair in great Numbers to *Astrachan* to provide what they may have occasion for in their little Families: And at such times the Governor of *Astrachan* distributes Arms among them, to enable them to defend themselves against the *Kuban Tatars*, those of the *Cajatsbia Orda*, and the *Callmaks*, who do nothing but make Inroads upon one another as soon as the Rivers are frozen; and at the beginning of Spring they are obliged to carry back those Arms to *Astrachan*, for otherwise they would not be trusted with them, being very turbulent.

Tatars invade one another in the Winter Frosts.

Govern'd by Mursas.

They have their own *Mursas* whom they obey, one or two of whom are commonly detained at *Astrachan* as Hostages for the Fidelity of the rest.

Religion.

They are but half-form'd *Mohammedans*; however they know much more of their Religion than the *Baskirs* and *Circassians*: There are also

so many of them already who have embraced the *Greek Religion*.

Tho they are now Subjects of *Russia*, yet they are not charged with any Contribution; but in return they are obliged to take Arms whenever *Russia* desires it; which they do with a great deal of Pleasure, because they are of the same Inclinations with all the rest of the *Mohamedan Tatars*; that is to say, very sharp after Booty.

The *Tatars* of *Nagai* may be able to arm a- bout 20000 Men, and never go to war but on Horseback.





A Note relating to Zingis Chan, at p. 73.

Our Author differs much in this Place from the Writers whom the *Sieur Petisde la Croix* has follow'd in his *History of Zingis Chan*; upon the Credit of which he will have it, that *Zingis Chan* had been obliged to seek Refuge at the Court of *Aunak Chan*, and live there a long time as a wandering Prince; that he had also at that Court an Amour with the Daughter of *Aunak Chan*, and powerful Rivals in Love and Glory. But as those Circumstances have a great Resemblance of the Intrigues in our Romances, and that our Author writing the History of his Ancestors, must have been better acquainted with it than foreign Historians, I make no Difficulty of believing him on this Occasion before the others.

[It does not appear that the Author was better acquainted with the History of his Ancestors than foreign Historians; on the contrary, he seems to be ignorant of several Matters relating thereto, and particularly of the Successors of *Zingis Chan* after *Coplai Chan*, which foreign Historians give an Account of. It is also to be consider'd, that most of his History is compiled out of foreign Historians, and chiefly from *Fadl allab* a *Persian* Author, whom *M. la Croix* also made use of in his *History of Gengbiz Chan*. It were to be wish'd, that Gentleman instead of his History had given us the Translation which he had made of part of *Fadl allab*, and some other Pieces relating to the History of *Zingis Chan* and the *Moguls*; for his

View

View in that Work seems rather to have been to merit the Character of a modern Historian, than to write an exact History, which is deem'd incompatible with that smoothness of Style and elegance of Fancy required in a Writer, to which the two Essentials of History, Chronology and Geography, have in all Ages been made Sacrifices: However, the Publick is very much obliged to him for it as it is.]



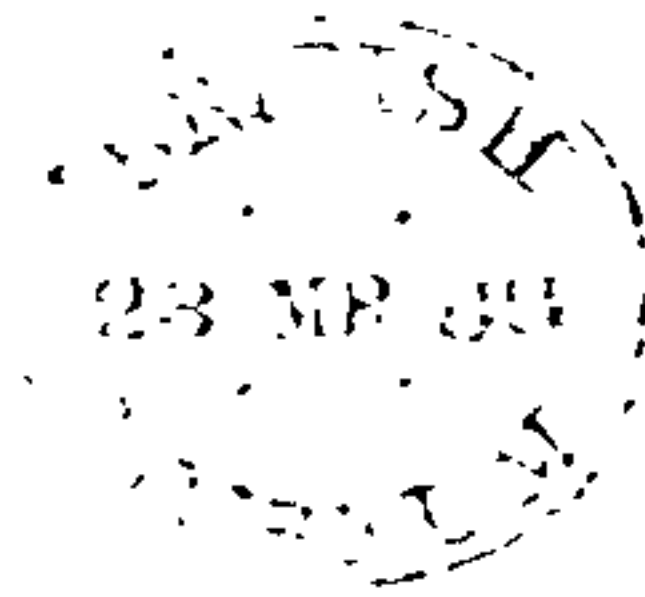
A Note relating to Rubruquis, at p. 194.

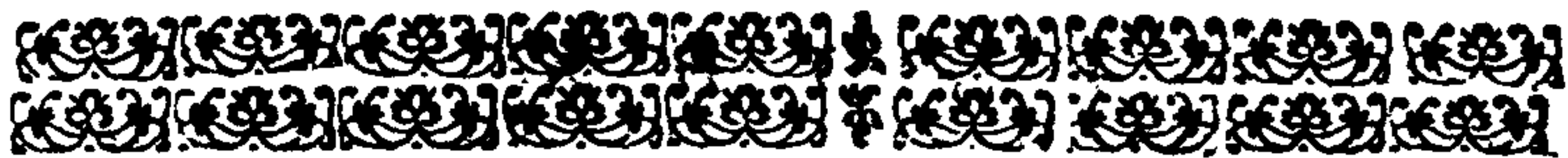
TIS to the Court of this Prince [*Batu Chan*] Rubruquis that the Monk *Rubruquis* pretends to ^{*Rubruquis censured.*} have been sent by *St. Lewis* King of *France*; and when one observes how well the Description which he gives of that Country from the River *Borysthenes* to the River *Yaik*, agrees with the certain Accounts which we have at present of it, one cannot doubt his having been there; but his Journey from the *Yaik* to the Court of *Mangu Chan* seems to me very suspicious, because I have found many things in it which are directly contrary to what we now know for certain of that Country. For this reason I am inclined to believe that Part of the Relation of the Travels of *William du Rubruquis* which goes as far as the *Yaik*, came from the Pen of a Man who had been himself upon the Places, and that the rest has been added from hearsay. Nevertheless we must do him this Justice, that it is he of all the Writers of former times, who has given us the most exact Account of the *Tatars* and the Country they inhabit; for what he relates of their Form, Manners, Food, and e-
ven

ven of their Clothing, agrees so well with what is still to be observ'd in the *Callmaks*, that one may easily see 'tis of their Ancestors that he speaks.

Excused. [This last is a great Proof of the Sincerity of *Rubruquis*; and if he has committed some Mistakes, it ought to be imputed to his being obliged to take many things from hearsay, and want perhaps of keeping an exact Journal. If his Account of the Country differs from the State of it at present, Allowance must be made for the Alterations caused by Time. It is also to be consider'd on this Occasion, that the Editor's Suspicions may arise in a good measure from the Prejudice taken to the Description *Rubruquis* has given of *Carakuran*, p. 514. and his Account of the *Tatars* slaying all they meet at the Funerals of their *Chans*, p. 396. The first Prejudice we have shewn is ill grounded, and the second will admit of some Qualification, since we find such Executions have been practis'd, tho they are not perhaps customary. Thus *Couplet* tells us*, that *Shun Cbi*, the late Emperor of *China's* Father, had thirty Men put to death, to appease the Manes of a favourite Mistress. The principal Objection that sticks with me is the great Extent he gives to the Countries of *Pascatir* and *Changle*, which I take to mean those of the *Baskirs* and *Kankis*: But as we have only Scraps as yet of the Geography of those Countries, further Translations from the Oriental Authors may clear it up.]

* [*Tab. Chron. Sinen.* p. 100.]





I N D E X

O F T H E

Principal Matters added by the *Translator*.

- A** *Bascum Casira*, a Corruption of *Abosghun Gezira*, p. 130. Mistake of the French Editor about it. 738
- Abu'ghâzi Chan*, not thoroughly acquainted with the History of his Predecessors. 790
- Agem*, a Nickname given to the *Persians*. 706. The same as *Barbarian* used by us. 707
- Animal Plant*, or *Scythian Lamb*, a Fiction. 668
- Arabs*, think they honour God by Cursing and Swearing. 702
- Arab Calendar*. 416
- Arabistân*, not to be understood of *Arabia* in our Author. 691
- Ararat* (Mount) No part of *Caucasus*, but standing by itself. 690
- Assassins* in *Persia*, when rooted out. 186
- Asterabad*, Situation of it; Mistake of Dr. Hyde. 737
- B** *Asrah*, never Midway betwixt *Baghdád* and the *Persian Gulf*. 693
- C** *Allmaks* and *Mogulls* the same; a Nickname; possess'd the Country where they are at present since the time of *Timûr beg*. 530
- Cara coram*, or *Cara kuran*, not a fictitious Town of *Tatary*. 514
- Cara-kitay*, Authors at a Loss about its Situation. 496
- Caspian Sea*, its Names. 748
- Cham-balik* and *Chân-balik*, different Places. 473
- Chaan*, a Distinction different from *Chân*, according to the Oriental Authors. 392
- Chân*, added to the Name of *Amîr Timûr* by the French Editor without Authority. 170
- A Title given to Governors by the *Chowârazm Shâhs*. 394
- Chinese Wall*, when founded. 767
- Chowârazm Shâhs*, their Rise. 799
- Chowârazm*, Abstract of the History of it to the present Time. Confounded by *Kempfer* with *Chorasân*. 419
- Con-taisha*, of the Posterity of *Taulai Chan*. 543
- Corruption of Names arising from the different Force of Letters in different Languages. 767
- Credentials* of the *Chalîfa's* Ambassador impressed upon his Head. 100
- Cumani*, Remains of them in *Chowârazm*. 437
- D** *Ashté Kipzak*, Error in the French Copy. 162
- D d *Delly*

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- Delly* Kingdom founded. 1205. Pag. 755
- E***Râk Agemy.* 723
Erâkayn, or the two *Erâks*;
 Mistake of *Golius.* 688
European Authors mistaken about
Mohammedan Affairs. 696, 704
- G***Azna*, or *Gaznin.* once Ca-
 pital of *Chorasân*, and of
 the Empire of the *Gafnys.*
 747, 755
Gog and *Magog*, the Enquiry a-
 bout them idle, not unknown
 to the Orientals; one sent by
 the *Chalîta* to discover their
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- I***Mâm Rizas's* Tomb at *Mash-*
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 and Religion established there
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Moguls. 754
Translations of the *Persian* Gulf
 about *Bârâb*, not so great as
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 Extent of it. 707. Confound-
 ed by Authors with *Arân.* 715
- K***ishak*, or *Kasak*, its Extent.
 575
- L***âwhâr*, or *Lahor* Kingdom
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- M***abog.* a Town in *Syria*,
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 745
Ma wara'nahr, what it in-
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 of the *French* Editor. 743
Moguls, not mentioned in the
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sian Meskû. 701
- N***Emets*, Name given the *Ger-*
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- O***Trar*, or *Farab*, once the Ca-
 pital of *Turkestân.* 464
- P***Atans*, or *Potans*, original
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 into *India* by the *Moguls.* 758
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 in *Asia Minor.* 559
- R***Omania* and *Romelia*, when
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 682
- S***Elizure*; Mistake of *de Lisle,*
 270
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Shâm, not *Shamachi*, but *Da-*
mascus. 720
Shoncur, Bird. 501
Sofi, or *Sufi*, the Name or Title
 of a Race of *Châns* of *Cho-*
wârazm. 421. But not of
 the Kings of *Persia.* 730
Soltân Chalif of *Rum*; *Soltân*
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- T***Agiks*, or *Taziks* what. 64
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- Tatars and Moguls*, no mention of them in the Geography of *Shârif Ebn Edris*. Pag. 784
- Tatars*, how the Name came to spread so suddenly. 387. Name known to the *Persians*, 564. and given to all the Inhabitants of the North by the *Chinese* long before *Zingis Chân*; extended further than that of the *Turks*. 565. How they came to be so poor now, who were once so rich. 558
- Tatary*, but a small part of the Country subject to the *Tatars*. 380. Never wholly under the Dominion of the *Turks*. 562. All the Inhabitants not sprung from the *Turks*. 566 Name, of a limited Signification, not mentioned by *Abu'l-ghâfi Chân*. *ibid.*
- Turân*, what it implies, not *Siberia*. 453. A Mistake for *Tura*. 209
- Turkestan* Town, called also *Turân*. 569
- Turkestan* Country, its Name. 562. Original Country of the *Turks* and *Turkmans*. 563. Name never extended so far as that of *Tatary*. 565
- Turks*, Name and Power never extended over all *Tatary*. 563. All the Inhabitants of *Tatary* not sprung from them. 566. No more heard of in *Turkestan*. 571
- Turks, Othmân*, came out of *Persia*. 424
- Turkmans* Oriental, unknown to our Geographers. 426. Possessed formerly all from the *Archipelago* to the *Indies*. 427
- Ulâ*, or *Uluçh-yurt*, Residence of the Successors of *Zingis Chân*. 513
- Urgens*, Capital of *Chowârazm*, antient and present State of it. 440
- Uzbek*, Country of, Name more properly to be given to part of *Kipjak* than to *Great Bucharia*. 454
- Uzbeks*, Inhabitants of *Chowârazm*, as well as *Great Bucharia*. 423. Only four Tribes out of *Kipjak* retain that Name. 429

F I N I S.





The Reader is desired, before he begins, to correct the following
E R R A T A.

PAG. 384. l. 27. for *Al Idris*, r. *Ebn Edris*. P. 425. for *Tigre*, r. *Tigris*.
P. 426. l. 24. for *Oriental*, r. *Occidental*. P. 431. l. 7. for 457. r. 357.
P. 453. l. 3. for 171. r. 141. P. 454. l. 1. for 131. r. 151. P. 473. l. 27.
for *Chambalik*, r. *Chan-balik*. P. 482. last Line but one, for *Mulba*, r. *Mulla*.
P. 503. l. 21. for *Nienchien*, r. *Nienchien*. P. 506. l. 36. for *they*, r. *the*
Mungals of the East. P. 512. &c. for *Ulughurt*, r. *Ulugh-yurt*. P. 514, 574, and
581. for *Moskee*, r. *Mosk*. P. 515. l. 5. for *Abulfara*, r. *Abu'lfarag*. P. 517.
l. 9. for *Dsan*, r. *Dsam*. P. 533. l. 21. for *Zudadatzsez*, r. *Zudadatfes*.
P. 565. l. 30. after *as*, insert *while*. P. 576. thro' that Chapter and else-
where, for *Kapshak*, r. *Kafgak*, or *Kippak*. P. 611. l. 23. dele *that*. l. 36.
for *five*, r. *four*. P. 632. l. 17. for *all*, r. *also*. P. 667. l. 6. for *in*, r. *at*.
P. 669. l. 15. after *Russians* close the Crotchets. P. 688. l. 32. after *Province*,
insert *of*. P. 706. l. 24. for *Iarn*, r. *Iran*. P. 730. l. 18. for *Industry*, r. *Art*.
P. 748. l. 13. for *Diaro*, r. *Derya*. P. 754. l. 27. for *Sebekebin*, r. *Sabektekin*.
P. 755. l. 24. for 1135. r. 1175. l. 33. r. *Ala'din*.

