

upon it ; but the fact is, that while some of our countrymen are vain enough, they scarce know of what, the great body of the nation, the literary and the wealthy, of those who have influence in the community are not at all too proud of our peculiar and glorious advantages ; and what is worse, they are not apt to be proud in the right place. Much yet remains to be said upon the subject, for which this is not the place or occasion. We would however remark, that if there be any truth which reason and experience concur to teach, it is, that genius and liberty go hand in hand ; and it is equally true, that we live under institutions whose very essence is freedom, and which must cease to exist when they are no longer animated by the spirit of freedom which called them into being.

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ART. IV.—*Begebenheiten des Capitains von der Russisch-Kaiserlichen Marine Golownin, in der Gefangenschaft bei den Japanern in den Jahren 1811, 1812, & 1813 ; nebst seinen Bemerkungen ueber das Japanische Reich und Volk, und einem Anhang des Capitains Rikord.*—*The adventures of Capt. Golownin, of the Imperial Russian Navy, during his imprisonment among the Japanese, in the years 1811, 1812, and 1813 ; with his observations upon the Japanese empire and people ; and an appendix by Capt. Rikord. Translated from the Russian into German, by Charles John Schultz. Leipzig, 8vo, 2 vols. 1817.*

THERE is probably no part of the world, which is so little known, and at the same time so worthy of exciting a rational curiosity, as the empire of Japan. Its immense population, its great wealth and industry, its progress in the useful arts, and the peculiarity of its civil and religious government, and the manners of its people, give it a hold on our curiosity over almost every other part of the East. The care, with which this singular people cut themselves off from all intercourse with the rest of mankind, not only gives them a more marked and original character, but limits our knowledge of them to the slight and imperfect notices of a few travellers, whom chance has thrown among them, and who have enjoyed but small opportunities for obtaining accurate information. Several attempts have been made by European nations to open an intercourse with them, but without success. It is a law

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of the empire, that no Japanese shall, on any pretence, quit his country, and no foreigners are permitted to land in Japan, with the solitary exception that two small Dutch ships from Batavia, and twelve Chinese ships from Ningpo, are permitted annually to enter the single port of Nangasaky. Persons thrown by shipwreck upon their coasts are kept in strict confinement, until they can be sent home, by one of the foreign ships from the abovementioned port. Even the Dutch, established at their factory at Nangasaky, have but few opportunities of becoming acquainted with the country, and the information which they have been able to collect, they have shown no disposition to impart to the world.

The empire of Japan consists of a large number of islands, situated in the North Pacific ocean, at no great distance from the eastern coast of China, and extending from 32 to 48 degrees of north latitude. The principal of these are Nippon, the largest and most populous, Matsmai, the most southern of the Kurilian Islands, Sachalin, the north part of which is possessed by the Chinese, Kiosu and Sikofu, and the three Kurilian Islands, Kunashir, Tshikotan, and Iturup. These last named are in the vicinity of the other Kurilian Islands, and are claimed by the Russians,—who, in consequence of this circumstance, have made several attempts to negotiate with this singular people. More than thirty years ago a Japanese trading ship was wrecked near the Aleutian island, Amschitka. The unfortunate commander and crew of the vessel were saved and sent to Irkutsk in Siberia, where they remained about ten years. At last, the Empress Catherine resolved to send them back to their native country, and to avail herself of the opportunity to attempt forming a commercial treaty between the two empires. The Siberian governor, Pihl, was ordered to send out an ambassador to Japan in his own name, with the proper instructions for accomplishing this object. In consequence of this order Lieut. Laxman was despatched from Ochotzk, in the transport ship Catharina, Capt. Lowzoff, in the autumn of the year 1792. Laxman landed on the northern side of the island of Matsmai, and passed the winter in the little port of Nemuro. The following summer, he proceeded, at the request of the Japanese, to the port of Chakodade, on the southern side of the island, near the strait of Sangar, whence he travelled by land westward, three days' journey to Matsmai. In thi

city, he met the commissioners despatched from the capital to negotiate with him, and in answer to his propositions, he received the following explanations.

1. Although, according to the laws of Japan all foreigners who land on the coast, except in the port of Nangasaky, are required to be seized and holden in perpetual imprisonment, yet as this law was not known to the Russians, and as they had brought with them the Japanese subjects, who had been saved on their coast, the law would not be executed, and they would be permitted to return to their own country without hindrance; yet with the express understanding, that in future, even if Japanese subjects should be wrecked in Russia, the Russians should not approach the coast of Japan, except at the port of Nangasaky, and that, if they neglected this caution, the law would be strictly put in force.

2. The Japanese government express their thanks for the restoration of their subjects to their country, but declare that the Russians may either leave them behind, or take them back with them, as they please; for, according to the Japanese laws, these persons cannot be retained by force, it being a principle of these laws that people belong to the empire, in which fate has thrown them, and in which they have been preserved from death.

3. The Japanese government could not admit a negotiation for a commercial treaty, in any port, except that of Nangasaky. On this account a written permission was given to Lieut. Laxman, by which a Russian ship might enter that port, where officers would be found with authority to negotiate farther with the Russians upon this subject.

With this explanation, Laxman returned in the autumn of 1793 to Ochotzk. No further attempt was made at that time to pursue the object, and no use was made of the permission to send a ship to Nangasaky. According to the representation of Laxman the Japanese treated him in a very friendly manner, and with the greatest politeness. They showed him many civilities according to their customs, supported his officers and men during the whole time of their residence in Japan, at their own expense, furnished him at his departure with provisions for the voyage for which they refused pay, and made several presents. He had only to complain, that, in strict conformity with their laws, they would not let him go abroad at liberty, but kept a constant watch over him.

In the year 1804, the counsellor of state and chamberlain Resanoff was sent by the Emperor Alexander, on a new embassy to Japan, for the purpose of renewing the proposition for a commercial treaty. He sailed from St. Peter and St. Paul's Haven in Kamtschatka, in the government ship *Nadeshda*, commanded by the celebrated traveller captain Von Krusenstern, and entered the harbour of Nangasaky on the 8th of October. The opportunity of restoring to their native country some Japanese seamen, who had been wrecked in a large vessel from Japan, on one of the Aleutian islands again presented itself; and the Emperor Alexander sent to the Emperor of Japan a great number of costly presents, valued at three hundred thousand rubles. The embassy, however, was received with less favour than they had reason to expect. The ambassador was not suffered to land until December 16, and in the mean time the ship was closely guarded by thirty or forty boats. All the arms and ammunition of the ship were required to be delivered into the custody of the Japanese governor. When, after a wearisome negotiation, the ambassador and his suit were permitted to land, they were quartered in buildings erected for the purpose, surrounded with palisades, and guarded by a double watch, one civil and the other military. The doors of their apartments were regularly locked and bolted upon them every night, and they were not permitted to walk beyond their palisades during the day, or to pass from their residence to the ship without special permission. They were not permitted to visit any part of the city or of the neighbouring country, nor were they allowed to purchase any thing of the few persons who visited them. Provisions were furnished them without pay, and also materials for the repair of the ship. After waiting six months for an answer to their application to be permitted to proceed to Jeddo, and have an audience of the emperor, during which time they were amused with repeated assurance that an answer to their request would be speedily received, they were admitted to an audience in the city of Nangasaky of the governor, and a commissioner specially deputed from the emperor to meet the Russian ambassador. In proceeding to the governor's house, they passed through several wide, clean, but unpaved streets. The houses along the whole extent of the streets were covered with hangings, so that the houses and the inhabitants

were wholly concealed from view, under the pretence that the common people were not worthy to see so great a man as the ambassador, face to face. The audience was had on the 4th day of April, and was repeated on the following day. At the second day's audience, the decision of the emperor was communicated with great formality, relative to the object of the embassy, and thus the hopes of the party of being permitted to go to the capital were disappointed. The emperor decidedly declined having any further intercourse with Russia, refused to accept the presents, that had been sent to him by the Emperor Alexander, and requested that if in future any Japanese should be wrecked upon the Russian coasts, they might be sent home through the Dutch ships which sail annually from Batavia. He ordered a present of a quantity of salt and rice for the crew of the Russian ship, and two thousand bundles of raw silk for the officers. On receiving this answer the ambassador took his departure and returned to Kamtschatka. He at first refused to accept of the presents from the emperor, but on his finding that if he persisted in his refusal, he would be compelled to wait at Nangasaky, until a messenger could be sent Jeddo, and bring back instructions, he concluded to receive them, rather than submit to two months' delay, although he was obliged also to receive back the presents which he had brought. The *Nadeshda* was towed out of the harbour by a hundred boats, after which her arms and ammunition, as well as the arms of the officers, which had been given up on entering the harbour, were faithfully restored to them.

The chamberlain Von Resanoff, after accomplishing a mission on which he was sent to the settlements of the Russian American Company on the North Western coast of America; to revenge upon the Japanese the treatment which he had received at Nangasaky, in the year 1806, despatched a secret expedition against some of the southern Kurilian Islands, on which the Japanese had made settlement. He justified this measure, on the pretence that these islands had been previously taken possession of by the Russians. In pursuance of his instructions, Lieut. Schwostoff, in the ship *Juno*, landed at one of these settlements, and without resistance took possession of 1000 pound of rice, and other provisions and property, and brought them away, together with four of the Japanese settlers. In the following summer, in pursuance of the same

instructions, Lieuts. Schwostoff and Davidoff, in two ships, proceeded to the Japanese islands Urup and Iturup, overcame the slight resistance that was made to them, and carried off a large amount of stores and property, which were found there. The four Japanese, who were taken prisoners the preceding year, were now set at liberty, and instructed to inform their countrymen, that the Russians had a just claim to these islands. It was in this state of the relations between Russia and Japan, that the events which we are about to notice took place.

In April, 1811, Captain Michael Golownin, the author of the book which forms the subject of this article, who was then in command of the Russian sloop of war *Diana*, at St. Peter and St. Paul's Haven in Kamtschatka, received instructions from the Minister of Marine to make a minute examination of the southern Kurilian and Shantar Islands, and the coast of Tartary from 53° 38' north latitude to Ochotzk. In pursuance of these instructions he left the harbour as soon as the breaking up of the ice permitted, and on the 4th of May proceeded to sea. On the 14th he reached the strait of Nadesbda, where he began his survey. Nothing remarkable occurred in the course of the survey until the 17th of June, when he found himself near the northern extremity of the island Iturup. On approaching the shore for the purpose of discovering whether the land made a part of the Japanese island Iturup, he discovered some huts and inhabitants on shore, and thinking them to be Kurilians he sent Midshipman Moor in an armed boat to make inquiries. As he approached the land he was met by a boat from the shore, and although he found it was inhabited by Japanese, he proceeded to the land, contrary to his instructions, and was soon followed by Captain Golownin, in another boat. They found here a number of Kurilians who served as interpreters. The captain held a conference with the governor of the place, who received him civilly, and requested to be furnished with wood and water. The governor was not able to furnish the articles wanted, but promised to give the captain a letter to the governor of Urbitsh, a city near the opposite extremity of the island, where he could be supplied not only with wood and water, but also with rice and fresh provisions. After being hospitably furnished with refreshments, the Russians returned to their ship, and the same

evening several Kurilians were sent on board for the purpose of being restored to their own country, as appears in the following extract from our author.

‘There were two men, two women, and a girl of four years old. The men spoke Russian so well that we could understand each other without difficulty. They brought us the letter from the Japanese commander to the governor of Urbitsh, and assured us that he had informed him, by it, that we had come hither with good and not evil designs, and added that immediately after our departure from the city the Japanese had sent a boat to Urbitsh with similar information. This boat we had ourselves seen. The letter was written on thick white paper, and folded in a cover six inches long and two and a half inches broad. The cover was so arranged that there remained on one side a triangular paper, which was closely sealed at the sides; the upper corner, half an inch in length, was folded over upon the other side, which was also closely sealed. On the top was a stamp of a dark colour. The address was written on both sides. The Kurilians informed us besides, that the Japanese at first could not believe that we had come for any other purpose than plunder, and grounded their suspicions upon the conduct of the Company’s ship. Whenever the Japanese spoke of this outrage they said, “the Russians attacked us without reason, killed many men, took several prisoners, robbed us, not only of our property, but took from us almost all our rice and sagi, (a spiritous liquor made of rice,) and left us to starve.” The Kurilians informed us that the Japanese were fully convinced, that we wished to do them all possible evil, and that they had long since carried all their most valuable property into the interior of their island. This intelligence was very unpleasant to us.’ vol. i. pp. 33, 34.

After sailing from Iturup, Captain Golownin spent three days in surveying the island of Urup. Being prevented by contrary winds from executing their intention of proceeding to Urbitsh, they sailed for Kunashir; on the southern side of which island there was, as they were informed by their Kurilian Alexis, a fine harbour and a fortified town. It was Captain Golownin’s desire to survey these, and the channel which separates Kunashir from Matsmai, a channel so little known that on many charts the two islands are thrown into one.

They reached Kunashir the 4th of July. On approaching it, they found the fortifications enclosed with a hanging of black



and white or dark blue cloth, with broad stripes, so that neither the walls nor palisades could be seen. Whenever they tried to land, they were fired upon from the fort. They therefore attempted to open a communication with the inhabitants by signs.

‘On the 6th,’ says Captain Golownin, ‘I placed before the city, in the water, a cask divided into two parts. In one we placed a glass of fresh water, some sticks of wood and a handful of rice, to show that we were in want of these articles; and in the other some pieces of gold, a piece of scarlet cloth, with some glass ware, and pearls, as a sign that we would pay for the necessities with gold or these articles. Over them we placed a drawing, which Mr. Moor had very neatly executed, in which the harbour with the fort and the ship, were represented. The guns of the latter could be clearly seen in the drawing, yet they were quiet; while from the fort, they were firing and the balls passed over the ship. In this manner I wished to reproach them for their ill treatment of us. We had scarcely placed the cask, and began to return to the ship, before the Japanese came out, took possession of it, and carried it into the fort. The next day we came within gun shot, to receive an answer, and at the worst prepared for battle, but the Japanese pretended not to observe us. No one appeared from the garrison, which was concealed as before.’ p. 53.

Unable to bring on any communication with the fort, Captain Golownin sent Lieutenant Rikord to a fishing village near it. The Lieutenant found the village deserted, took away with him wood, rice, and dried fish, and left various European articles behind as payment. On a visit made in person to the village the next day, Captain Golownin had the pleasure of finding that these articles had been carried away.

‘On the 8th of July,’ he proceeds in his narration, ‘we saw a cask placed before the city. I immediately weighed anchor that we might take it. We found in it a casket, which was wrapped in several pieces of canvass, and contained three papers. One of these was a Japanese letter, which, as we could not read it, was of no use to us. The other two were drawings. On both of which were represented the harbour, the fort, our ship, the cask, a boat rowing toward it, and the rising sun, but they had this difference; in one drawing, the cannon in the fort were firing: in the other the mouths of the guns were turned back. We considered these hieroglyphics for a long time, and each explained them in his own



way. In one thing we all agreed, that the Japanese wished to have nothing to do with us. I explained it in this way; the first time we approached the fort to place the cask they had not fired on our boat, but if we repeated our visit, we might dread the consequences.

‘ We now sailed to a little stream, on the west side of the port, and anchored. I sent an armed boat on shore, to get fresh water. Our people were at work almost the whole day on shore without being opposed by the Japanese. They however sent some Kurilians from the garrison, to watch the motions of our men at the distance of half a verst. The following morning, July 9th, our boat again went on shore for water, and was immediately approached by a Kurilian, who came slowly and trembling from the fort. In one hand he held a wooden crucifix, and with the other he crossed himself continually. He had lived some years among our Kurilians, on the island of Rashua, where he was known by the name of Kusma; he had there probably learned the sign of the cross, and knowing the veneration in which the cross is held by the Russians, he ventured under this protection to come and hold a parley with us. Lieutenant Rudakoff approached him first, accosted him kindly, and made him some presents; yet the Kurilian notwithstanding trembled with fear as though he had an ague. I came up immediately, but could not make myself understood, as Alexis had not landed with us. The Kurilian would not wait for him, and feared to return with us on board. I did not think it prudent to detain him by force. He scarcely spoke ten words of Russian, yet I was at length able to understand from his pantomime, that the commander of the fort was willing to meet me in a boat with the same number of people, as I might have, and converse with me. I joyfully acceded to the proposal and left the Kurilian after I had presented him with a string of pearls. This present enlivened him considerably, so that he asked for some tobacco. I had none with me, but promised to bring him some.

‘ The Japanese had meantime placed another cask before the fort, but so near the batteries, that I considered it rash to take it. No one yet came out to meet us from the fort, but they beckoned to me, with white fans, to land. From this I concluded that I had not rightly understood the Kurilian, but as I was about to row back again, a boat pushed off from the shore, with an officer and a Kurilian interpreter, and came towards us. They had many more men than we had on board, but as we were well armed, we had no reason to fear them. The conversation began on their side with an excuse for having fired on us, as we approached the land. They gave as a reason for it, the mistrust they had of us in consequence of

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the outrages, which had been committed some years since, by two Russian ships, whose crew at first had landed, under the same pretence as ours. But as they now saw our conduct was very different from theirs, all suspicion toward us had vanished, and they were ready to serve us with every thing in their power. I commanded our interpreter, Alexis, to assure them, that those vessels were merchantmen, and committed these depredations of their own accord, and without the sanction of government; and that both of the commanders, had not their death prevented, would have been punished for their conduct. I endeavoured to convince them of the truth of this, in the same manner, as I had previously the Japanese of the island Iturup. They answered that they believed it all, and rejoiced to hear of the good feelings of the Russians towards them. To my question whether they were satisfied with the compensation we had left in the fishing village for the articles we had taken, they answered, that they considered what we had carried away as a trifle, and thought we had left more than it was worth. They assured me again, that their commander would supply us with every thing in his power, and inquired what we were now in want of. I asked ten sacks of rice, some fresh water, and vegetables, and begged them to state the number of dollars which we should pay for them. They desired me to come on shore to speak with the commander of the city, but I evaded doing it, at this time, and promised to come the next day, when the ship should be nearer land. According to my promise, I had brought with me some tobacco for Kusma, but the Kurilians dared not to take it, without the permission of the Japanese officer, which the latter refused to grant.' pp. 54—59.

On the 10th of July they had taken on board all the wood, water, and provisions necessary for their voyage, but the wind was not fair for them to sail. The Japanese sent out a boat, and intimated by signs that they wished to speak with them. They also placed in a cask all the articles the Russians had given in payment for what they had taken. Captain Golownin added to these eighteen dollars and some East India silk handkerchiefs, and was about to return, but they beckoned to him earnestly to come on shore. After some deliberation he concluded to land, and went with some sailors on shore. Here he was met by several Japanese officers and conversed with one of them for some time, thinking him the first in command. He explained to this officer as before, the nature of the expeditions against the Japanese islands. They urged him to go into the garrison, and see their commander.

This he declined doing, but promised to bring his ship nearer the shore, and then to comply with their request. After receiving some tokens of friendship from the Japanese, he returned to the ship and sent a boat to get some fish which had been promised him. They sent him word that they expected a visit from him the next day, and desired that he would bring with him some of his officers. Captain Golownin here states at length the reasons which induced him to accept the invitation, to go again on shore, which it is not necessary for our purpose to repeat.

‘ On the 11th of July, at eight in the morning, I landed with Messrs. Moor and Chlebnikoff, four sailors and the Kurilian, Alexis. I was so perfectly convinced of the friendly disposition of the Japanese, that I had not commanded my men to take arms. The two officers and myself had only taken swords, and Mr. Chlebnikoff had also with him a little pocket-pistol, more for the purpose of giving a signal in case of a fog, than for defence. As we passed the cask, mentioned above, we looked to see if our articles were removed, but found them all there. I recollected Laxman, and ascribed this to the custom of the Japanese, which does not allow them to take any presents, till the negotiations are ended. At last we landed near the fort. The ojagoda and two officers, the same I had seen the day before, came to meet us. They prayed me to wait on the beach till the fort was ready for our reception. Feeling a perfect confidence in the Japanese, and wishing to remove all ground of suspicion, I had our boat drawn half on shore, and left one sailor behind with it. The other sailors I employed to carry the stools and the presents intended for the Japanese. We waited from ten to fifteen minutes on the shore, during which time I conversed with the ojagoda and his companions. I asked them the situation of the coast of Matsmai, and the state of their trade with the principal island Nippon. But I remarked that they did not answer my questions very readily. As I entered the gate I was astonished at the number of people assembled there. On the right of the gate sat in a circle, at least three or four hundred soldiers, armed with muskets, arrows, and spears, and placed about a large open space. On the left, a great multitude of Kurilians surrounded a tent of cotton striped cloth, which was pitched about thirty paces from the gate. I should never have thought it possible, that this little, unimportant fort could have contained so many armed men, and I think that they must have been collected from all the neighbouring places since we made our appearance in the harbour. We were immediately conducted into this tent, where directly oppo-

site the entrance the commander was seated on a stool. He was dressed in a costly silk garment, and a complete suit of armour, and had in his girdle two sabres. Over his shoulder hung a long white silk cord, at one end of which was a tassel of the same material, and at the other a steel staff, which he held in his hand, and which appeared to be the symbol of his power. Behind him, on the ground sat his armour-bearers, one of whom held his spear, and another his musket; a third held his helmet, which was similar to those we had seen worn by the other officers, except that those had the moon represented on them, while his had a representation of the sun. At our entrance, both the commanders rose, we saluted them after our custom, and they returned the salutation. They desired us to be seated on the bank, directly opposite to them, but we placed ourselves on our stools. Our sailors took their places on the bank behind us. After the first civilities were over, they entertained us with tea, without sugar, in cups, which according to the Japanese custom were only half filled, and were handed us without saucers, on wooden lackered waiters. We were previously asked, whether we would have tea, or preferred any thing else. After tea, pipes and tobacco were offered us, and conversation commenced. They asked us our rank, our names, the name of our ship, whence we came, whither we were sailing, why we landed on their shore, what reasons the Russians had for attacking their villages? Further, whether we knew Resanoff, and where he now was. All these questions we answered in the same manner we had done before. The under Japanese officers wrote down all our answers.

‘They now declared that in order to provide the necessary quantity of provisions they must know the exact number of our crew. Ridiculous as some of their questions were, they had their reasons for asking them. We considered it necessary to magnify our force, and stated it at nearly double, at 102 men. As Alexis could neither understand nor express this number, I was obliged to draw so many strokes on paper with a lead pencil, and gave it to the Japanese to count them. They farther asked us whether we had many ships as large as the *Diana* in the waters. Very many, we answered, in Ochotzk, Kamtschatka, and America; to these they added several unimportant questions, respecting our clothes, customs, &c. They examined the map of the world, the ivory handled knives, the burning glasses, which we had brought as presents to the commander, and the dollars with which I wished to pay the Japanese the sum they should name. While we were conversing, Mr. Moor remarked that there were some naked swords distributed among the soldiers, who were seated about the open square. He communicated this immediately to me, but I

thought he might have seen some sword accidentally drawn, and asked him, laughing, whether he was not mistaken, as the Japanese always wore their sabres, and certainly now had no reason for drawing them. I thought I had made him easy by this, but soon some circumstances raised in us the suspicion, that they had some bad design on us. The under officer absented himself for some time, gave several orders, returned, and whispered something to the commander, who rose and would have gone out. We also rose and offered to take our leave of him; and I again asked him the price of the provisions, and whether he was resolved to return the money to us as before. On our motion to go, he sat down again, besought us to do the same, and ordered the dinner to be served, although it was quite early. We accepted his invitation, and anxiously waited to see what was to follow, as it was now too late to get well out of the snare; but the friendly conduct of the Japanese, and their assurances that we had nothing to fear from them, quieted us again, so that we had no suspicion of their treachery. They regaled us with rice, fish, dressed with a green sauce, and other agreeable dishes, of which we did not know the ingredients.

The commander now rose to go out on some trifling pretence, and I declared to him that I could not remain any longer, and must return on board. He answered immediately that he could not supply us with any thing, without the permission of the governor of Matsmai, to whom he was accountable, and that one of us must remain as a hostage in the garrison till an answer to his report arrived. The Japanese now began to throw off the mask. To my question, how long it would take to send the report to Matsmai, and to receive an answer, he replied fifteen days. I considered it dishonourable to leave an officer behind for so long a time as a hostage, and besides, I thought that with a people like the Japanese, it was impossible to see the end of the thing. The governor would perhaps do nothing without referring to the general government, and I should be consequently delayed till winter for a decisive answer. I replied to the Japanese, that I could not wait so long without the advice of the officers remaining on board, and that I could not leave behind me an officer. Upon this we all rose to depart. But suddenly the commander, who had before spoken gently and politely, changed his tone, spoke very loud and warmly, often mentioned Resansto (Resanoff) and *Nicola Landregetsch*, (for so he denominated Schwostoff, the commander of the company's ship,) and struck his sword several times. In this manner he made a long speech, of which the affrighted Alexis could only repeat to us, that the commander had declared, that before one of us should leave the fort, his own body should be hacked to pieces. This was short and conclusive.

‘ We immediately sprang out, to reach the shore. The Japanese raised a loud shout, but dared not attack us, though they threw after us oars and pieces of wood, in order to strike us down. When we had reached the gate, they fired several times upon us, but we were not injured, although some balls passed near the head of Mr. Chlebnikoff. They succeeded in detaining Mr. Moor, Makaroff, one of the sailors, and our Kurilian Alexis within the fort. But we sprang forward and reached our landing place. Here, to our grief we found that during our stay of three hours in the fort, the water had ebbed nearly five fathoms, and left the boat on dry land. The Japanese immediately saw that it was impossible for us to make it float, and as they had before seen that there were no arms hidden in it, they took courage, advanced to us with large sabres which they held in both hands, with muskets and spears, and surrounded us near the boat. I cast one glance upon the boat, and seeing there was no possibility of escape, gave myself up. The Japanese took me under the arms, and led me into the garrison, where my unhappy companions were detained. On the way, a soldier struck me several times on the shoulder with a little iron staff, but upon one of the officers speaking to him with an angry look, he desisted immediately.’ pp. 67—74.

They were thus carried back to the fort, and thence to a kind of barrack, where they were very carefully bound; their hands, elbows, knees, and calves of their legs being tied together, and a cord tied about their necks and fastened to a beam over their heads, in such manner that they could not sit down. All of them were tied alike, and with precisely the same number of knots, so that the Japanese seemed to do this, as well as every thing else, by rule. They were soon taken from this place, and sat out on their march to the city of Chakodade, in the island of Matsmai, the cords being first taken from the calves of their legs, and those about their knees loosened. Each prisoner was led by one person, and had a soldier by his side. On ascending a rising ground, they saw their ship, which was left under the command of Lieut. Rikord, under sail, and soon heard a cannonading, the result of which they never learned from the Japanese. Rikord found that his guns were much lighter than those of the fort, and soon desisted from the attack. The prisoners were conducted in the manner above described, on foot, and most strictly guarded, till they came to the strait between Kunashir and Matsmai. They were carried over this strait in boats, and coasted along the shore of the latter island several days, pas-

sing at short intervals large and populous villages situated on the coast. On the 16th of July they proceeded again on foot, and from this time their escort increased to a hundred and fifty or two hundred men. They advanced by regular journies, till they reached Chakodade on the 8th of August. A great number of persons of both sexes came out to meet them, and they entered the city in solemn procession. They there found still greater numbers assembled to see them, so that the guards found it difficult to force a passage through the narrow and crowded streets. They were conducted by a cross street to an open field, where a building had been erected for their reception. This building was large and dark, with separate apartments for each prisoner, and was surrounded by palisades, and beyond the palisades by a wall of earth. The prisoners were further secured by a guard, which kept a constant watch before their dwelling.

In the Japanese villages, which they passed, on their journey to this city, they observed every where a remarkable neatness. The people were active, and appeared contented and gay. The prisoners were every where the objects of a most lively curiosity. The people at every station assembled around them, and asked a thousand questions, and on receiving an answer, they carefully wrote it down : evidently holding that the right of keeping a journal is by no means confined to the traveller, but that the good people among whom he travels have a right to keep theirs too. What a sorry figure would not the worshipful fraternity of English travellers in America cut, if we imitated this laudable Japanese practice. The Japanese, moreover, according to Capt. Golownin, were constantly inquiring the Russian names of things, and each person formed, from the answers obtained, a little lexicon. The village of Onno, seven wersts from Chakodade, is described as particularly beautiful. It is situated in a valley, is surrounded on three sides by mountains, and appears to stand in the midst of a vast garden, every house being surrounded by a spot of land in which kitchen vegetables, and a great variety of fruit trees are cultivated.

The Kurilians of Matsmai are more stoutly built, and in every respect a superior race of people to those of Iturup and Kunashir, or of the Russian Kurilian Islands. Their language, also, is quite different ; so that Alexis, and the Kurilians of Matsmai, could with difficulty converse together. Yet



they retain a sufficient resemblance in dialect, person, and manners, to prove that they sprung from a common stock.

Our author observed the peculiarity among the Japanese, that the left hand has the preference over the right. This he remarked every where, and he was told that it was universal; without, however, hearing any reason given for it. He observed also that the Japanese had a great number of physicians. A physician was appointed to attend on the prisoners as soon as they arrived in Chakodade, and he repeated his visits daily. He was a man of extensive knowledge, and was particularly skilled in geography. He had a finely engraved globe, and several manuscript maps of the Japanese possessions, which he frequently showed to his Russian patients, and by the aid of them he answered their inquiries relative to the country.

Two days after the arrival of the prisoners at Chakodade, they were conducted through the city to a large hall, where they underwent a long and minute examination. As they passed through the streets, the houses were thronged with spectators. They observed for the first time, that almost every house contained a shop, in which a great variety of wares was exposed for sale. The forms observed on their presentation to the governor, and in the examination, on this as well as on a variety of other occasions, are particularly described by the author. Our limits do not permit us to make an extract of these details, though it is these, which give the principal interest to the narrative, and besides, serve to elucidate the character of this singular people.

They were asked their names, ages, places of nativity, the names and ages of their parents and relations, whether they were married, and had children, the distance from St. Petersburg to the city in which they dwelt, their stations, and duty on board their ship, and many other questions equally minute. Their answers were carefully written down by two secretaries. At their second examination, they were told that their answers had been sent to the governor of Matsmai, and that he had ordered the affair to be most diligently inquired into. The following is an extract from the account of the first examination.

‘ At last the commander desired to know whether the religion of the Russians had not been in some degree altered; inasmuch

as Laxman wore a long queue and stiff hair, which he strewed over with flour, while ours was on the contrary cut short. As we answered that the manner of wearing the hair was not a part of our religion, the Japanese laughed, and wondered not a little that there existed no law respecting this. They however wrote down our answers as before. In concluding, they ordered us to relate to them and point out to them on a chart, where and when we had sailed since we left St. Petersburg. For this purpose they gave us a chart, drawn from the Russian Academy's globe, made in the time of the late empress.' p. 140.

The second examination consisted of a series of questions relative to Resanoff's expedition and subsequent history. On the third examination, besides other questions were the following.

'Did we not know of Laxman's embassy and the answers he received? Whether we knew the answers which were given to Resanoff's propositions in Nangasaky? Why we approached their coast, since the Japanese had forbidden the Russians to do so, and had declared to Resanoff that they had a law, which obliged them to burn all foreign ships coming into any port, except Nangasaky, and to hold the crews in perpetual imprisonment?' p. 150.

After having undergone five examinations, at different intervals, before the governor of Chakodade, they were sent to the city of Matsmai. They set out on this journey September 27, and were conducted in nearly the same manner as when they came from Kunashir. The author describes a battery which he observed on a height, at the entrance of the bay of Matsmai, on which were mounted several brass and iron cannon, the latter of which appeared to have been cast in Europe. On this part of the island the villages were more frequent, as well as more populous, than on the parts which they had previously seen. They accomplished this journey in three days. They here also found a house specially built for their accommodation. Two days after their arrival they were brought before the governor for further examination, and remained with him some hours. He proved to be a man of great humanity, and exhorted them not to give themselves up to despair, but to pray to God, and to wait patiently the end of their trials. He assured them that he would use all his influence with the emperor to hasten their liberation, and

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gave them ink and paper to draw up a memorial, which he told them should be translated into Japanese. In making this translation Alexis, and a new interpreter assigned them, named Kumaddshero, united their labours. The account of their progress in this great work is one of the most amusing portions of the work before use.

As we have already seen that Alexis' qualifications as a linguist did not go so far as to count 100, we may imagine the embarrassment of the Russian prisoners. 'For we endeavoured,' says our author, 'as much as possible to make use of such words and phrases only as were known to Alexis. This made the style of our paper singular enough.'

'Notwithstanding our effort, it sometimes happened that we could not make Alexis comprehend our ideas, or if he comprehended them, he could find no words or expressions in the Kurilian language to convey them to the Japanese. The following is the manner in which Kumaddshero proceeded. In the first place, he asked us the Russian pronunciation of every word, and wrote this in Japanese letters over it. He was prepared with a sheet of paper, and asked the meaning of every word by itself, and wrote it, in the same manner, in Japanese over it. In this way we had not a little trouble with him. He was a man of about fifty years old, exceedingly stupid by nature, and without any idea, not merely of the grammar of any European language, but of any grammar in the world. If by means of Alexis, or by signs, we explained to him a word, he listened attentively and said to every thing o-o-o, which appeared to mean as much as, "yes, indeed, I understand." If in this way we had spent an half hour or more in demonstrating to him a word, and thought that at last he fully understood it, he would turn and ask us the definition of it again, and insist that he had not the least conception of it. We often lost our patience entirely and spoke harshly to him. But he would laugh, and excuse himself by saying that he was old, and that the Russian language came exceedingly hard to him.'

Honest Kumaddshero seems to have been infested with a lurking republican feeling, such as was not to have been expected, in a subject of his most despotic majesty of Japan.

'The word *imperial*,' proceeds our author, 'employed him two whole days, before he could understand it. Two hours in succession we explained it to him, and made use of all possible examples. Alexis too, to whom the word was known, did his best. The Japanese heard, laughed, and grumbled out his o-o-o-o; but

scarcely had we finished, when he would say : I can understand easily what emperor is, but imperial, imperial, I cannot comprehend that. The prepositions and conjunctions could not be made by any means to enter his dull head. It appeared to him wholly incredible that they should be placed before the principal words to which they refer, and which in the Japanese language they always follow. He was exceedingly surprised at this, and would not believe it possible to express one's self with any degree of propriety in a language which, in his opinion, was so barbarous and defective. If he had at last made out the meaning of the words, he then began upon the formation of the sentence. And here was a new and sore difficulty. He would by all means insist, that the Russian words should follow each other in the same order, as in the Japanese translation, and required us so to place them, without seeing what absurd and incomprehensible nonsense would follow. We assured him that it could not be so, but he maintained that his translation would be considered incorrect, if with him a word stood at the end which we placed at the beginning, &c. At last, after long discussions and disputes, we besought him to call to mind the Kurilian and Japanese forms of speech, and see if the words in both languages followed in the same order. I know very well, said he, that this is not the case. But the Kurilian is the language of a people almost savage, who have not even the art of writing. But in Russia they write books. We laughed not a little at this remark, and he joined us. At last we gave him our word of honour as a pledge, that there were many European languages, in which, though there were a number of words in common, yet the order in which they were placed was totally diverse ; and this was the case with the Russian and Japanese. This satisfied him. Now that he had obtained an idea of our sentences, he sought for Japanese expressions which signified the same, and troubled himself no farther about the order of the words. But if he met with a sentence in which the words actually followed in the same order, he was highly gratified. Nay, if there were Japanese words, which could be arranged in the same manner as ours, he would joyfully write them down, even if they conveyed an entirely different sense, and it was not without the greatest unwillingness that he would alter them when we found he had not understood us aright.' pp. 207—210.

Among the questions asked at one of the examinations they inquired what kind of hat the emperor of Russia wore, and begged Mr. Moor to draw a picture of it. They inquired what kind of horse the emperor rode, and how many persons accompanied him. They asked how many cannon were

mounted on the imperial palace, and on being told that the European monarchs did not fortify their palaces, and did not surround them with cannon, they would not believe it. When they were afterwards convinced of this fact, they were greatly surprised, and considered it very improvident.

Lieut. Rikord, before leaving the Japanese coast in the ship *Diana*, sent on shore a letter addressed to the imprisoned Russian officers, in which he declared his intention to return to Ochotzk, and to come back with an additional force to attempt their liberation. He sent on shore also with the letter, some clothes, razors, and a trunk of books. This letter was not shown them until after they had arrived at Chakodade, when they were required to translate it into Japanese. This they did with some variation of the parts which might have given offence.

A part of the story is contained in the narrative of Lieut. Rikord, which is published in the second volume. He there describes his voyage to Ochotzk, and a journey which he undertook in the following winter for the purpose of obtaining instructions of the Minister of Marine at St. Petersburg, for proceeding to the relief of his imprisoned countrymen. He learned however at Irkutsk, on his way to Petersburg, from the governor of Siberia, that an account of the disaster had been sent to the government, and received orders to return to Ochotzk, and proceed in the *Diana* to complete the survey of the coast, and at the same time to make inquiries at the Island of Kunashir of the fate of the prisoners. While on his journey, he found at Irkutsk a Japanese, named Leonsaimo, who had been six years in Russia, and had been treated with great attention and kindness, for the purpose of showing the friendly disposition of the Russian government to Japan. This person, with five other Japanese, who had been shipwrecked on the Russian coast, he took on board his ship, and as soon as the necessary repairs could be made, sailed from Ochotzk, July 22, and arrived off the coast of Kunashir on the 28th of August. He was accompanied on this voyage, for greater security, by the transport ship *Sotik*.

On reaching the harbour where they met with the disasters of the preceding year, and which they had named the Bay of Treachery, they observed a new double battery of fourteen guns. The whole city, on the side toward the sea, was hung with striped cloth, so that nothing but the roofs of the houses

could be seen, and all the boats were drawn upon the shore. They sent a letter on shore, addressed to the governor of the island, announcing that notwithstanding the treatment of the officers of the *Diana*, the governor of Irkutsk had sent home all the Japanese wrecked on the shore of Kamtschatka, and trusted that in return all the Russian prisoners would be given up; that if this was refused, the ships would be sent back the next summer to demand them. This letter was translated into Japanese by Leonsaimo, whose fidelity they had much reason to doubt. After waiting some days without an answer, and sending on shore successively, two of their Japanese passengers as messengers, without obtaining any satisfactory information, they were under the necessity of despatching Leonsaimo, as their ambassador, although at the risk of losing their only interpreter. He returned after a day's absence with the intelligence that Golownin and all his companions were dead. They were unwilling to believe this intelligence, and after watching a long time for the purpose, succeeded in capturing a large Japanese ship, the commander of which proved to be an intelligent and amiable man. He informed them that Golownin, and his five companions were all living, and in the city of Matsmai.

Rikord resolved on carrying back with him to Russia this Japanese captain, whose name was Takatai Kachi, and who appeared to be a person of higher rank than they had before seen. He submitted to this measure with a very good grace, on being promised that he should not be required to leave the Russian commander, and that he should be restored to his country the following summer. Takatai Kachi was required to select four of his own sailors to accompany him, and the remaining Japanese who had been brought from Kamtschatka, as they could not speak a word of Russian, were put on shore. He was also required to write a letter explaining the cause of his detention and to send it on shore.

On board the captured ship was a lady, the inseparable companion and favourite mistress of Takatai Kachi. This being the only Japanese woman of whom we have any notice in these volumes, we copy at length the account of her visit to the Russian ship.

'She was curious to see our ship and the strange people, whom she considered as enemies. It was no less interesting to us to

see a Japanese woman. When she first came on board she appeared excessively alarmed. I desired Kachi to lead her into the cabin, and took her other hand myself. At the door, she wished, after the Japanese custom, to take off her straw shoes, but as there was neither carpet nor mats in the cabin, I made her understand by signs that she need not give herself this trouble. On entering, she laid both her hands open upon her head, and bowed very low. I led her to an arm chair, and Kachi explained to her the use of it. Fortunately for our unexpected visitor we had on board a pretty young woman, the wife of our under surgeon. At sight of her the Japanese took courage and appeared more at ease. An acquaintance was soon formed between them. The surgeon's wife tried to converse with her on a subject which generally interests ladies, and showed her the dress of Russian women. The Japanese, who seemed to be a lady of fashion, looked at every thing with the greatest curiosity, put on some of the articles, and showed her astonishment by a hearty laugh. She appeared most pleased with the white complexion of our lady, laid her hand upon her face, as if she doubted that it was the natural colour, and cried often *iooi-iooi*, pretty, pretty. I observed that the Japanese was pleased with her new dress, and held a mirror before her. She was astonished at the difference of her complexion from that of the Russian lady, who was behind her, and pushed away the glass, saying, *wari, wari*, not pretty, not pretty. She had, however, a very agreeable appearance. Her face was rather brown, and long, regular features, a little mouth, with shining black lackered teeth. Her narrow black eyebrows, which seemed drawn with a pencil, shaded two brilliant eyes of the same colour, which were but slightly sunk in the head. Her dark hair, arranged in the form of a turban, had no other ornament than tortoise-shell combs. She was of middling size, thin, and well formed. Her dress consisted of six garments made of silk, thinly wadded, something in the form of our night-gowns, very wide, and confined very low with a girdle. Below the girdle the clothes hung very full. The upper garment was dark, the rest of various colours. She spoke slowly, her voice was rather melancholy. She appeared to be about 18 years old. We offered her tea and gingerbread. She ate and drank with great pleasure. At her departure we made her some presents, with which she was highly pleased. I told the surgeon's wife to kiss her. When she saw her intention she met the salute, and laughed heartily. She went on shore in the boat, which carried Kachi's letter to the governor of the island.' vol. ii. pp. 189—191.

The two Russian ships sailed out of the harbour on the 11th of September, with Kachi and his four sailors on board.



They were fired upon from all the batteries, but received no injury. In October they arrived at St. Peter and St. Paul's Haven, and were there shut up for the winter.

Golownin and his companions in the mean time had no distinct intelligence of the exertions, which their friends were making to obtain their deliverance. Their hours passed heavily at Matsmai, and all the arguments, by which they endeavoured to obtain their liberty, seemed thrown away upon the whimsical people who held them in captivity. They once escaped from their imprisonment, but after wandering in the mountains through the day, and on the sea shore during the night, for the space of ten days, in the hope of finding a boat in which they might embark, they were discovered, carried back to Matsmai, and confined for two months in the city prison. They were told that by the Japanese law, if they had not been retaken, the governor of Matsmai, and all the persons in whose custody they were, would have suffered death. They were finally restored to their former residence, and continued to receive the kindest treatment from the governor. In September the letter of Rikord to the governor of Kunashir was shown to them, and also one addressed to Golownin. These were translated into Japanese and immediately sent to Jeddo. Their hopes of immediate release were soon disappointed, by the intelligence that Rikord had captured a Japanese ship, taken several prisoners, and returned to Russia. Another winter passed away, during which the prisoners learned from their interpreters that their cause was the subject of constant discussion at Jeddo. During this time they were in a state of most anxious suspense; their alarm was increased by the falsehoods which were told by Leonsaimo. Arrao Madsimano Kami, who during their captivity was removed from the governorship of Matsmai to a higher post, had from the beginning shown them great kindness. And they learned from their old interpreter, Tesky, now his secretary, that he had exerted himself very much on their behalf.

'The Japanese government,' says Golownin, 'had, as Tesky assured us, come to the conclusion, to listen to no friendly explanations from the Russians, since after all that had taken place, they thought they had nothing to expect from them but falsehood, deceit and hostility. Arrao Madsimano, however, convinced them that they could not judge the laws and customs of other nations by their own, and brought them at last to the conclusion

of negotiating with the nearest Russian commander, upon the state of things. When the government demanded that the Russian ship should only enter the port of Nangasaky to make their explanation, he opposed this, and declared that the Russians, from this demand of the Japanese, would imagine that another surprise was intended for them; for how could they believe that the Japanese were going fairly and honourably to work, if they demanded that the Russian ship should take so long a voyage, to arrange a business which could be done much nearer and quicker in some port of the Kurilian Islands. The government objected to this that they could not, without a breach of their laws, permit the entrance of a Russian ship into any port, except Nangasaky. But he replied to them in the following impressive manner. If the sun, moon, and stars, the work of the Almighty, are subjected to changes in their course, the Japanese ought not to consider their laws, formed by weak mortals, perpetual and unchangeable. In this way he prevailed on the government to give orders to the new governor of Matsmai to enter into negotiations with the Russian ship, without demanding that they should sail for this purpose to Nangasaky. Tesky assured us, that no other of the Japanese nobility would have dared to make such a representation to the government. But Arrao Madsimano, who, on account of his great understanding and his virtues, was universally known and beloved by the people, did not fear to speak the truth; besides, he was son in law of the governor of the capital, a dignity which was only granted to those who approached near the Emperor, and also a half brother of one of the Emperor's favourite mistresses. The last reason, according to our European customs, would be a sufficient explanation of his influence.' pp. 379, 380.

After this determination, orders were given to the commanders of the seaports, to receive the Russian ship on its return in a friendly manner. And the prisoners were permitted to write a letter to their friends on board the ship, assuring them of their health and safety. This letter was translated into Japanese, and sent to be examined at Jeddo.

Rikord with Kachi passed the winter at St. Peter and St. Paul's Haven, where the latter was much surprised to find himself quite at liberty. On the 23d of May, 1813, Rikord put to sea in the *Diana*, and reached the Bay of Treachery in twenty days. The garrison was hung about with cloth as before, and they were not fired on by the batteries. They sent the two Japanese sailors ashore, and the next day Rikord and Kachi landed. They were met by their Japanese messengers,

who had been kindly received ; there were in the fort three officers, the two oldest were Kachi's friends. Rikord returned to the ship, and Kachi proceeded to the fort, promising to return next day. He returned at the promised time, and brought the intelligence that their countrymen were all well. By the advice of Kachi, Rikord sent him with a proposal to the governor, that Rikord should sail directly to Chakodade, and that the governor of Kunashir should allow two Japanese to accompany him, that he might enter at once upon the negotiations. This the governor declined, but promised to send their proposal to Matsmai, where he had also sent their first letter the day of their arrival, and informed them that there were interpreters in Matsmai, and that the post went and returned in twenty days. They concluded to wait the result of this, and during this time they desired permission to examine the bay in boats. This was refused, though very politely, by the governor.

July 20. Kachi brought them the letter from their imprisoned countrymen, mentioned above, which was dated Matsmai, May 20, 1813. July 16, they were visited by the Kurilian Alexis and one of the imprisoned sailors, and were informed by Kachi, that an officer, Takahassi Sampey, was employed to negotiate with Rikord ; and this officer informed him, by Kachi, that it was not in his power, according to the Japanese laws, to meet the Russian officers on board his ship, but he communicated by Kachi the following propositions.

1. The Russians must, by their official letters to the Japanese government, signed and sealed by two commanders, give a proof that the attack of Schwostoff upon the Kurilian Islands and Sachalin was entirely without the knowledge and consent of the Russian government.

2. It is known that Schwostoff by his attack disturbed the quiet of the people, and carried away with him to Ochotzk rice and other articles belonging to individuals, and that he also had taken some warlike munitions, consisting of armour, arrows, muskets, and cannon. Respecting the first named articles, the Japanese were sensible that they must have long since been useless. But the last, from their nature, could not have been entirely ruined ; and the Japanese government insisted on their being returned, lest in time to come they might be considered as trophies, which the Russians had obtained by right of conquest. But although they could not be

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injured by use, yet they might not perhaps be now in Ochotzk, and it might be difficult to collect them. For this reason, the Japanese government would be satisfied, if the governor of Ochotzk gave them a declaration, that none of the articles brought by Schwostoff from the Kurilian Islands and Sachalin, could be found upon the most diligent search in Ochotzk.

3. Respecting what had happened the year before, in consideration of the circumstances existing at the time, the Japanese government consider the conduct of Rikord as justifiable. The Japanese government have been assured by Takatai Kachi, that he went of his own accord to Kamtschatka.

4. To conclude, Takahassi Sampey hopes that it may be possible for the Russian ship to return from Ochotzk to Chakodade, with the testimonials and explanations required by the Japanese government this summer, where he will with another officer await her return, to receive these testimonials with the regular solemnities. He assured them, that the liberation of the prisoners was desired at Jeddo, and added his wishes that the Russian ship might have a prosperous voyage and quick return to Chakodade.

July 29, they left Kunashir and reached Ochotzk in fifteen days. Here Rikord received from the governor of this place, the testimonials required by the Japanese government, and an explanation of all that related to the affair, in a letter from the governor of Irkutsk to the governor of Matsmai ; he took with him, also, a Japanese from Irkutsk, as interpreter, and sailed again for Japan, August 11. The 22d, he entered Vulcan's Bay, and steered for the port Edomo ; a boat came out from the shore, and those on board informed him that they had orders from the governor of Matsmai to pilot the Diana into Chakodade. She was taken into Edomo, supplied with fresh water, &c. and the 27th they reached Chakodade. On their arrival, the whole city was hung with cloth, and in the bay they saw six places hung in the same manner, probably batteries. The 29th Rikord went on shore and delivered his letter from the governor of Ochotzk to the under officers, to be delivered to the governor. The forms, on occasion of his landing and meeting the officers, are amusing, but we have not room for them. They were not permitted to see Golownin and his countrymen at this time. The 30th Rikord went on shore and was allowed to see Golownin. October 7, he went

again on shore. He met the imprisoned Russians dressed in great splendour, by order of the Japanese, in presence of the same officers and with the same ceremonies as on his first visit. At last he received in a solemn manner, from the Japanese officers appointed to negotiate with him, his imprisoned friends and the papers from the Japanese government, for which he returned the Russian papers. They were then feasted after the Japanese manner. At two o'clock they took leave of the Japanese, and returned on board the ship accompanied by some of their friends and a vast number of spectators of both sexes. The ship was surrounded with boats. They were now supplied with fresh water, wood, rice, salt, and other provisions. Although the Russians declined taking them, as they were not in want of any thing; the Japanese assured them that it was their duty to provide the liberated prisoners with support sufficient for their return to Kamtschatka. The Japanese women were not allowed to come on board, though there were many in the surrounding boats. The Russians sent them some trifling presents by the men, which they accepted. The Japanese officers refused all presents, except some portraits of Russian heroes. These they consented to take, without the glasses and frames, which they seemed to think of great value.

October 10th, the Russians left the harbour, and arrived in Kamtschatka November 3d. During the imprisonment of Golownin and companions of more than two years they received no intelligence of any kind from Europe. They awaited with the greatest impatience the return of the sailor, who, with Alexis, was permitted to go on board the *Diana* the spring before they were set at liberty.

‘But this man was in the strict sense of the word a dunce. Turks and Frenchmen were all the same to him. He had never troubled his head with political or military affairs. He could only tell us that the French with three other nations, whom he could not recollect, had made an attack upon Russia, had suffered a defeat near Smolensko, in which many thousands were killed. The remainder with Bonaparte suddenly crossed the Dwina. But when all this happened, who commanded the armies, and how it ended, all this he had forgotten. He could however, for our consolation, tell us that Fomka Mitrofanoff was married, that Seniuschka Chlebakkin was dead, and other important affairs of this sort, which he related to the great delight of his comrades

with as much minuteness, as if he had himself attended the wedding and burial.' pp. 414, 415.

We have been so long occupied with the personal narrative of our author, that we have little room left to notice his geographical remarks. His work however adds a good deal to our stock of authentic information respecting the empire of Japan.

The population of Japan has hitherto been estimated at from 35 to 50 millions. Golownin confirms the idea of its vast population.

'It was impossible for me,' says he, 'to learn the exact population of the empire of Japan. As many millions of the poor people have no fixed place of residence, the government consider it impossible to enumerate them. We were shown a map of Japan, which was drawn on a very large sheet of paper. On this map not only all the cities but the villages were laid down, and the names of them entirely covered the paper.'—'A scientific Japanese with Tesky, brought us a plan of the capital city, Jeddo, and told us that a man could not walk from one extremity of it to the other in a day. We questioned them about the population, and they assured us, that it contained over 10 millions, and insisted on this when we appeared to doubt it. They brought us the next day some notes taken by one of their officers, who had served among the police in Jeddo. In these he says that this city in its principal streets has 280,000 houses, and in each of these from 30 to 40 persons. If 30, the number of inhabitants must amount to 8,400,000. Add to this, the inhabitants of the little houses and huts, those who live in the open air, the imperial guard, the guards and suite of the princes in the capital, and the number of inhabitants must far exceed 10 millions. In support of their assertion, the Japanese stated that in Jeddo alone there were 35,000 blind men.' vol. ii. pp. 128, 129.

The author considers the Japanese one of the most enlightened people in the world. For although they fall below the Europeans in the higher branches of science, some degree of learning is universally diffused.

'The Japanese make use of two kinds of writing; 1st, the Chinese, in which almost every word has a separate sign. These signs, the Japanese say, they borrowed some thousand years ago from the Chinese, so that the name of a thing, though when spoken it is very different in Chinese and Japanese, would be express-

ed in writing by the same sign. This sort of writing is made use of in works of a higher kind, in official papers, in the correspondence of the higher classes. 2d. An alphabet peculiar to the Japanese consisting of forty-eight letters, which is made use of by the lower classes of the people. There is no man among the Japanese, however inferior his station may be, who does not know how to write in this way, and they were very much astonished that of our four sailors not one could write.' vol. i. p. 187.

'The Japanese are exceedingly fond of reading. Even the common soldiers on guard read almost incessantly. This was rather unpleasant to us, as they always read aloud and in a singing tone, nearly like that in which the psalm is read with us at a funeral. Before we became accustomed to it, it prevented our sleep in the night. National history, descriptions of civil commotions and wars with the neighbouring people, are the favorite reading of the Japanese. All these books are printed in Japanese. They do not make use of leaden types in printing, but the letters are cut in blocks of hard wood.' vol. i. p. 274.

The Japanese in summer as well as winter burn fire on the hearth from morning to evening. Men and women sit round it and smoke tobacco. The tea-kettle is never taken from the fire, for tea is the standing drink for the quenching of thirst. If they have not that, they take warm water, for they never drink any thing cold. Even their sagi they prefer warm.

We add the following extract for the benefit of such English or American navigators, as may have occasion to approach the Japanese coast.

'Tesky related to us an adventure which had extremely enraged the Japanese government against the English, so much so, that if an English ship were now to appear on their coast, they would treat it in the same manner they had done ours.

'One or two years after the departure of Resanoff, a great ship under Russian colours appeared at the entrance of the port of Nangasaky. Some Dutch and Japanese were immediately sent on board by the governor. The first all but one were retained, but the latter were sent back with the remaining Dutchman to declare that it was an English ship and that on account of the war existing between the two nations, the Dutch would be kept as prisoners, if the Japanese did not give up a certain number of oxen and swine. In expectation of an answer the English entered the harbour in a boat, and measured the depth of it. Meanwhile the Dutch had persuaded the governor to make this exchange. The swine and oxen were sent on board the ship and the Dutchmen



set at liberty. The governor lost his life for it, and orders were given to regard the English as enemies.' vol. i. p. 260.

There is a map of the Kurilian islands, at the end of the first volume of this work, and there are four or five charts or plans of harbours, at the end of the second. As the work has already made its way from the Russian to the German, we are not without hopes, that it will in due time emigrate into the latitudes of our English language.

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ART. V.—*Recollections of Curran and some of his Contemporaries.* By Charles Phillips, Esq. 8vo. pp. 340. New York, C. Wiley & Co. 1818.

WE Americans have a right to criticise Mr. Curran, for perhaps no one man has done so much injury to the taste of our country. This however is something of a compliment, for although we are not convinced that our national taste has ever yet reached the very summit of perfection, still we trust that it is not so totally depraved, as to be seduced and led astray by that which has neither beauty nor merit to recommend it. It was said by some one, that 'the common people are the best judges of eloquence:' and we recollect having seen the remark quoted by one of the editors of Curran's Speeches, for the purpose no doubt of warning all evil-minded critics, that the merit of his oratory had already been passed upon. If it be so, it is only left for us to question the competency of the tribunal. We shall accordingly begin by denying the truth of the above remark. Mere buffoonery will excite the laughter of a popular assembly; mere rant and declamation will frequently call forth their applauses. And if it be true that every oration is eloquent, which has found a rabble silly enough to give it their approbation, then has the world, all along, been under a gross mistake in supposing that eloquence is one of the fine arts, and the profession of the orator is but a degree above that of the juggler or the mountebank.

Maintaining, therefore, that there is no impropriety in discussing, or, if need be, of denying the merits of a speech; even though in so doing, we should contradict the decision of an Irish or any other mob; we are now willing to make some concessions on the other side. Eloquence, like government, is designed for the people, and ought to be fitted to them.