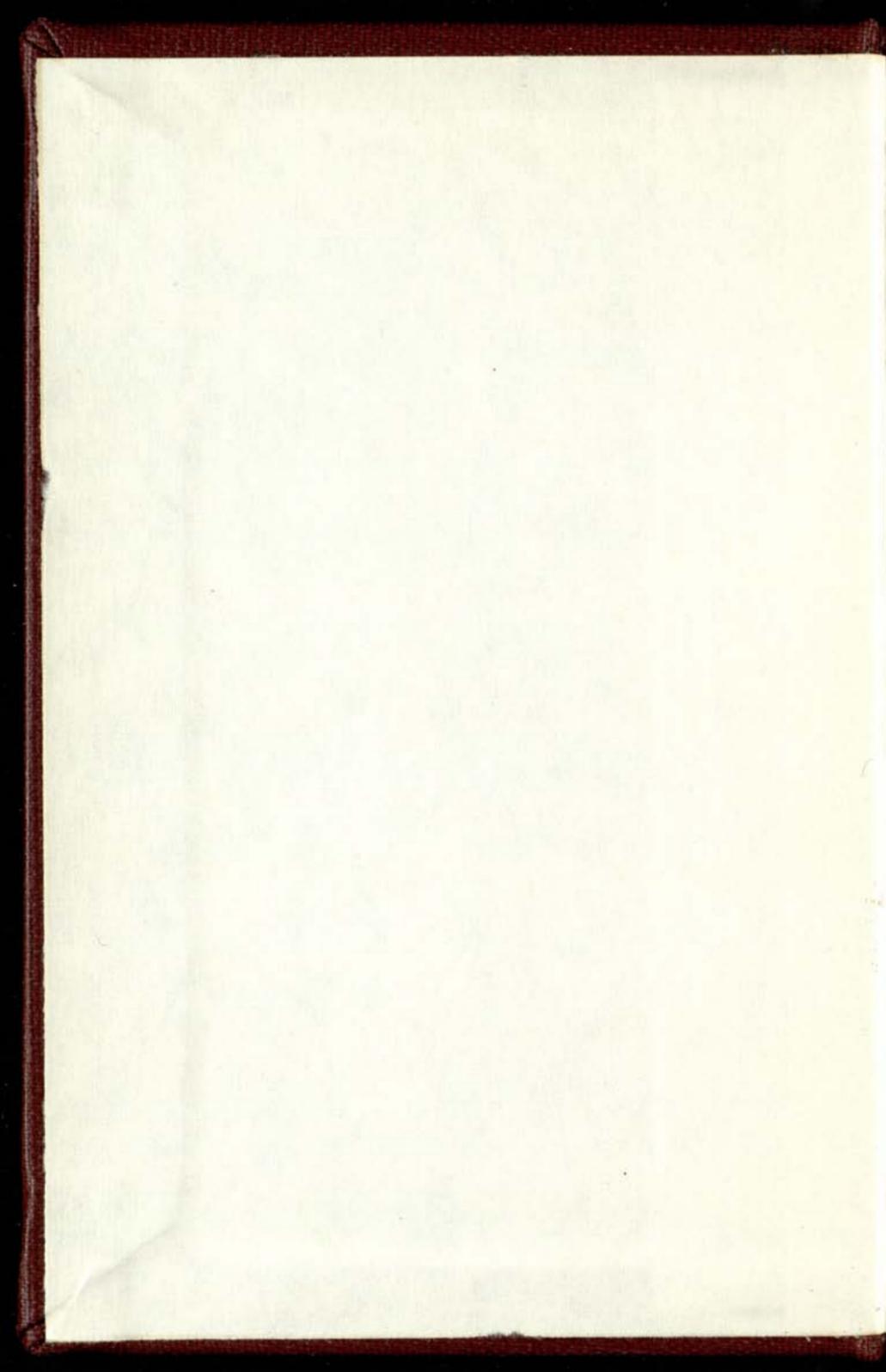


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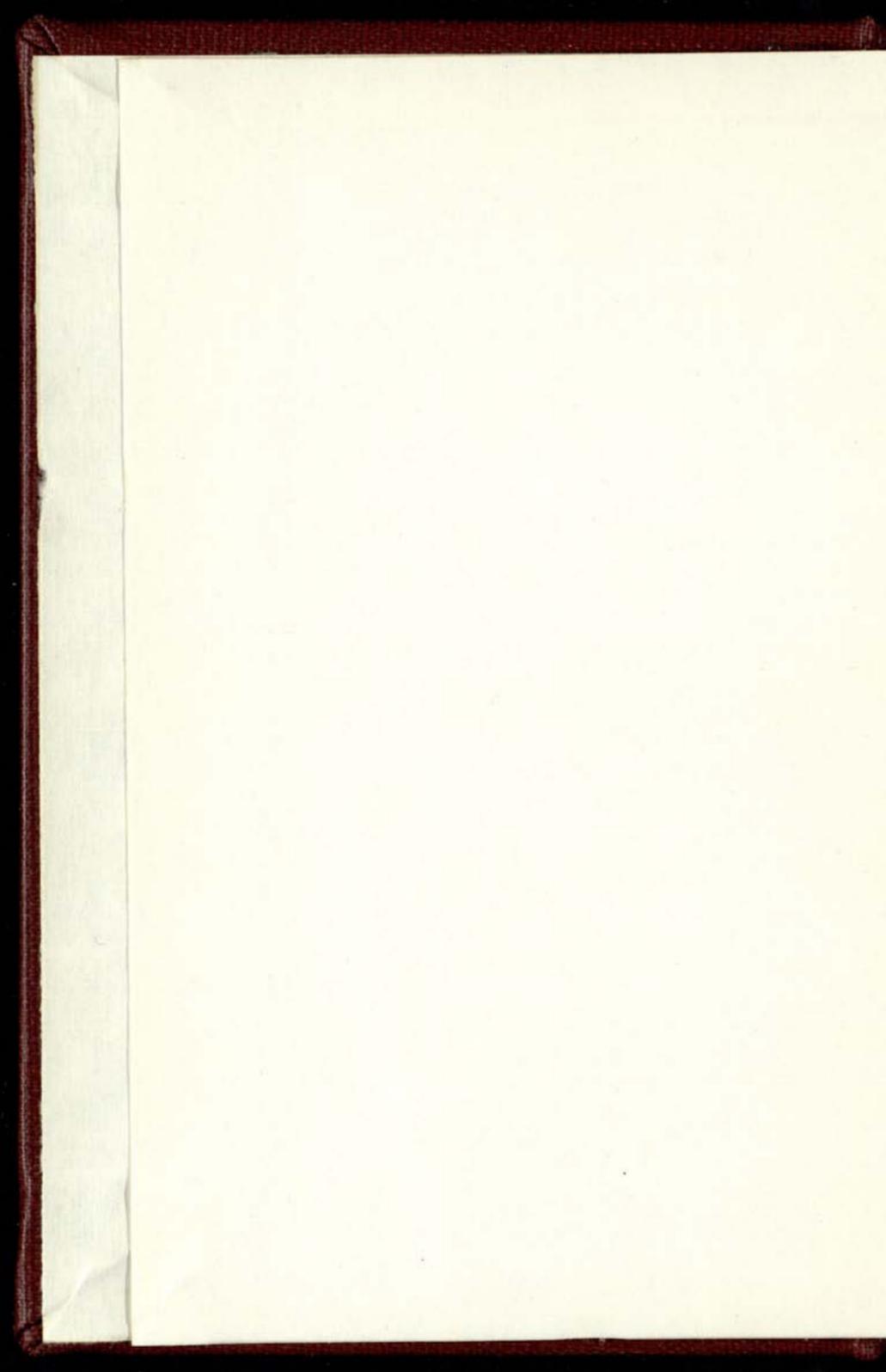
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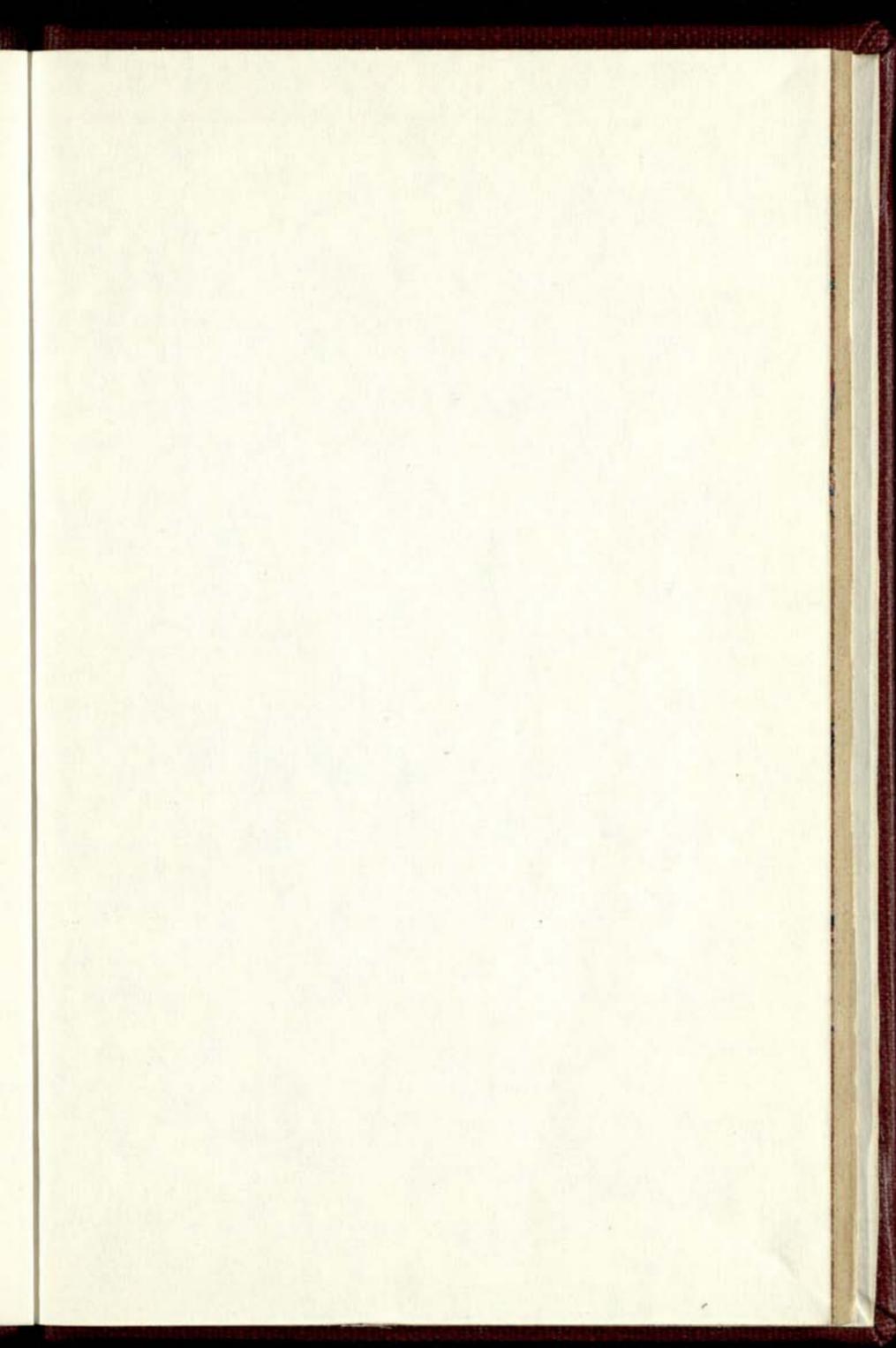


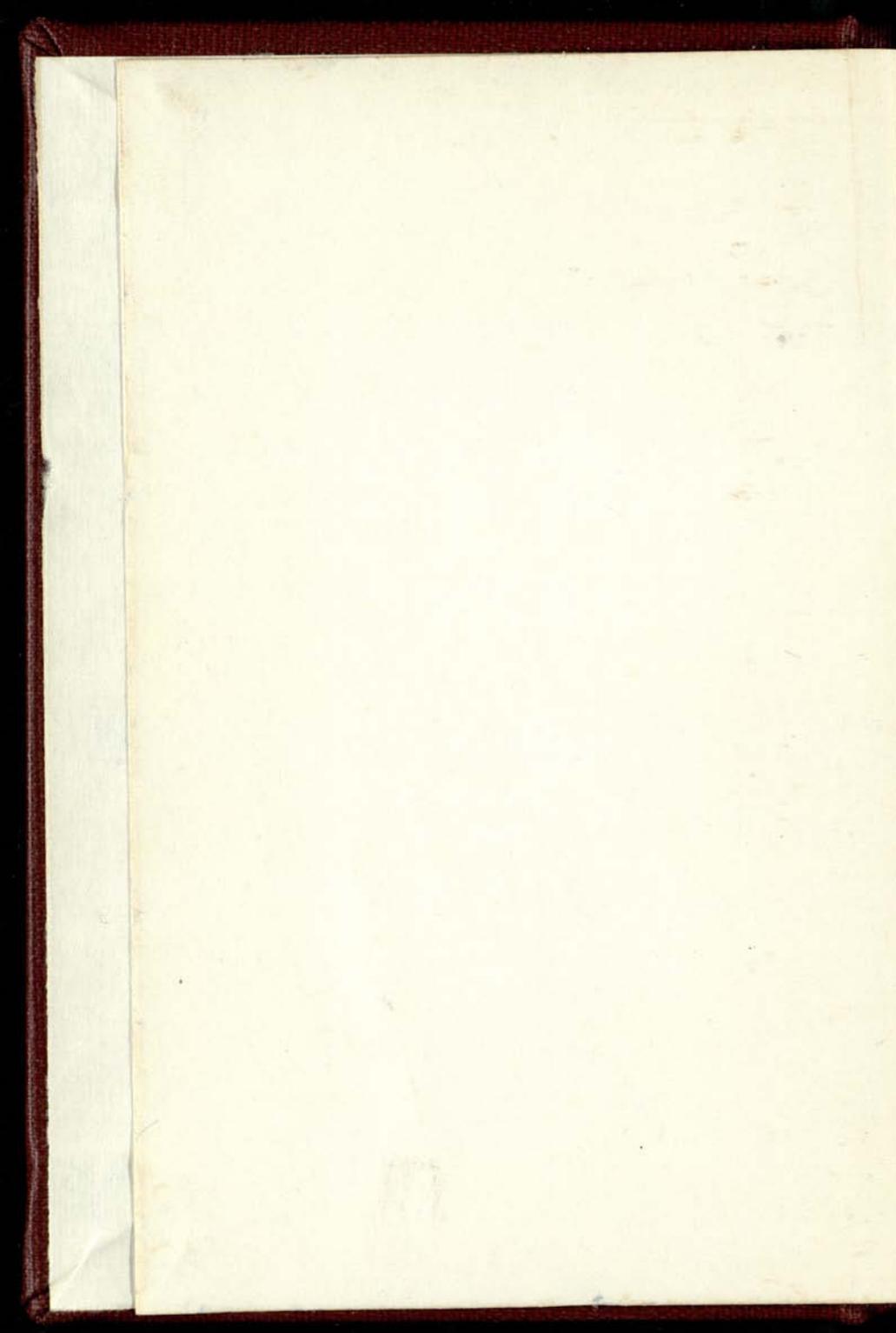
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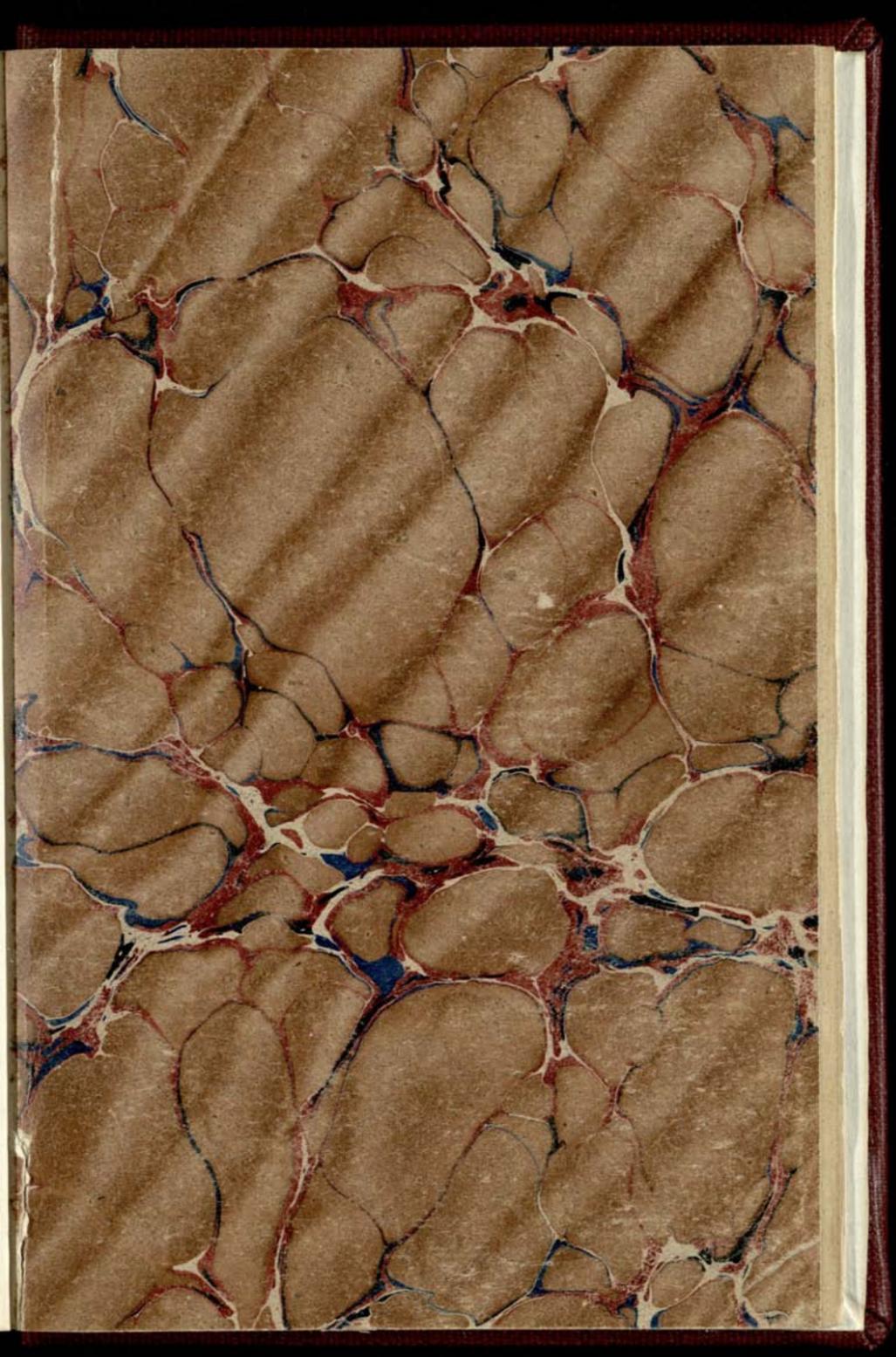


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THE VOYAGE OF GREGORY SHELEKHOF, A RUSSIAN  
MERCHANT, FROM OKHOTZK\*, ON THE EASTERN  
OCEAN, TO THE COAST OF AMERICA, IN THE  
YEARS 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, 1787†,  
AND HIS RETURN TO RUSSIA.

FROM HIS OWN JOURNAL.

IN the year 1783. a company of merchants built  
three galleots in the harbour of Okhotzk. To the first  
was given the name of, 'The three church-doctors, the  
second

\* Okhotzk is situated in 59 deg. 17 min. north latitude, and  
348 deg. 10 min. longit. from the meridian of Kamtchatka.

† The whole title of the MS. runs thus: The voyage of Gre-  
gory Shelekhof, a russian merchant, from Okhotzk, on the east-

second was called, The St. Simeon \*, and St. Anna the prophetess; the third, The St. Michael. With these I sailed, on the 16th of August, 1783. from the mouth of the river Ourak, falling into the sea of Okhotzk, into the eastern ocean, with a company of 192 work-people †. I myself was on board the first galleot, with my wife, who was resolved to accompany me wherever I went; from which she was not to be deterred by the representation of all the toils and dangers she was likely to undergo. In case the vessels should be dispersed by contrary winds, I appointed the Bering's island to be the place of rendezvous. I had a variety of difficulties to conquer previous to my departure. However, on the 30th of August we reached the first Kourilli island; but a contrary wind obliged us to defer our landing till

ern ocean, to the coast of America, in the years 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, 1787. and his return to Russia; with a circumstantial account of the discovery made by him of two new islands Kuktak and Aphagnak, to which even the famous english navigator Captain Cook did not come. To which is added a description of the way of life, manners, usages, habitations, and dress of the people dwelling on them; who submitted themselves to the russian dominion; as also of the climate, of the seasons, of the animals, both wild and tame, fish, birds, vegetables, and many other remarkable particulars found there, all of which are authentically and accurately described by himself.

\* In the MS. it is the St. Simeon who took God in his arms; and a note upon it refers us to the Gospel of St. Luke, chap. ii. ver. 28. 36.

† So he calls his ship's company all along. Sometimes by that term he seems indeed to mean artificers; but in general it must signify the sailors.

the 2d of September. On that day we dropped anchor, went on the island, and supplied ourselves with fresh water. On the 3d of September we pursued our voyage; but on the 12th we were met by a violent storm, which lasted eight and forty hours, and separated all our ships. The storm raged so furiously, that we even lost all hope of saving our lives; and though, on the 14th the two first galleots met again, and landed on the 24th at Bering's island, in the resolution of wintering upon it; as well in order to wait there for the third galleot, on board of which were 62 persons, as also on account of the adverse winds; yet even this expectation was frustrated during the whole time of our stay on Bering's island. On the 25th, of September I dispatched some people from the two vessels, on baidars\*, with orders to sail round the island, as I was curious to know whether they might not meet with something remarkable. They returned on the 27th, without having seen any thing worthy of notice.

The whole winter through, all the produce of our hunting consisted of no more than some, very few, little rock-foxes; no other game being there to be found. The provisions afforded by the island consist of sea-fish, which abound there in great variety, and the flesh of sea-animals: such as sea-bears and sea-dogs. Of birds are found geese, ducks, swans, mews, gulls, with other water-fowl and birds of the forest; to which

\* According to Kratcheninikof these are vessels 12 feet long, and 2 feet broad, sometimes constructed of poplar wood and sometimes of seal-skins.

we may add the roots kutarganoe and farana\*, as useful to the support of life.

The winter was long and severe; the winds mostly from the north or east; snow and fleet almost every day.

As the sailors could not be kept from the scurvy, it was necessary to think of remedies; accordingly when it snowed, they went about the sea-shore, and on clear days, on snow-shoes, to the mountains farther off.

On the line we drew there we found the deviation of the magnetic needle to be  $1\frac{1}{4}$  rhomb to the east.

On the 16th of June, 1784, we left this island; and I appointed, in case of a separation, Unalashka, one of the Fox-islands, for our place of rendezvous. But, in order that the third vessel, which had strayed from the two first, might be informed of this our agreement, and so be enabled to follow us thither, I took care to leave a letter on Bering's island for it. We were detained till the 19th; the wind being sometimes slack and sometimes contrary, when we very tediously got again on board: on the 19th, during a thick fog, we lost sight of the St. Simeon. On the 20th, one of our vessels brought to at the Copper-island; here we took in fresh water and some flesh of sea-bears; on the 23d, we again set sail. The 6th of July we came to

\* From Kratchenikof's description of Kamtchatka we learn that the farana is a species of lily, *lilium flore atro rubente*, with a dark red flower, which at the beginning of summer is found in Kamtchatka growing wild in the fields, and from the dried roots whereof the Kamtchadales prepare a sort of grist or meal; which, mixed with bramble-berries and cranberries, is said to have a very agreeable taste.

the island Achta, one of the Andrew-islands; the 7th, we passed Omla; the 8th and 9th, we were in sight of the island Siugam Achmuta, and afterwards of the four Berg-islands. The 10th, we passed through the straits between them, and bent our course from south to north. On the 12th, at a small distance from this island, we got sight again of the St. Simeon, pursued our course, and came on the 13th, to the island Unalashka and the bay of Natukinak; on the 14th, we drew our galleots into the Captain's haven, where we remained till the 22d, employed in refitting them, and providing ourselves with necessaries.

On our way to the abovementioned islands, we could not but remark, that this whole chain of islands, from Bering's island to Kuktak, of which I shall speak more hereafter, consists of high rocky mountains; among which are some that vomit fire. They are entirely destitute of forests; though single trees grow dispersed between the rocks, namely brushwood, alders, and abreschenbaume, but even these not in all parts. The inhabitants collect for firewood what the sea throws up upon the shore.

At Unalashka I supplied myself with necessaries, took two interpreters and ten Aleutans with me, who voluntarily came and offered me their services, no longer waited for the galleots that were left behind, but prosecuted my voyage on the 22d of July; only leaving directions for the galleot St. Michael to land if she thought fit, at the island Kuktak\*, which is other-

\* This and the following contradicts the title; but it is easily seen from the whole on which side the truth lies.

wife called Kadyak; as this was appointed the common place of rendezvous.

We now passed the straight that runs from north to south between the two Fox-islands Unimak and Akun. This passage is no hindrance to such vessels as pass it, it being clear and broad; only at the time of ebb and flood the current is extremely rapid.

On the 3d of August we came to the island Kuktak; entered the southern harbour, and there dropped anchor. On the 4th I sent some workmen, on four baidars, two and two together, for the purpose of examining whether the island was inhabited. Two of the baidars returned that very day, without having found any islanders; but, presently after, one of the last baidars that had been sent, came into the haven, with tidings that they had seen some inhabitants: on the 5th, came back the last baidar bringing one of the inhabitants in it, whom I endeavoured to entertain as well as I could, made him some trifling presents, and dismissed him the following day. He afterwards came again, and staid with us till our departure; making one in all our excursions, and not only discovered no instance of treachery, but even warned us of the hostile dispositions of some of the natives who were laying snares for our lives. This their base design also betrayed itself through their own undertakings, of which I shall speak hereafter. On the third day after our arrival there came to us three men from the Konæges, the people we had first seen, on 3 small baidars; we invited them to come on board our vessel with signs of friendship and good will, taking from them a few animals in return for things that were particularly acceptable to them. During their  
visit,

visit, there happened, on the 5th of August, about 2 in the afternoon, an eclipse of the sun, which continued for an hour and a half. This excited great astonishment in the Konæges, as people who had not the slightest notion of the cause of this phenomenon, but was attended with no farther consequences.

On the 7th of August, I sent workmen, for the second time, in four baidars, partly for the purpose of looking for the coverts of animals, partly for exploring the island itself; with orders to go as far about it as they should find it possible. They saw, on the 9th of August, at the distance of about 40 versts from the harbour, a multitude of savages assembled on a very steep and broad rock, standing alone, and inaccessible from the sea, which on one side was five feet in height, but on the other more than seven. My people spoke to these savages; telling them, "that they might safely receive us as friends;" but, instead of regarding what they said, the savages sternly insisted, "that we should retire from their coasts, if we had any regard for our lives, and never come near them again!" As soon as I was made acquainted with this, I immediately went thither with my people, and represented to them; "that they might as well lay aside their insolence, and rather enter into a friendly traffic with us;" at the same time assuring them, "that we, on our parts, were come, not for engaging in quarrels and hostilities, but to gain their affection in a friendly intercourse; and, as a proof of it, I promised to make them presents to the utmost of my ability, of such articles as were most estimable to them." There was then a great number of them, at least 4000 persons. They paid not the least

attention to my assurances; but began to shoot at us from their bows. I was therefore compelled to retire, not without uneasiness at the uncertain termination of this transaction. Yet, considering their perverse and obstinate behaviour towards us, and their firm resolution either to remove us from their coasts or destroy us all, I proceeded to take every possible precaution against an unexpected attack. The 12th of August, exactly at midnight, just as my people had left the watch, the savages came down from their rocks in great numbers, and fell upon us with such fury, that I verily believe they would have effected their purpose without difficulty, had we been less vigilant, or more timid. The prospect of death inspired us with courage; we defended ourselves with our fire arms; and, though not till after an obstinate engagement, put them to flight. At sun-rise we saw none of them near us, nor any of their slain; for these they had taken with them. On the other hand we were so fortunate that not one of us was either killed or wounded; which I ascribe solely to the providence of God. Shortly afterwards we learnt from a deserter that had been in captivity among the savages, a native of Tatagu, otherwise called in the russian language, Fox-aleutes, that the savages waited all the next day on their rocks expecting a considerable reinforcement from the habitations of Ilud, Ugaataka, Tchinnigaka, Ugashika, and several other places, in the resolution of making a vigorous attack, with combined force on all sides, both on us, and in the harbour on our vessels, so as not to leave a man of us alive. Thus, not dismayed by the ill-success of their former attack, they only resolved to strengthen themselves the  
more;

more; and, in case that any of us should by chance escape from death, to distribute such among them as slaves, and then to take possession of our effects; for our planks, our vessels, and other matters, were of great value to them. Considering the imminent danger that awaited us, now dreadfully increased by the artifice of the savages, I determined to prevent their hostilities, by taking possession of the forementioned rock on which they had settled themselves as in a fort, before they could get their reinforcement. In the mean time the savages never ceased from making various attempts against us. These, as well as the disproportion between our numbers and their's, especially after the augmentation they expected, determined me to rush, with all my people, upon their fortrefs and drive them from it. We marched under the discharge of our fire-arms; but as this did them no injury, they made a violent resistance with their arrows; whereupon I found myself necessitated to oppose them with five cannons of two-pound balls that we had brought with us; yet leaving the most of them on the projections of the rock, pointing them at their habitations, in order, by doing them some mischief, to strike these people, who were not acquainted with the effects of such arms, with the greater terror. And in fact so new and unusual an appearance frightened and enraged them more than all the damage they suffered from it; they now no longer entertained their former contemptuous opinion of us; fled from their fortrefs and abandoned it to us, without our losing one single man; and hurting only five, who were indeed severely, though not dangerously, wounded. With all the care

I took

I took to avoid the shedding of blood, yet it cannot be imagined but that some of them must have been killed. I was desirous of knowing something more accurately of this circumstance; but in vain: for they either took their dead away with them, or threw them into the sea. We took upwards of 1000 Konæges prisoners; the rest, certainly not fewer than 3000, escaped by flight: 400 of the prisoners we took with us to the harbour; and the others I set a liberty. Of those we retained I chose one to be their leader, called in the konægan language, Chaskak, to whom I afterwards gave full command over all the rest, presenting them with baidars, baidarks\*, nets, and other necessary implements; but at the same time taking twenty of their children as hostages for securing their fidelity. These prisoners, expressing a desire to settle at the distance of 15 versts from the harbour, I complied with their request. In the sequel they proved constantly faithful allies; and I learnt from them that we certainly could not have escaped the utmost danger, or even entire destruction, had we waited till the other Konæges had come to their assistance; who consisted of a very numerous army, and were already very near the fort. But now the fugitives that met them informed them of something more dreadful than in fact it was; and assured them, that, with our fire-arms, we might accomplish whatever we would, for, that with our darts we had destroyed their rocks and their habitations; by which they so much intimidated the others, that they immediately ran back again. Notwithstanding all this, the savages,

\* The diminutive of Baidars.

excepting my colonists, afterwards ventured to make several attempts. They assembled, one rainy and stormy night, in great multitudes, and fell with much fury on the baidars that lay in the bay of Igatazk, throwing on all sides darts and arrows; but our people with the fire of their small arms, repelled this attack; yet whether any of them were slain by them, we could not learn: on our side five men were wounded, but only so that they might soon be cured. Our baidars were indeed much damaged; as the darts of the Konæges had entirely gone through their sides, and in such numbers, that some of them had at least a hundred holes. The attack was indeed tremendous. I had been previously informed of the savage nature of the nation of Konæges, as likewise of the causes of the success of their endeavours to find out the state and condition of the several trading hunters\*, as they came to them, whereby they very easily drove them away. But my zeal for the interests of my native country armed me against every apprehension I entertained in regard to the earlier accounts of the trading hunters who had been on the promontory

\* It is thus that I have ventured to translate the russian term *promuïshlennik*, which M. Muller in his contributions to russian history does not translate at all; and of which in vol. vi. p. 491. he gives the following explanation: "In Siberia under this name are comprized all those people who addict themselves at once to trade, to hunting and fishing, and whose forefathers settled there soon after the discovery of Siberia, in order to gain their livelihood by trading in furs, of which, as is well known, there is great abundance in that country." As we see already from this account of Shelekhof's voyage, they have now united in several commercial companies.

of Agayechtalik at this island, who had all of them experienced the rage of these savages. I got the better of these discouraging sentiments; and it was not merely in the transactions with the members of our society that I made it my first duty to endeavour at promoting the advantage of the crown by soothing the savages, but I strove to bring all my people to assist me in that intention. The Konæges thought it an easy matter either to beat us off from their island, or not to leave a man of us alive if we should be so obstinate as to persist in opposing their attacks; or, if any should escape death, to share them among them as slaves, according to their custom in the wars they are incessantly carrying on with the nations of their kind, and afterwards employ them in all sorts of work. What strengthened them in their purpose, was,

1. The smallness of our number; for we were in all but 150 persons.

2. The success they had had in the year 1761, against a vessel containing a party of trading hunters that had imprudently landed at Agayechtalik, in order to winter there; when the savages permitted not the people of the vessel to go farther than five versts at most from that place, robbed them of almost all they caught, and afterwards forced them to depart before the winter was at an end.

3. In the year 1778, they succeeded in entirely driving away a vessel belonging to the Chodoliltzefki\* company of merchants, within eleven days after their coming upon their coasts.

\* Probably so denominated from the names of the persons by whom they were first established, or of the principal partners.

4. In the year 1780. a vessel of the commercial company of Panof touched at the same promontory, under the command of the pilot Otsheredin; who, notwithstanding his design of wintering there, after many contests, in which he lost several of his men, was obliged to run away.

5. In the year 1780. a few hunters on the Fox-islands, in the service of several trading companies, fitted out three vessels to sail for the coasts of North America, having near 300 men on board. These vessels were under the command of the pilot Potap Saikof; they came at the latter end of August to the shores of North America, ran into the Tshugatfkoi straits, to which Cook gave the name of Sandwich Sawn, intending there to winter. They thought themselves strong enough to repel any attack that should be made upon them; but they were at last convinced of their mistake. The inhabitants prevented them from taking any kind of game, and allowed them not, though single and unarmed, to proceed farther than one verst from their people. However, with great difficulty they maintained their station during the winter, abandoned all their former projects, and fled away, after several of their people had perished by hunger.

These knew at that time of my purpose to go to the island of Kadyak, and endeavoured by all means to dissuade me from it, representing the natives to me as a blood-thirsty and implacable race; and that not only from the just mentioned examples, but also from the experience I myself had made of the inhabitants of the Tshugatfkoi promontory, who are of like dispositions with those of Kadyak; but I paid little attention to all these

these remonstrances, and slighted all dangers; so I might only accomplish my design and that of my employers.

The above related attacks upon us promised no security for the future; and so much the less as they still never ceased from falling upon our baidars which from time to time we sent out upon discoveries, notwithstanding that after every attempt they gave us fresh hostages. Yet, with all this, we resolved to winter on the island, and to induce them by friendly treatment and little presents to a peaceable acquaintance with us, at the same time to convince them that by a savage behaviour they would deprive themselves of their own repose, and frequently of their lives. In order to shew them a manner of life with which they were hitherto unacquainted, I applied myself to the building of little dwelling-houses, and a fort, though at first they were only of wood and plaister. In this building we were very successful, though it cost us great trouble. But as they did not even now desist from their perpetual hostilities as well on the baidars as on ourselves, I strove, in order as much as possible to prevent the shedding of blood, and yet to provide for our own safety, to let them see the force and violent effects of our powder. I caused a hole to be bored in one of the largest rocks, had it filled with powder, and fixed a firelock before it, to which a long string was tied, the extremity whereof reached to a cavity in another rock, made for the safety of him who was to pull it. Immediately as he jerked the trigger, I gave the sign for a number of musquets to be fired. By means of the great concourse of peaceably disposed Konæges who  
were

were spectators of this explosion, the report was immediately spread of the force and the exactitude of what they termed our arrows. After these and many other phænomena which I pass over, incomprehensible, marvellous and at the same time terrible to them, the islanders desisted from harrassing us with their attempts to drive us away. I now took advantage of their amazement to represent to them that I only wished to live in amity, and not to be at war with them; for, if I had any other intention, they would not be able to avoid the force of my arms; that our most gracious monarch likewise only wished to protect them, and to enable them to lead a life of security and repose. These and other proofs of our friendship, together with some trifling presents, at length got the better of their stubborn tempers, and pacified their minds. I then endeavoured, by my interpreter, to convey to them proper sentiments of the tranquillity, greatness, power, and beauty, of the russian empire, as well as the benignity of our empress. The more I now perceived that the fame of these and the curiosity after such accounts was increasing every moment; so much the more I laboured to convince them of it, one while by displaying to them such objects, which, but for our admonitions, they would have immediately revered as divine; at others by leading them gradually to the knowledge of the state of ignorance in which they were, and thus gained their good will to so high a degree, that at length they all called me their father; and amidst numerous tokens of their confidence, resigned themselves entirely to my guidance and direction. The quick completion of our houses they held for a miracle,

as they, wretched as their habitations are, construct them with great difficulty and labour; being forced to employ some years only in planing the boards with small pieces of iron. Accordingly those that are already erected bear a great value. Their ignorance was so great, that they took a Kulibin's lantern\*, which we used to set up on dark nights, for the sun, which we had stolen, and "therefore, said they, the days are so dark." It was extremely painful to me to see the narrowness of their minds, I therefore did not leave them long in this mistake, but took all possible pains to make it intelligible to them, that it was the work of a man, such as they were, only with this difference, that they could not learn any thing, till they became peaceful and tractable and shewed an inclination to adopt our usages and manner of life. I shewed them the conveniency and superiority of the houses, dresses, and food of the Russians; and called their attention to my people as they were at work in digging, and sowing and planting the ground for kitchen-gardens. Also, when we came to reap the

\* So called from its inventor Kulibin; a man of humble origin, but become conspicuous for his remarkable genius in mechanical works. He first made himself known by a watch he contrived in the shape of an egg, at present kept among the curiosities in the museum of the imperial academy, and is since described in Bacmeister's essay on the library and the rarity chamber. — Besides this, his principal inventions are: a model of a wooden bridge of one arch proposed to be built across the Neva; and the lantern here mentioned, in which the lamp is placed burning before a large mirror composed of a great number of little pieces of looking-glass.

fruit of our labours, I gave them portions of it; yet they would only wonder at it, without doing any thing farther. I feasted numbers of them on the provisions which my people dressed for me, and to which they constantly shewed a great liking. Such treatment increased our intimacy from day to day; and as they knew of no other means of obliging me, they brought me their children in great numbers as hostages, even when I made no such requisition, and had no need of them; yet, not to make them dissatisfied, I accepted of many, and sent back the rest with suitable presents. Our intimacy being thus established, I began to examine into their conceptions of the deity; and I was pleased to find that their hearts were not infected with idolatry. They knew but of two sovereign beings in the universe, of whom one is good, the other bad; of both they related numberless extravagancies conformably with their ignorance and rudeness. Upon this I made an attempt to convey to them a general and comprehensible idea of the christian belief; and ever as I saw their curiosity increase, I strove to profit as far as I was able by the opportunity. Accordingly I proceeded at leisure hours, to give to such as shewed an inclination to it, more particular information concerning our belief, and to lead them to piety towards God and affection to their fellow-creatures, in which I sensibly touched their hearts. In a word, at my departure I had made forty of them christians.

They were baptized with such ceremonies as a man might venture to use without being a priest. And now I perceived that they began to despise the rest of their countrymen; and, what was still more surprising, as

they now strove to imitate the manners and customs of the Russians, they affected to ridicule the other savages, as very ignorant people in comparison of them. Many of them I frequently took to my house with me, where they saw a picture of our sovereign, and various books, asking them what they saw remarkable; I then told them, with all due reverence, of her imperial majesty, of her gracious government, her power and supremacy, and how happy they thought themselves whose duty it was to obey her commands, and who lived under her sway; on the other hand, that they were extremely miserable who evaded her laws, and acted contrary to her will. I used my utmost endeavours to infuse into them this maxim, that every one ought to be in ease and security, that every body should be able to go wherever he pleased alone, without fear of attack or robbery. — By these and the like representations easily comprehensible to them, I had actually wrought so much upon them, that they begged and intreated me to drive from their island all that should hereafter approach to land upon it; assuring me that they put themselves entirely under my protection, with the promise of being in all things obedient and submissive to me. As these poor people frequently came to our dwellings, and there were witnesses to the alacrity and respect with which my people obeyed me and executed my orders, they presently began to imagine, that none in the world could be greater than I. — I soon however set them right on this matter, by telling them that I was no more than one of the meanest subjects of my empress, that a great many other commanders were constituted by her, whose business

it was to see that none were injured or oppressed. By all possible methods I endeavoured to make it plain to them how they would prosper and flourish, if they devoted themselves with fidelity to our most gracious monarch; who, on the other hand, had power sufficient to punish them for their obstinacy and chastise them for disobedience; and, by frequent repetitions of my accounts of the order and harmony that prevailed in Russia, of the beautiful houses and edifices that were there, I excited the curiosity of some of them so far, that forty of them, men, women, and children, expressed their longing to see Russia, and actually accompanied me to Okhotzk. Fifteen of them proceeded farther, to Irkutzk; the rest, after having clothed them and made them some presents, I sent back on board my vessels, bound for their island.

In regard to the books they saw in my chamber, I found it impossible to give them the smallest idea of the nature of them, and how they could impart information. — When at times I would send one of them with a letter to my artelshiks, or workmen, in other parts of the islands, they fell into the utmost astonishment, that they should send me back exactly what they knew I wanted from what I had said to them a day or two before, though they had not spoke a word of it. I sent one of them, for example, with a letter to one of my under-traffickers, desiring him to send me some plumbs and other dried fruits. My messenger, unable to resist the temptation, ate up half of them by the way, as I found by comparing the quantity he brought me with that mentioned in the letter. For this I chid him; observing to him that it had been

my intention to give him a few for his trouble, on his delivering to me the quantity entire. On this he expressed the most extreme surprize, persuaded as he was that the letter had seen him eat them. However, returned he, I know how I shall prevent the same thing happening for the future. Now, in order to try how far his stupidity would go, I sent him a second time, and found in like manner, by the letter and the weight, that there was a deficiency of more than half; he frankly confessed the fraud, but was struck with still greater amazement than before; as this time he had the precaution to keep the letter buried in the sand all the while he was eating the fruit; however, the only conclusion he made from it was, that the letter must have spied him through the sand\*.

A farther example of this dulness of apprehension was exhibited on occasion of a looking-glass, that I had put up in my room, before which the savages never stood without inexpressible admiration at seeing persons in it exactly like themselves. That they themselves produced these persons was what they could not

\* I should not have translated this anecdote, had I not hoped that many of my readers would not be displeased to see that this transaction, which they will recollect to have read in their youth, and which almost every jest book relates, is properly appropriate to an island of North America. The credibility however of my traveller I think cannot well be lessened by this little slip; especially if we consider how natural it is to every narrator, on coming to a favourite anecdote, to bring himself into play by the little preface of "I saw it;" I myself was present, &c."

by any means be made to conceive, and therefore held it to be an inexplicable effect of magic.

At length, however, I was able to give them some faint idea of books, and promised to teach their children to read, if they were desirous of it. A species of wisdom in their opinion so extraordinary found some admirers, who actually sent their children to me. Here I must do justice to the good capacities of these people; their children constantly very soon comprehended the task I set them; and some of them, at my departure had learnt to speak Russian so well, as to be understood without difficulty. I left 25 boys that were able to read a little, and shewed a far greater inclination to live with us than with the savages their parents. By all these means I endeavoured to bring them to the consciousness of their ignorance. I was obliged to be always reprovng my people for their disposition to wrangle with the savages, till I at length convinced them of the utility of my behaviour towards them. The natives had even now found out that my letters were of consequence; and, whenever they were obliged to travel to some distance on their own affairs in traffic, they always took a sort of pass-port from me, in order, if they should meet with any of the people sent out by me, they might shew it to them as a certificate of their actually belonging to the Konæges in peace and amity with us. By thus protecting them from the attacks of savages in other places, I furnished them with an example how much it behoved them to live in peace; for according as they did so their enemies would never venture to molest them. As they saw immediately by this, that the obedience they shewed

to me, was not without its reward, so they expressed their wishes that I would stay with them for ever. And I can boast, with the strictest attachment to truth, that on first hearing of my intended departure, they were as dejected as if they were about to lose their all; though I resigned all my establishments and institutions to my overseer whom I intended to leave behind on the island, a merchant of Yenisei, by name Samoilef; a man on whom I could safely depend for the religious observance of all my directions; and whom I moreover provided with rules for his conduct in writing. Both from the declaration of the savages, which indeed they did not know how to prove with accuracy, and by their own relations in conjunction with my remarks, the number of the new subjects I acquired to her majesty may be computed with certainty at upwards of 50,000 persons of both sexes.

But I never once thought of imposing on them a yassak\*, in order to avoid raising their dislike or suspicion, only concerning myself in giving them a good opinion of the Russians, and to make them by degrees more familiar with our manners and usages, so that they might not find them repugnant but rather agreeable; and accordingly I left every thing relating to the yassak to be settled by the high commission of controul as it might please to decree.

In the year 1785, the scurvy made its appearance among my people, which increased to so much viru-

\* The tribute in country-products or money; usually paid in furs, fish, and the like, which all the tribes in submission to the Russian empire are bound to pay.

lence at last that about the middle of the winter they began to die, and the rest were extremely reduced. The rumour of this soon spread among the natives; and it was presently remarked that meetings were frequently held among those that dwelt at a distance. Of this I had intelligence from the Konæges that were really attached to us, with the addition, that in these assemblies plots were already hatching against us; therefore they waited for no farther intimation from me, but immediately hastened away to disperse them, and brought the ring-leaders back with them to me, whom, after a closer examination into their designs, I found it necessary to keep in confinement. On the 9th of April I dispatched one of my people, with a thousand of the peaceable Konæges, who, from their entire devotion to me, pledged themselves to conduct this man safe to the Uginskoi, or, as they are called by Bering, the Berg-islands, and take him to the trading company established there, whom I informed in the letter I sent by him of the misfortune that had befallen me by the breaking out of the scurvy, intreating them to give me all possible assistance. However, presently after my messenger was set out, the scurvy began to abate.

On the 2d of May, I sent, on board four baidars, 52 ruffian sailors, 11 Aleutes from the Fox-islands, and 110 Konæges in baidarks, to the eastern side, with directions to make themselves acquainted with the inhabitants of the islands on the coast of America, as far as the bays of Kinaitk and Ergatfk, to examine the products, and to take notes in writing of whatever they saw; and to continue their navigation, till the weather would allow them to proceed no farther. The mission

returned at the latter end of August. They had navigated the strait between the isle of Kuktak and the main coast of America; and the whole summer through had never met with any attack, either from the Konæges, the Tshugatshes, or the Kinaitzes: which nations had even given them 23 persons as hostages. But the trade they carried on was very insignificant; for, as inhabitants were unknown to them, they were apprehensive, notwithstanding the hostages they had received, of any closer intercourse with them. They therefore came to the resolution to winter on the island Kuktak; and for that purpose made choice of the more inhabited region of Karlutsk. During the winter the baidars went to the northern and western sides of the island, and as far as Yukat Maka on the american coast, and the bay of Kamushatfk. By civil behaviour to the natives, by treating them constantly with humanity and kindness, by entertaining them with hospitality and giving them presents, they brought them into an alliance, took hostages of them, and traded with them on so peaceable a footing, that not the least quarrel or controversy happened between them. From the harbour where I lay, I dispatched throughout the winter various parties, for the purpose of exploring the southern and eastern sides of the island Kuktak; as also to the other islands in those parts. Great multitudes of Konæges, by kind behaviour and commerce, were induced to live upon amicable terms with us, gave us likewise hostages, and thus confirmed their real submission to the russian sovereignty. In the latter days of December I ordered two sailors and an interpreter to make for the Kinaiski bay; where they were to give themselves out for traders,

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and under that character to have an opportunity for examining the country, of which they were to bring me an account. I accordingly furnished them with several sorts of commodities for barter; and for the rest consigned them to the protection of the Askak\* of the island Shuyek, who had been given to me as a hostage.

On the 10th of January I sent 11 workmen to the eastern side of the island Kuktak, to the pine-forest there, at about 160 versts from the harbour, in order to build boats for us at that place. On arriving there, the first thing they did was to construct for themselves a winter-habitation; next they proceeded to execute my commission, at the same time made purchases of valuable furs; and returned to me in the harbour on the 1st of May.

On the 25th of February I received a letter dated at Katmankoi-Shik, from the Greek, Euftrathios Delarof, informing me that the galleot St. Michael, of our company, had, according to my directions, sailed from the island Unalashka on the 12th of May, 1785. but no sooner were they out at sea, than they were driven back by contrary winds, and were forced for near six weeks to beat on and off the said island; after which, during a storm, they lost a mast, which broke below the yards, and obliged them to put back into the port of Unalashka; that having repaired the mast, on getting out to sea, in the month of August, they were stopped by a second misfortune: for, by a mistake of

\* Askak, as well as the above explained Chaskak, and Tien, which will appear a good way farther on, signifies, a leader, commander, or chief.

the under-pilot, the galleot struck upon a rock, and was so much damagad that they were forced to return and winter at Unalashka. In the mean time, on hearing accounts of us, they were very desirous of sending us 30 men on baidarks to our assistance, which they did accordingly; but these were overtaken by a storm, and forced to pass six weeks on the american coast, where six of their number perished by cold and hunger; the others were delivered by succour sent after them; but even of them five more died soon after their return to harbour.

As I now began to think of my departure, I sent five Ruffians, on the 7th of March, to the promontory of Elias, to make observations for completing the description I could not finish in the foregoing year; and for the purpose of building a fort, which might be of great service to us in our future undertakings; taking with them 1000 Konæges from Kadiak and other islands, and 70 Aleutes from the Fox-islands, who very willingly entered my service for pay; giving them orders to set up crosses on the shore, and to bury potsherds, birch-bark and coals in the earth at the foot of them.

These my missionaries sent to me on some of the last days of March, two men from the habitations of Tshinigatsk, with the account that the Tien of Shuyek had betrayed me and was fled, after having previously murdered the two workmen and the interpreter whom I had deputed to go and examine the bay of Kinaisk.

They therefore requested people of me to enable them to make a stand against the Kinaitzes, who came down from the american coast almost as far as Shuyek, and whose number amounted to about a thousand men. On receiving

receiving this intelligence, I dispatched thither from the harbour two parties; the first consisting of thirty ruffian workmen, and the second of Konæges and Fox-Aleutes, under a particular leader, with orders to look out for a convenient place on Aphagnak for making a harbour, over against the isle of Shuyek, and there, according to a plan I gave them, to erect a fort; in the mean time they were to fit out in the harbour the galleot, the three church-doctors, as a transport. On the 19th of May I received from the islands Aphagnak and Shuyek the news, that after the junction of our forces there, every attack of the Kinaitzes had been defeated. Afterwards a fort was raised on Aphagnak; and the foundation of another, according to a plan I had given with them, at the Kinaiskoi bay: and then, leaving behind them a number of people for completing the building, they proceeded along the shores of America quite down to the promontory of St. Elias. The island Aphagnak, as well as the opposite shore of America and the island Kadyak, possess excellent harbours, a fertile soil, fish and fowl of various kinds in abundance; the meadows produce fine grass and excellent pasturage; likewise plenty of timber that might be employed in building vessels and houses, as well on Shuyek as on the shore of America.

This year came far greater numbers than in the first year, of the inhabitants of America as well as of the islands, to our several harbours; at first with great variety of ceremonies, and afterwards familiarly, almost every day. At these visits we neglected nothing that could give them proof of our obliging and friendly dispositions. The wind in this year blew most strongly from the north

north and west; from the east very rarely; and from the south scarcely once during the whole winter. Rain fell in winter very seldom; on the other hand much snow, which, in those places where the wind could not come, lay upwards of an arshine in depth.

On the 22d of May I sailed, accompanied by some Tiens from America, Kuktak and other islands, and the best people of Konæges; and in the same hour we descried on the sea our third galleot the St. Michael, which, with out-spread sails, was hastening to the harbour. I immediately went on board of her, changed her captain, and brought her into the harbour; where I gave orders to him I had appointed commander there, to take this galleot to the fortified harbour at Aphagnak. In regard to the galleots, I made this disposition: One of them I entrusted to my faithful Samoïlof, with directions to navigate from the 40th to the 47th degree of longitude of the meridian of Okhotzk, which I adopted for the first; and of latitude from the 40th to the 60th degree; in order to examine the seas of those parts: the second I commissioned to sail to the north, where the two quarters of the world approximate each other, for the purpose of discovering places and islands as yet unknown; the third, on which I sailed from Kadyak, was altered into a transport-vessel, in which I intended every year to perform the agreeable office of carrying intelligence to the government of the accounts of our enterprises in these parts. Thus we quitted America, in the design of sailing as far as the 45th degree of latitude; and in that direction to keep towards the west, till we should be opposite to the promontory of Kamtschatka, then to proceed to the Kurilli straits, and  
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from thence to bend our course for Okhotzk. I settled this plan in hopes that I might discover some hitherto unknown islands somewhere between the 40th and 50th degree of longitude; however by reason of the unlucky winds that almost the whole summer through kept incessantly blowing from the west, I could not execute my project; but found myself under the necessity of bearing as direct as possible for Okhotzk; and even in this I was greatly impeded by the contrary winds. On our course we perceived of the chain of islands the four Berg-islands and Amuchta, which, from their burning-mountains, appeared to be all in flames. Being frequently obliged to beat to windward, we also descried Siugam, Amulu, Atka and other of the Andreanofski islands. On the 30th of July we cast anchor, for the first time, at the foremost of the Kurilli islands. The 12 ruffian workmen that I had on board with me, being entirely laid up with the scurvy, the Americans that had come with me out of curiosity were obliged to work the ship, and on the 31st of July we took in 40 casks of fresh water from these islands. In regard to the sea I observed but one thing remarkable, that its current is the strongest round about Kamtschatka; and not only in windy weather, but also in a perfect calm, is so violent, that the vessel was constantly tossed to and fro, with the water even with her gunnel.

On the 1st of August we came to the strait between the first Kurilli islands. Here we were kept by a strong contrary wind till the 5th, when we ran into the second Kurilli-strait, and there put into an harbour. From hence we parted on the 7th, and reached the mouth of Bolscheretzk, over against which we came to anchor on

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the 8th. I went ashore on a baidar, which I sent back, myself remaining in order to purchase fish. Though this business did not detain me long, yet I met with several hindrances on quitting the land: and during this time a violent storm tore our galleot from her anchor. My people were too disabled to work the ship to windward, and consequently she was soon carried out to sea. I now got into a boat for Bolsheretzk; where I bought three horses for 200 roubles, in order to prosecute my journey by land to Okhotzk. On that very day news came to Bolsheretzk that on the 9th of August an english ship was arrived in the harbour of Peter and Paul, but intending to make a stay there of no more than 20 days. I was exceedingly curious to learn the business and object of the voyage, and also probably some matters that might be useful to me; I therefore put off my journey to Okhotzk, and set out on the 20th of August, on horseback, for Petropavloffk, where I arrived on the 23d. The ship's captain and some of the officers, as soon as they heard of our arrival, came on shore, greeted us in a very friendly manner, and prevailed on me to accompany them on board; where they shewed me samples of their goods, and told me that they had brought with them a letter from the India company to the governor of Kamtschatka, expressing their wishes to open a trade to Kamtschatka, and requesting permission to that effect. I diligently enquired of them what way they had taken, and how soon and how well they had completed their voyage; to all which, without entering into farther particulars, they told me they had nothing to conceal of their chart. I then learnt of them that on the 20th of May,

old style, they took their departure from Bengal, in the 23d degree of north latitude, and on the 16th of April sailed from Malakka to Kanton, where they arrived on the 29th of May; that on the 28th of July they left that place, and entered the Peter-Paul's harbour on the 9th of August. There were three english and one portugueze officer on board the ship; the sailors were English, Jews, Negroes, and Chineses, in all 70 men. It was a fine strong-built vessel, of two masts, 28 sails, and 12 cannons on the deck.

I was very sumptuously entertained on board; and, after supper, the captain, William Peters, with some of the officers, attended me on shore. On the 25th came hither the commandant of Kamtschatka, Baron Stengel; on the 26th and 27th all agreed, that in regard to the custom-house duties, the English would pay, without contradiction, whatever the government should please to determine thereupon; and now the traffic began. On the 28th it was settled by mutual concert, what commodities should in future be brought to Kamtschatka, what should be bartered against them, and at what price. The following day I too managed my commerce, taking goods of them to the amount of 6611 roubles; of which I paid 1000 roubles in hard cash, and the remainder in bills on Mosco. On the 3d I left Petropavloffki, and came on the 8th of September to Bolscheretsk, where I had the good fortune of immediately selling my goods at a profit of 50 per cent.

The 12th of September I went from Bolscheretsk, down the Tigilskoi coast to the fort Tigil, which I reached the 6th of October. From thence I set out on  
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the 18th of November, in a sledge drawn by dogs, and came on the 27th of January 1787 to Okhotzk, a great while later than my galleot. In the same kind of conveyance I left Okhotzk on the 8th of February, in company with my wife, pursued my way, sometimes with rein deer, sometimes with horses, sometimes with oxen, encountering the most tremendous dangers, and suffering inexpressible hardships. However, I came on the 11th of March to Esakutsk, prosecuted my journey on the following day, met with a renewal of all my difficulties and perils; which, especially the whole way from Kamtschatka, are not to be conceived from any written account, and were sometimes to be encountered under the most tormenting impressions of well-grounded fear, and with the utmost hazard of life. The fidelity of the Koræik hordes between Tigilsk and Inshiga was at that time extremely dubious; the winter, by continued and very violent north winds, was extraordinarily severe; and, at the same time, in these wild and dreary regions, we were frequently attacked by such impetuous storms of driven snow, that we could not by any means stir from the spot, and were often obliged to lie two, three, and even five days in the snow, without being able once to change our position; without water, and as we could make no fire, even without any thing warm to eat or drink. To melt the snow in our mouths, and to gnaw a sort of hard biscuit, were our only means of nourishment. On the last part of our journey, from Aldana to Irkutsk, from the road being unbeaten, our horses were so wearied as to sink under the fatigue; we therefore proceeded on foot, in order to get faster onwards, and thus, after  
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all our pains and hardships, we reached Irkutzk on the 6th of April, in good condition. And here I esteem it my duty, in this public manner, to testify my gratitude to two persons highly deserving of our common country, the captains Timotheus and Basilius Shnalef, of whom one has the superintendance of fort Tigil, and the other a command in the settlement of Kamensk for preventing of quarrels between the hordes of the Koræki and the Tshukotski; as also to the corporal Popof, and to the Kozaks and the interpreter Sufdalef; who accompanied me on the road; and, as they had relations among the Koræki, the more easily defended me from harm: for only to their care and kindness I believe myself indebted for the preservation of my life.

Nothing now remains but to describe as briefly as I can the soil of the american islands, the people that inhabit them, their manners, usages and dress, and to give some account of the beasts and birds that are found upon them.

The american islands, extending eastwards from Kuktal, are, like north-eastern America, for the most part stoney and naked mountains, yet among them is very good land, extremely fit for cultivation; of which I thoroughly convinced myself by my own experiments, namely, by sowing barley, millet, pease, beans, gourds, parsnips, mustard, beets, potatoes, turneps, and rhubarb.

All these succeeded as well as could be desired, excepting that the millet, pease, beans, and gourds, produced no seed; but this for no other reason than because the proper time for sowing them was neglected. For hay there are plenty of meadow-lands, which produce excellent grass; and in many places the cattle

will do very well without hay the whole winter through; great forests I found none, but smaller woods in abundance. The vegetables and plants they mostly cultivate for food, are roots, and namely, farana \*, bistort, the root of yellow fern †, and kutagar, which last deserves particular observation on account of this circumstance, that where there are no mice, as here on these islands, it has a very agreeable taste, whereas, where these animals are found, it is so bitter that no man can eat it. Of berries I found there the raspberry ‡, the bilberry §, and the blackberry ||. Moras-berries, or maroshka ¶, broffnika \*\*, schlingberries ††, cranberries, or klukva ‡‡, and kneshenika §§, in abundance. Of larger trees, on one half of the island Kuktak, and farther eastward to America, are, as far as I could reckon, five sorts, namely: alder, buschwerk, birch, and a kind of ash; and farther to the east on the islands and bays of America, besides those already mentioned, are pine-forests and larch trees. Of the feathered animals I found several kinds of geese and ducks, crows, jays, daws, black canary-birds, there called napoiki, and

\* *Lilium martagon* seu pomponium. According to the plan of natural hist. for the normal schools of Russia, p. 178, there are two kinds of them, one with dull red, and the other with high red flowers, the leaves of the latter are crumpled backwards at the point, in the former the leaves are thicker, and in the other more divided and smaller below.

† *Filices*, ib. p. 235.

§ *Vaccinium uliginosum*.

¶ *Rubus chamæmorus*.

†† *Viburnum opulus*.

§§ *Rubus arcticus*.

‡ *Rubus idæus*, ibid.

|| *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

\*\* *Vaccinium vitis idæa*.

‡‡ *Vaccinium oxycoccus*.

magpies.

maggies. The cry of these latter resembles not at all the noise of our ruffian maggies, but they rather sing not amiss, though very softly, not quite unlike our bulfinch. Here are also mews, cranes, herons, snipes, divers, sturmvogel, alken, and water-fowls; of sea-animals, the beaver, the shaggy porpois, whales, and seals; of river-animals, beavers and others. Of land-animals, foxes, wolves, bears, ermines, rein-deer, sables, hares, gluttons, lynxes, tarbagans, and evrashks\*, wild sheep, and a superior species of porcupine. Of sea-fish they catch rays, scaits, and thornbacks, stock-fish, and herrings. Of river-fish, Tshavutsha, keta, nerki, goletz †, chaiko, karakalitz †, and a peculiar kind of crabs.

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\* The former of these two animals I have never found any where else mentioned. Evrashka is explained in the Lexicon of our ruffian academy by *lepus dauricus*; and this animal is thus described by the celebrated Dr. Pallas: *Magnitudo paulo infra leporem alpinum, cui simillimus. Differt forma magis ad leporem pupillum accedente, proportionibus quibusdam, colore et forma aurium, teneritudine velleris, colore, et anatomicis quibusdam momentis; deinde moribus. Auriculæ rotundato-subtriangulæ, albidæ. Vellus tenerrimum, nitidum, totum supra gryseo-pallidum, subtus albidum. Palmæ pentadactylæ, dentesque, ut in cognatis. Cauda nulla, neque coccyx adiposo tuberculo prominula.—Vivit in campis, montiumque declivibus arenosis, apricis, per totam Danuriam, cuniculo labyrinthico; sub autumnum foeni acervos globosos congerit et compingit. Vox ferè leporis alpini. See Pallas's Travels, vol. iii. p. 692, german edition.*

† Of these other untranslated names I have not been able to find any explanation. Goletz, according to the translation of Lefchik's natural history by M. Oseretzkoſſkoi, tom iv. p. 65, 66,

The Konages are well-built, robust, and healthy people, and have usually a round visage of a swarthy complexion, with generally black, seldom auburn hair, which both men and women cut round about the head. The wives of the principal personages distinguish themselves from others by combing the hair straight down all round, cutting it close to the eye-brows and wearing a fillet; some also wear artificial beards, and some again, instead of wearing a neck-kerchief, cover their breasts and shoulders with punctures in the skin. Men, women, and girls, bore a hole through the partition gristle of the nostrils; all likewise pierce their ears and the lower lip. Some of the males also punctuate their neck, but not many, though all cut through the under lip, in such manner that at first sight one is inclined to think they have a double mouth. In the hole bored in the partition of the nostrils they stick a longish bone; and whoever have pieces of ore or coral, hang them in their ears, lips, and nose; which is held to be a great distinction as well as a beautiful ornament. They never cut the beard; wear no shirt, go barefoot, and when at home are quite naked, except that before they wear a little apron of fur ornamented with flowers and

is a groundling or loach. Karakalitz, tom. vi. p. 36, Sepia, the ink-fish. Nark, according to the russian lexicon, salmo; a species of salmon about three quarters of an arshine in length, smooth, red like a salmon, has a very little head, small reddish teeth, carulean on the sides, white tongue, on each side five teeth, a broad dark red spotted back, the sides silver colour, the belly white, the tail somewhat arched, with large round scales which easily come off. They come in vast shoals in the rivers of the Eastern and the Penhinskian sea.

grafs.

grafs. They are sometimes feen in pellices of beavor, fox or bear fur, of bird's feathers, the fkins of evrafhes, tarbagans, otters, fables, hares, reindeer, gluttons, and lynxes. A fort of upper garment they make of the entrails of the porpois, the feal, and the whale.

On the head they wear hats made of pine-roots or grafs matted, or inftead of caps a piece of wood arched and hollowed out. In catching the marine animals they ufe arrows which they caft from a wooden board, and in war they employ the bow and the dart pointed with iron, copper, bones, or ftone. They have iron hatchets of a peculiar construction; namely, fmall rude pieces of iron: alfo pipes, knives of iron and of bone; iron needles, which, till our arrival, were made by the women. Inftead of thread they ufe the dried finews of animals. Their veffels are of wood, and of the horn of the wild fheep, or of clay and hollowed ftone; their large and fmall baidars, or canoes, inftead of being planked, have their ribs covered with leather. In thefe they go out to angle on the fea, with hooks of bone, faftened to the end of a long ftring of dried fea-cabbage; the ftalk of the fea-cabbage being frequently forty fathom in length, and upwards. In the rivers they take the fifh by means of a pole with a kind of a net at the end of it, in the opening whereof is a point of bone, iron, or ftone, faftened to the wood of the fpear by finews. The red-fifh [*falmo alpinus*] that abound in the bays and bites of the fea, they ftrike dead in a moment as foon as ever they put their heads above water. Their manner of producing fire is by rubbing two ficks together; and inftead of lamps they have earthen veffels, wherein they lay a wick of twifted hay,

which is fed by the melted greafe of fea-dogs, bears, fea-bears, whales, or the fea-cat.

Of their marriages I know nothing, nor of their cuftoms at the birth of a child, except that to the new-born babe they give the name of whatever thing firft ftrikes their fight; whether it be beaft or bird, or any object of like nature.

The feveral races of Konæges bury their dead with various ceremonies. The cuftoms ufed on thefe occafions having never had an opportunity of feeing, I confequently am not in a capacity to describe; only thus much I know, that fome of their dead are interred with the beft of what they had, inclofed in a baidark for a coffin, which is ftrewn over with earth; with others of the dead a living flave is buried. But the Kinaitzes burn their dead, with the fkins of animals, which the relations are obliged to collect for that purpofe.

For teftifying their forrow they cut off their hair, befmeared their faces with black. In this manner they mourn their relations, father, mother, brother, fifters, and fuch as were dear to them; but frequently even for an acquaintance with whom they lived in friendfhip; however they mourn for no one who was their enemy, or only was not their friend, though ever fo nearly related to them.

Popular difeafes are not known among them, the venereal excepted; and to the fmall-pox they are utter ftrangers. In general they are of athletic habits, and live frequently to a hundred years.

When they expect guefts, their cuftom is to go to meet them, properly fmeared over with red paint, and hung about with their beft pieces of drefs, dancing as they

they go, to the beat of drum; and bearing their weapons of war; but the guests make their appearance in the very same dress in which they go forth to battle. As soon as they approach the sea-coast, the persons who give the entertainment jump into the water, breast-high, and drag as many baidars and baidarks as they can to the shore; then each takes one of the guests on his back, and runs with him to the first place prepared for the entertainment and the games; there they squat down in due order. And now all are silent, till they have sufficiently eaten and drunk. Their first hospitable mark of honour, is the giving of cold water all round; then little youths bear about the eatables, which consist partly in a mish-mash of the fat of the above-mentioned sea-animals, partly in the berries before described, sometimes mixed, sometimes unmixed. Then other dishes are served round, of dried fish, called by them yukol; of flesh of beasts and birds; of all sorts always the best that can be procured. They know nothing of salt. Of all these the host must first eat and drink, otherwise the guests would not take of them; from whence we may conclude that at times they may be poisoned. The host then passes the dish to the guest that sits next him; who, after taking what he pleases, hands it to his neighbour, and so on to the last. What then remains is brought back to the first, who lays it by, in order that afterwards when the time for parting comes, each of the guests may take a portion of it away with him. When they have done eating, they converse for some time, and then begin to play on drums and other small instruments; some at the same time put on a peculiar kind of wooden masks, variously

painted, and dance for the entertainment of the guests. The games being ended, they conduct their guests into a building erected expressly for such occasions, capable of containing a great number of persons. This building in some sort resembles a small church, but built in a very irregular, rude, and barbarous style. Here commences a different kind of pastime, which lasts as long as the guests continue their stay. When any one is weary, he goes to sleep; and, having had his nap out, mixes again in the sports, till the company prepares to depart. On taking leave they receive presents, or make mutual exchanges of whatever they have about them. In these buildings they usually hold their consultations, enter into negotiations, form compacts, and in short transact all businesses of a general nature; but to these meetings their wives are never admitted.

The Konæges and Thugatshes speak the same dialect; but the Kinaitzes have a language peculiar to themselves; these latter likewise follow a mode of life entirely different.

They dwell in huts of earth, the walls whereof they case with boards; the window is in the cover; for panes of glass they make use of the bladder and other intestines of animals, the little and narrow pieces whereof they neatly sew together with thread made of nerves and sinews; the place for going out of them is upwards from below. They have no stoves, nor are they in want of firing, as these habitations are sufficiently warm without them. Their sweating baths are the same kind of caves in the earth, in which they cleanse themselves with grass and birch-twigs. The heat is produced by stones previously made glowing hot in the kitchen; which  
method,

method, besides that the heat produced by it is extremely great, has yet this other advantage, that it causes no vapour at all. In general, like the Russians, they are exceedingly fond of hot-bathing. The kitchen belongs to numbers of huts in common, being provided with large apertures all round it, for that purpose. To conclude; their way of life is very thievish: he that can steal the ofteneft, the most at a time, and the most dextrously, acquires the greatest reputation. Polygamy is not in use among them. It but rarely happens that a man has two wives; but it is a very common thing for a beautiful and buxom woman to have two or three husbands; who, in that case, are never jealous of one another, but live on the best terms and in perfect harmony.

None of these tribes have any land-carriages; neither are there in those parts any animals that could be used for draught. To this assertion dogs may perhaps be an exception; but they are never employed in that manner.

The inhabitants of the coast of America and the circumjacent islands traverse the lakes and rivers in their baidars: of the customs of those that live farther within the country I can say nothing, as I have had no intercourse with them.

Of the deity they have not even the slightest conception; and, though they relate that there are two rulers of the world, or sovereign spirits, the one good and the other evil, yet they make no likeness whatever of either; neither do they pay them any worship, and have no sort of idols. Nor have they any thing farther to say of these two beings, than that the good one  
taught

taught them to make baidars, and that the malignant one is delighted in destroying and wrecking them. Hence we may draw conclusions of the narrow bounds by which their understanding is confined. And yet witchcraft and forcery are matters of no small consequence among them. Justice and jurisprudence are not only not submitted to any regulations; but they know scarcely any thing about them; in general they and the irrational animals do not differ greatly in their manner of life. They are of a very warm temperament, especially the women. They are, by nature artful and enterprising; in committing and revenging injuries mischievous and malicious, though they wear the semblance of gentleness and affection. Of their fidelity and sincerity I cannot say much, by reason of the shortness of my stay among them. I have had proofs of attachment and constancy, but I have had also proofs of the contrary qualities. Represent to them any thing in such a manner as that they shall perceive the utility of it; they will set to work at the execution and attainment of it with the utmost activity and diligence, and will assuredly never spare themselves in any labour however arduous, when once they are certified of profit. On the whole, they are a merry, harmless people, as is evinced by their daily sports and pastimes; from their perpetual and unbounded carelessness all improvements in their domestic concerns are entirely neglected; nay, they have not even an idea of any such thing; and therefore frequently obliged to suffer hunger and nakedness.

