

inwards, and fastened with a girdle about the waist. Several of these people, who have been seen by our navigators, have painted patches on their faces; and each carries a missile weapon, consisting of two round stones, each about a pound weight, covered with leather, and fastened to the ends of a string eight feet long. When this is used, one stone is held in the hand, and the other whirled round the head till it has acquired sufficient velocity, and then it is discharged at the object. So expert are they in the use of this weapon, that they will hit a small mark at a considerable distance, with both stones.

TERRA DEL FUEGO.

THE name given to this island by the Portuguese navigators, who discovered it, signifies *Land of Fire*: it is, however, a dreary region, bleak, barren, and mountainous, where winter holds an almost uninterrupted sway. The name was occasioned by the vast number of fires, added to the flames of some volcanoes, which were visible on its first appearance. The natives are of the middle stature, with broad faces, flat noses, and high cheek bones. They paint their bodies, which are naturally fair, and clothe themselves in seals' skins. Shell-fish constitute their principal food. Their miserable huts are of a conical form. The natives on the south side are said to be treacherous and sanguinary; but those on the north are represented as simple and harmless.

EUROPE.

THE DANES.

THOUGH these people live under a monarchical government, wisdom and moderation have so long characterised the measures of the court, that the Danes boast justly of the superiority of their laws. The established religion is Lutheranism; but full toleration is allowed to persons of other persuasions. Education is an object of primary importance; and Denmark has produced some celebrated philosophers, mathematicians, astronomers, painters, physicians, and philologers.

The ancient Danes rendered themselves remarkable for their ferocity and piracies. Their national character has, however, in this respect, greatly changed; they are a brave and humane people; and, though not now very enterprising, they make excellent soldiers and sailors; and fill up the various relations of life with respectability.

The Danes are generally tall and robust, with regular features, florid complexions, and hair inclining to yellow, or red. The superior classes are fond of magnificence and show, and value themselves much upon those titles and

privileges which they purchase of the crown. The French fashions are generally adopted by both sexes in summer; but in winter they have recourse to furs and woollen garments.

The Danes pique themselves upon having frequent changes of linen; yet they are not of the most cleanly order in their persons and houses.

The houses of the Danes are generally of timber; and it is only in cities that any considerable proportion of brick houses is to be met with. Each house has a kind of piazza before it, where the family often sit in summer, and the landlord smokes his pipe.

The tables of the rich abound in every luxury common to Europeans; but the food of the lower orders consists of oat cakes, rye bread, fish, cheese, and other ordinary products of the country. Excess in the use of wines and other strong liquors, is a bad characteristic of these people.

ICELAND.

ICELAND, under the arctic circle, far distant from the abode of other men, has a population of its own, remarkable for their attachment to their country, desolate and inhospitable as it is, as well as for their unsuspecting frankness of character, and liveliness of temper. They are descendants of Norwegian emigrants, who, about a thousand years ago, fled from the oppression of their rulers, and

sought an asylum amid the snows and storms of this barren land.

The Icelanders are rather above the middle size, with a frank open countenance, florid complexion, and yellow or flaxen hair. The women are shorter in proportion than the men, more inclined to corpulency, and generally live to a greater age.

The social and civil condition of Iceland presents many interesting features. It was discovered about the year 840, by Nadod a Danish pirate. After its settlement, it became a little independent republic; and the arts and literature took refuge in this frozen clime, from the barbarism which then overwhelmed the rest of Europe. Iceland had its divines, its annalists, its poets, and was, for some time, the most enlightened country then perhaps existing, in the world. Yet the diffusion of knowledge, even among the lowest class, which took place during its prosperous period, still exists in a degree not paralleled in the most enlightened of other nations. The traveller finds the guide whom he has hired, able to hold a conversation with him in Latin, and on his arrival at his miserable place of rest for the night, is addressed with fluency and elegance in the same language. "While the hut of the Icelfander," says a traveller, "is almost buried in the snow, and while darkness and desolation are spread universally around, the light of

an oil-lamp illumines the page from which he reads to his family the lessons of knowledge, religion, and virtue.

The dress of the men much resembles that of the Norwegian and Swedish peasants; consisting of a shirt of *wadmel* (a coarse kind of woollen cloth,) with a blue waistcoat, jacket, and trowsers, of the same kind of stuff. The dress of the women is singular, and abounds in ornaments.

The Icelanders adhere most rigidly to whatever has once been adopted as a national custom; and as their language, dress, and mode of life, have been invariably the same for the last nine centuries, they exhibit a faithful picture of their Scandinavian progenitors.

Iceland has no schools; but the children are taught to read their native language by their mothers; after which they acquire writing and arithmetic from their fathers. Poetry has always flourished in Iceland, and there are still several *scalds*, or poets, who cultivate it with success.

The houses of the Icelanders vary in different parts of the country: on the north side of the island, they make a tolerable appearance; but in other parts, the people live mostly in rude huts composed of turf, or in caverns hewn in the rock.

Their food is of the most simple kind: their breakfast consists generally of a dish of sour coagulated milk, called *skyr*. Dried fish and rancid butter form the usual dinner; and for supper, they have either *skyr*, bread and cheese, or

porridge, made of the Icelandic moss, which to a foreigner is the most healthy and palatable of all their ordinary articles of diet.

The salutations of the Icelanders strongly mark their simplicity of character. On meeting a person, they hail him with "Peace!" or "I wish thee happiness, or prosperity!" To which the reply is, "The Lord bless thee!"

The Iceland beds are of eider down, which is plentifully supplied by the numerous flocks of the eider duck, with which the island abounds. The people sleep upon one of these beds, and draw another over them for the sake of warmth.

Lutheranism is the religion of the Icelanders.

SWEDEN.

THE government of Sweden is a limited monarchy; and its laws are characterised as benevolent and merciful. Indeed, the mild and peaceable character of the Swedes renders terrific executions unnecessary.

At Presberg, in Sweden, are remarkable iron mines. They are thirteen in number, dug into a mountain entirely composed of veins and beds of iron ore. Dr. Clark, after having, in the course of ten years' travel, inspected many of the principal works of this kind in different countries, declares, that he had never beheld any thing equal to this for grandeur of effect. In the wide and open abyss, suddenly

appeared a vast prospect of yawning caverns and prodigious machinery. Immense buckets suspended by rattling, were passing up and down; ladders were scaling all the inward precipices; upon which the work-people, reduced by their distance to pigmies, were ascending and descending. The clanking of chains, the groaning of the pumps, the hallooing of the miners, the creaking of the blocks and wheels, the trampling of horses, the beating of hammers, and the loud and frequent subterraneous thunder from the blasting of the rocks by gunpowder, in the midst of all this scene of excavation and vapor, produced an effect that no stranger could witness unmoved.

The established religion of Sweden is Lutheranism.

Education is well attended to in Sweden: almost every large town has a school, supported at the public expense; and there are few Swedes who cannot read and write.

The Swedes have light flaxen hair, and a ruddy countenance. No indication is given of the more violent passions; but the face of every one expresses docility and good humour.

In Sweden, it can hardly be said that there is any change of costume; blue and black are the most common colours; and if in some instances a variation of colour distinguishes the inhabitants of one province from those of another, still the dress is in other respects the same. At weddings, both bride and bridegroom are dressed in *black*.

The Dalecarlians, a hardy and bold race, differ materially from the rest of the Swedes. They are met with in considerable numbers in Stockholm, where they perform the offices of porters and labourers; and always retain the peculiar dress of their country, which is said to have undergone no change since the time of Gustavas Vasa. The men wear long whitish-grey coarse coats, with buttons of horn or leather, and in shape somewhat similar to the English jockey-coat, but more clumsily made; and their broad-brimmed hats are very similar to those of our Quakers.

The price of provisions in Sweden is low. The tables of the opulent are always furnished with plenty of meat; and, at their entertainments, are covered with a profusion of dishes, put on without taste in the arrangement, and suffered to cool during a ceremonious meal of at least two hours. The lower classes live principally upon hard bread, salted or dried fish, and water-gruel. Beer is their ordinary beverage, and can be procured at a very low rate.

NORWAY.

This country was for many centuries subject to the sovereignty of Denmark; but since the year 1814 it has been united to the Swedish crown. The religion is Lutheran.

The Norwegians are a frank, robust, and brave people; hospitable and ingenuous, yet so very illiterate, that in all Norway there is not a single bookseller's shop. They are

also quick in resentment, rash, and even ferocious, when their anger is excited.

In general, the Norwegians are above the middle stature, well-shaped, with fair complexions, blooming countenances, and light hair. The mountaineers acquire surprising strength and dexterity, by temperance, endurance of cold, laborious exercise, climbing rocks, skating on the snow, and defending themselves against wild beasts of the forest. Those in the maritime parts pursue fishing and navigation, whence they become very expert mariners. The peasants have much spirit in their manners, yet are not insolent; never fawning, yet always paying due respect to their superiors.

The hospitality of the Norwegians is not rendered oppressive, as is often the case in Sweden; and, among the higher orders especially, it is most frankly and liberally bestowed.

The usual dress of the Norwegians consists of a wide loose jacket, made of coarse cloth, with a waistcoat and breeches of the same. They have snow-shoes and long skates, with which they travel at a great pace, either on land or on ice. The Norwegian peasant wears a neckcloth only on extraordinary occasions; at other times, his neck and breast are uncovered, and the snow beats into his bosom. In general, the dress of the Norwegians is of a stone color, with white metal buttons and red buttonholes; but in this and other

respects, the inhabitants of the several valleys of this mountainous country vary so much from each other, that a stranger, seeing them assembled at the great fair of Christiana, might believe himself in the midst of a diversity of nations.

The churches and public edifices are built of stone; as are most of the houses in Christiana, the capital of Norway. In the other parts, the better sort of people live in log-houses, made of the trunks of the fir or pine tree, laid upon each other, and joined at the angles by mortises, the interstices being carefully filled up with moss.

The peasants live in earthen huts, covered over with grass, which gives them the appearance of hillocks. Interiorly, however, they have more the appearance of houses, and they form a better defence against the weather, than the wooden buildings.

The nobility and merchants of Norway fare sumptuously; but the peasants live with the utmost frugality and temperance, except at festivals. Their common bread is oatmeal cakes, about the size and thickness of pancakes; and this is only made twice a year. In times of scarcity, to which such a country is much exposed, they boil, dry, and grind the bark of the fir-tree into a kind of flour, which they mix with their oatmeal; and sometimes the bark of the elm is used in a similar manner.

From temperance and exercise in a pure air, joined to a

contented state of mind, the Norwegians enjoy good health, and often attain to a surprising degree of longevity; so that a man of a hundred years of age is rarely accounted past his labor.

When the Norwegian meets a bear in the forest, he stands still, and faces his enemy; but he takes care to have his knife ready in his right hand, and when the bear rises upon his hind legs, to give him the mortal squeeze in his huge arms, he adroitly springs forward, and, plunging the weapon in the monster's heart, lays him dead at his feet.

LAPLAND.

THE northern regions of the great peninsula which we have been exploring, is inhabited by a diminutive race of people, called *Lapps* by the Swedes; but they call themselves *Same*, and appear to have sprung from the same origin with the Samoïdes, whom we shall hereafter visit in the Russian dominions. The Lapps are nominally subject to Sweden, and are professed Christians, of the Lutheran persuasion; but in superstitious observances, they are no better than their heathen ancestors.

The Lapps rarely exceed the height of four feet, and are frequently below it. They have swarthy or copper-colored complexions, hair dark, straight, and lank, large heads, ears full and large, projecting from the head, narrow dark eyes, generally half closed on account of the dazzling brightness

of the snow with which they are surrounded, high cheek bones, wide mouths pinched close, and thick lips. They have a singular flexibility of the limbs, which easily fall into any posture, as with the eastern nations. They look at objects askance; and when they begin a conversation, their hands are employed in filling a short tobacco-pipe, whilst the head is turned over one shoulder towards the person they are talking with, instead of facing him.

The dress of the Lapps is distinguished by the most lively hues, strongly contrasted. Both sexes wear a woollen shirt, the bosom of which is the general repository for their necessaries, as food, tobacco, &c. This under garment is bound about the waist either with a leathern girdle, or yellow woollen sash. Over this they wear a sort of pantaloons, reaching down to their shoes, which are of untanned skin, pointed, and turned up before; and in winter a little hay is put into them. The waistcoat is made to fit the shape, but is open at the breast; and over this is a close coat, with narrow sleeves, fastened round the middle with a leathern girdle. The rest of their clothes consists of the skins of reindeer, bears, bulls, and sheep, with the hair worn inwards or outwards according to the season.

The dress of the women differs little from that of the men; except that they wear neckerchiefs, short aprons of painted cloth, and rings on their fingers and in their ears.

The huts of the Lapps are of a most wretched description;

not more than eight or ten feet in diameter, and from four to six feet in height; not unlike a baker's oven in shape. A hole at the top serves both for window and chimney; and instead of a door, there are two low vaulted passages, through which it is necessary to crawl on the hands and knees, to gain admission to the interior. The passages are of different dimensions; through the smallest the men sally forth to their hunting, or other pursuits; but no woman attempts the use of this entry, lest she should meet a man at his departure, a circumstance that would be deemed a bad omen, and cause him to return and sit idle during the remainder of the day.

The tents of the inland Lapps, composed of stakes set upright in the ground, and fastened together at the top in a conical form, are covered with coarse linen or woollen cloth, sometimes with sailcloth. The side most exposed to the wind is protected by a double covering. The seats within are composed of soft reindeer skins and white woollen covers.

The maritime Laplanders subsist on fish, fish-livers, and train oil; and of these they procure only a scanty supply; hence, they are continually aspiring to the rank of the mountaineers, or *Fieldt Lapps*. The latter, as long as they can keep up a stock of three or four hundred reindeer, are in tolerable prosperity; for they can afford to kill as many of them as are necessary for food and clothing, shoes and

boots, and to sell, besides, a few skins, hides, and horns, to the merchants, in exchange for meal, brandy, or woollen stuffs. But when a family is brought so low as to possess only a hundred reindeer, they give up their pastoral life, and get towards the sea or the lakes, to gain from the waters that subsistence which they can no longer find on the land.

The reindeer, all day, wander over the hills, and at evening are driven into a park, where they are milked. Each yields about a tea-cup full of milk; but rich, aromatic, and of exquisite taste. Linnæus mentions nineteen forms in which milk is prepared for food; but cleanliness does not preside over their cookery; and the use of the hand, without knife or fork, to carry everything to the mouth, and of the tongue to lick the dishes, prevents a stranger from joining their meals with any relish. The reindeer are tamed and trained with some difficulty, and they are sometimes restive; but, in general, they bound over hill and dale with surprising celerity. The natives have also a species of snow-shoe; not a broad flat board like that of America, but somewhat in the form of a skate, with which they glide along rapidly over the surface of deep snow, and even up and down the steep sides of hills.

Augury and witchcraft are favorite pursuits with the Lapps. Though professedly Christians, they still pray to their ancient idols; and if they meet with any thing in the

morning which they deem ominous, they return home, and will not stir out again during the whole day.

The principal instrument of their magical rites is the Runic drum, which consists of a narrow oval frame, covered on one side with a skin, and furnished on the other with pieces of iron or brass hung loosely, so as to make a rattling or jingling noise, something like a tambourine. Strange figures, intended to represent the heavenly bodies, birds, beasts, rivers, with many other characters, are painted on the skin. The *noaaid*, or sorcerer, lays a ring upon this drum, and then beating the skin with a hammer made of the horn of the reindeer, draws his prognostications from the progress which the ring makes over the various figures, by the vibration. Families in general possess such a drum, which is preserved with great care and secrecy; nor dare a woman approach the place where it is kept, much less may she presume to touch it.

The Lapps marry very early; but a youth is not entitled to take a wife till he has caught and killed a wild reindeer. His friends first court the father of the object of his choice with presents of brandy, of which even the intended bride partakes. If the proposal be accepted, the young Lapp is admitted to the presence of his fair one; and as every visit is purchased from the father with a bottle of brandy, the courtship is sometimes prolonged for two or three years. At last, the banns are published in the church, and the marriage

immediately succeeds their publication; but the bridegroom is obliged to serve his father-in-law for four years after marriage.

When a Lapp is supposed to be approaching the close of life, his friends exhort him to die in the Christian faith; but they are unwilling to attend him in his last moments. As soon as he expires, even his nearest kindred flee from the place with the utmost precipitation, from a belief that the spirit remains in or about the corpse, and delights in doing mischief to the living.

FINLAND.

SOUTH of the Lapps, in a peninsula on the east side of the Baltic Sea, reside the Finns, who have been supposed to be nearly related to the Lapps; but though they are equally diminutive in stature, the fair hair, either yellow, flaxen, or almost white, added to the brave and warlike character of the Finn, evidence him to be of a different origin.

The ancient Finns were remarkable for their ferocity and extreme poverty. The modern Finn is honest, laborious, and capable of enduring great hardship. The Lutheran form of Christianity was introduced among the Finns by the Swedes; and since the annexation of their country to Russia, no attempt has been made to change their mode of religious worship.

The dress of the Finns consists of a jacket, with panta-



loons, buskins, and a sash, worn as a girdle, round the loins. The sash, though generally yellow, is sometimes red, and sometimes variegated with flowers. The women wear a short scarlet or striped vest, made as gaudy as possible, with large and loose sleeves of very white linen, and white hoods or kerchiefs upon their heads.

The cottages of these people consist of dismal huts, with walls made of the round trunks of trees, barely stripped of their bark, and rather resembling a casual pile of timber, than a human dwelling.

Each rustic householder is provided with the tools and implements of a dozen necessary arts or professions; performing for himself, with equal address, the duties of carpenter, shoemaker, tailor, fisherman, miller, baker, &c. Their corn mills are of simple form, and actuated by sails constructed of wooden planks; and their millstones are shaped like the *querne*, or old Celtic machine for grinding with the hand.

RUSSIA IN EUROPE.

THE immense empire of Russia occupies about one half of Europe, and stretches quite across the north of Asia. In this vast extent, more than eighty distinct nations are included.

The government is despotic, in the full sense of the term. The established religion is Christianity of the Greek church,

which embraces many superstitious rites and customs, with frequent and long continued fasts; but rejects the supremacy of the Pope and the worship of images, though it admits of a certain homage before the pictures of saints.

The Russians are in general middle-sized, robust, and vigorous, differing little in complexion from the inhabitants of Great Britain. Towards the north, they are of diminutive stature; but in the south, tall and graceful. With mouth and lips small, white teeth, nose usually small and turned upwards, low forehead, thick and bushy beard, and the hair varying in colour from dark brown to red; the general expression of the Russian countenance is that of gravity rather than of sprightliness, yet indicative of good-nature.

Accustomed to implicit obedience, from the nature of the government, and trained to the endurance of hardships and privation, from his mode of living, the Russian seems neither to fear danger nor shrink from fatigue; he is, nevertheless, naturally inactive, subject to few diseases, and frequently attains old age. Honour and probity are unknown to him, as well in terms as in sentiment; hope of reward, and fear of detection and punishment, being his only motives of action.

One uniform costume is seen in all parts of Russia, only differing in quality, according as it is worn in the country or the capital. In the former, it consists of a sheepskin

tunic, fastened about the waist with a girdle; in the latter, the tunic is of cloth, plaited behind like a petticoat. The hair is cut in one shape; and the lower part of the face is hidden by a bushy beard, which serves to defend the throat from the injurious effects of the frost. The covering for the head is either a flat fur cap, with a narrow brim, or a cap, which forms a bag a span in depth, wherein the wearer keep his handkerchief. Woollen leg-wrappers, instead of stockings, are tied about the feet and legs with strings, so as to make them look very thick. The sandals are of bark. The females are not well protected by their dress from the inclemency of the climate; but their sedentary habits render this advantage less necessary. Among the superior ranks, the French fashions are prevalent; but they still preserve the pelisse, or large fur cloak, muff, fur boots or shoes, with a black velvet or fur cap, made large enough to cover the ears, to prevent the frost from nipping them.

The houses of the peasants are built with rough logs of wood; and in villages they have their ends, instead of their fronts, towards the road, or thoroughfare. The interior is in the most unfinished style, the interstices between the logs being simply stopped with flax, or moss, which hangs down in shreds and tatters. A large door leads to the yard. In the house is a kind of hall, with numerous conveniences for milk and other necessaries; and in the family room is an immense stove, built of tiles, which are always red hot, even

in the midst of the most sultry summer. Wooden benches are fixed all round the room, before which stands a table. In one corner is suspended the *obross*, or idol; and on a small shelf beneath is a lamp, which, in the houses of people of rank, is kept continually burning, but with the common people it is lighted only on holydays. In this one apartment, where dogs, cats, fowls, and pigeons, are collected, the whole family sleep, reclining on mats, straw, or sheepskins, and in the clothes they wear during the day.

A frequent use of the warm or vapor bath, is universal among the Russians, and the meanest hamlet is provided with a proper apartment, which is used once or twice a week by all its inhabitants, intermixed in one promiscuous and indecorous assemblage. In these baths they sustain a heat that, to all but Russians, would be nearly insupportable; and then they rush suddenly out, to plunge themselves in cold water, or to roll, stark naked, in the snow.

Singing and bell-ringing are favorite amusements with the Russians. Dancing, also, is never omitted by them, when they are inclined to be merry.

The Russians, in general, are fond of social amusements; and in Petersburg, the capital, no opportunity for feasting is suffered to pass unnoticed. Every occurrence, not excepting funerals, furnishes an occasion for domestic festivity.

The funeral ceremonies, especially in the distant provin-

ces, embrace some peculiar customs. Soon after a person expires, the body is dressed in his usual clothes, and laid in a coffin, with a luncheon of bread, a pair of shoes, and a few pieces of money; and a priest is hired to pray for the soul, to purify the body with incense, and to sprinkle it occasionally with holy water, till the time of interment. When it is carried to the grave, the priest produces a ticket, signed by the bishop and another clergyman, and directed to St. Nicholas: this is considered as the passport to heaven, and is placed between the fingers of the deceased. The body is then lowered into the grave, and the attendants return to the house whence the funeral proceeded, to drown their sorrow in intoxicating draughts.

The games of the common people are such as require only exertion and agility. Wrestling and boxing are common in all the streets; but as a diversion merely, seldom or never in anger, and practised, especially in the winter, for the purpose of keeping themselves warm. Chess and drafts, though more sedentary, are likewise very common.

The swing is used in all parts of Russia, at all seasons, and by persons of every description. Artificial ice-hills are also very common; down which the people glide in small sledges, and boys descend them upon skates, gliding chiefly upon one leg, the better to preserve their equipoise. A few miles from Petersburg, in the gardens of Oranienbaum, is the celebrated *Flying Mountain*, which consists of in-

clined planes, supported by brick walls, up and down which persons ascend and descend, in a small carriage, with great velocity.

SAMOÏEDES.

THESE people inhabit the northern parts of both European and Asiatic Russia. They bear a great resemblance to the Lapps, and have been supposed to spring from the same origin.

Though their country constitutes a portion of the Russian empire, the Samoïedes preserve the characteristic of a truly savage state, by having no chiefs or rulers; deference is shewn only to the heads of families.

The Samoïedes are low in stature, but strongly made, with disproportionately short legs and small feet. Their necks are very short, their heads large, faces flat, eyes black and tolerably open. Their hair is strong and black, hanging over their shoulders; but their beards are remarkably thin and weak. Their complexion is of a yellowish brown hue. The faculties of a Samoïde appear to be modified, if not formed, by his way of life. His eye is piercing, his hearing acute, and his hand steady. He shoots his arrow with precision to the mark, and is swift in seizing his prey. But his taste is gross, his smell weak, and his feeling torpid. He makes no use of the bath; and his strongest desire seems to be for tobacco and spirituous liquors.

The reindeer is the principal domestic animal among the Samoïedes; and, as with most other northern tribes whose wealth consists chiefly in this singular animal, the dress of both sexes is made of its skin, with the hair outwards.

The women are capable of enduring great fatigue; and assiduously bring up their children to the use of the bow, which they handle with great dexterity. They hunt with their husbands, and are equally expert in the use of their weapons. Besides what the reindeer furnishes, these people obtain from hunting and fishing a considerable portion of their food; and there is scarcely an animal taken in the chase that is not acceptable; even the carcasses of such as are found dead are not rejected.

The Samoïedes, like the Lapps, dwell in tents or in caverns, according to the season of the year. The scarcity of fuel and of moss for their reindeer, obliges them to live at a great distance from each other; so that more than two or three tents are rarely seen in one group. In summer, they prefer the vicinity of rivers, for the advantage of fishing; but so inveterate are their anti-social habits, that even there they keep at a distance from each other.

COSSACKS.

THE Cossacks, or Kaisacs, appear to have first emigrated from the region now called Circassia, and have been frequently augmented by refugees from other countries, who

were induced to settle among them by the freedom they enjoy. They inhabit extensive regions on both sides of the river Don, together with large districts on the eastern shores of the Sea of Azof, the Black Sea, and the Caspian, and even stretch eastward as far as the confines of Siberia.

The Cossacks are tall and well made; hardy, vigorous, brave, and extremely jealous of their liberty; fickle and wavering, yet cheerful, sociable, and sprightly. They are a very powerful people, and their forces consist wholly of cavalry. They profess themselves to be Christians of the Greek church, but still retain many pagan customs.

According to their different emigrations and settlements, the Cossacks are now distinguished by particular names; but their manners are nearly the same everywhere.

The Don Cossacks have several towns and villages upon the banks of the river from which they derive their title, as well as upon the streams with which the adjacent plains are watered; and these are fortified and encompassed with palisades, to defend them against the incursions of the Calmuc and Kuban Tartars, with whom they are almost always at war. Their chief support is derived from grazing and agriculture; and occasionally, say some travellers, by robbing and plundering.

The common dress of the Cossacks of Kasan consists of a blue jacket, edged with gold and lined with silk, fastened by hooks across the chest. Beneath the jacket appears a

silk waistcoat, the lower part of which is concealed by the sash. Large and long trowsers, either of the same material as the jacket, or of white dimity kept remarkably clean, are fastened high above the waist, and cover the boots. The sabre is not worn, except on horseback, on a journey, or in war. In its place is substituted a switch, or a cane with an ivory head. This every Cossack bears in his hand, as an appendage to his dress; being at all times prepared to mount his horse at a moment's notice. Their cap, or helmet, the most beautiful part of their costume, is becoming to every set of features, adds considerably to the height of the wearer, and gives, with the addition of whiskers, a military air to the most insignificant figure.

The Cossack female costume is singular; consisting of a silk tunic, with trowsers fastened by a girdle of solid silver, yellow boots, and, for young females, and Indian kerchief about the head; but married women wear their hair tucked under a cap, somewhat resembling the mitre of a Greek bishop, which is covered with pearls and gold, or adorned with flowers.

Many of the Cossack's apartments contain mahogany bookcases with glass doors, enclosing a small collection of books; and their cupboards are filled with plate and costly porcelain. Their dance somewhat resembles that of the Russian gypsies and our own English hornpipe; but in the

motion of the hands it approaches the dances of the Tartars and Chinese.

POLAND.

THIS country, once a potent state, is now dismembered; and the portion which is allowed to retain the title of a kingdom, is merely a Russian province. The Roman Catholic is the prevailing religion; but the Greek church has also its bishops and other establishments in Poland; and the people of all ranks are prone to superstition.

The Poles are in general of a middle stature; many of the superior classes are tall and graceful; but the peasants, who constitute more than the usual proportion of the population, are often low and stunted, apparently from their hard treatment and scanty fare. The countenance of the Pole is open and friendly. Men of all ranks wear large whiskers, and shave their heads, leaving only a single lock upon the crown, which gives them an Asiatic appearance. The Polish females of the higher ranks are celebrated for their beauty and graceful demeanour; their figures are generally elegant, complexions fair, and hair fine: in the common intercourse of society, they are lively and animated, but licentious in their morals.

The dress of the gentlemen consists of a waistcoat with sleeves, with an upper robe, of a different colour, which reaches below the knee, and is fastened round the waist