

contemplations, he cannot fail to infer, that Russia and England are peculiarly interested in each other's welfare and tranquillity.

A little to the east of the middle point between Vishney Volotchok and Novgorod is situated Valdai, taking its name from the hills which divide the waters of the Volga from those of the Neva. In the neighborhood of this town is a small lake containing an island, on which stands a monastery thus shut out by the waters from the pollutions of the world. Whether the inmates of this secluded establishment are wiser, or happier, or better, merely because they live in the centre of a pool, one may be permitted to doubt.

On the third morning after leaving Moscow, we breakfasted in Novgorod, one of the earliest seats of the Norman invaders of the country. This town presents numberless proofs of former greatness, ruined churches, deserted mansions in the most magnificent style of ancient architecture, and also a bazaar which, like the hose of the slippered Pantaloon, is a world too big for its diminished contents. This great mart between the east and the west had become so powerful as not only to deter the Tartars from attacking it, but also virtually to renounce the supremacy of the Russians. It received its first blow when subdued by the first czar in 1471, and its second, when almost destroyed by the desolating cruelties of his grandson in 1570. Still, so influential was its position against mere force, that Novgorod would soon have regained, if not its power, at least its wealth, had not its own weapons been turned against itself. In 1584, the erection of Archangel inflicted the third blow,—a blow which, ever since the opening of the White Sea, had been impending for more than thirty years; and, about a quarter of a century afterwards, the erection of Petersburg, by intercepting the trade which the more northerly post attempted only to divert, gave the finishing stroke to Novgorod the Great and all its glory.

Novgorod is now little more than a mere place of passage between the Volga and the Neva, standing, as it does, on the Volkhov, which empties Lake Ilmen into Lake Ladoga, and also on the canal of the same name, which has been constructed to avoid certain difficulties in the navigation of one of the Volkhov's tributaries. How different the destinies of Moscow and Novgorod under the ungenial influences of a city, which was intended to absorb all that was valuable in both. Against the emporium of commerce, Petersburg was completely successful, because she had nature's facilities and man's interests in her favor; against a metropolis consecrated in the hearts of the people alike by triumphs and by disasters, Petersburg was almost powerless, because she had to contend with the hereditary prejudices, both of patriotism and of religion.

Beyond Novgorod we passed a great number of very neat cottages, with gardens, belonging to "military settlers," a gentle name for a body of eighty or a hundred thousand men, ready to be called into active service at a week's notice.

About eight in the morning on the eighth of our English October, we drove into St. Petersburg, thus terminating our travels through the