

IV. The route *viâ* Japan :—

From the Bay St. Olga to Port of Hakodate, on the Japanese island Matsmai.

A submarine cable, of 600 wersts, or 350 miles, which, following up the line in the direction of the Curilian Islands as far as Port Petropavlovsk, in Kamtschatka, would form a length of 2,500 wersts, or 1,422 miles.

The different lengths of the line by these four routes, taking Habarovska on the Amoor as a central point, would be as follows :—

|                           | Aerial line. | Cable line. | Total miles. |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. <i>Viâ</i> Ochotsk,    | 1,272        | 1,186       | 2,458        |
| 2. <i>Viâ</i> Bolcherezk, | 622½         | 542½        | 1,171        |
| 3. <i>Viâ</i> Sachaline,  | 914          | 1,057       | 1,971        |
| 4. <i>Viâ</i> Japan,      | 402          | 1,428       | 1,830        |

It will be observed that the first three routes pass through Russian territory ; the last route from Hakodate, along the Curilian Islands, Matsmai, Kunaschir, and Urup, which being Japanese possessions, it would, in a political point of view, appear inconvenient, but, as regards commercial interests, it would prove advantageous, Hakodate being a port used by the whole European commerce.

The route *viâ* Bolcherezk being the shortest and most convenient, and the depth and peculiarity of the Sea of Ochotsk presenting no obstacle to laying a submarine cable, and passing through more inhabited countries, preference ought to be given to this route over the others, provided that no unforeseen impediment should present itself.

The route *viâ* Ochotsk being much longer, and therefore more expensive, besides leading towards the north, where an aerial line of 200 miles would have to be constructed