

and none but nobles can be owners of land. Their dress consists of a pelisse, or large fur cloak, fur boots or shoes, a black velvet or fur bonnet, which is made large enough to cover the ears. All classes let their beards grow. The Russian females seem to have no idea of taste in dress ; what they aim at is brilliancy of display. Their dresses are decorated with diamonds and precious stones the richness and splendour of which surpasses all description.

Women perform the field work, such as cutting down and threshing the grain, while the men are employed in building, making brick or in the army. Their villages resemble each other ; the houses are built of wood by laying beams one across the other, and the spaces are closed with flax and moss.

St. Petersburg, the capital of the Russian empire, is situated at the east extremity of Finland, and contains 285,000 inhabitants. It was founded by Peter the Great, from whom it takes its name. The streets are paved, and some of them over two miles in length, and perfectly straight. The houses are generally of brick and stuccoed so as to have the appearance of stone.