

to suffocate him; and even after his arms were seized and held, he still strove to tear him with his teeth. These were the only Muscovites who had waited our coming, and who seemed to have been left behind as a savage and barbarous token of the national hatred.

"It was easy to perceive, however, there was no unison in this patriotic fury. Five hundred recruits who had been forgotten in the Kremlin, beheld this scene without stirring. At the first summons they dispersed. Farther on we overtook a convoy of provisions, the escort of which immediately threw down their arms. Several thousand laggards and deserters from the enemy voluntarily remained in the power of the advanced guard. The latter left to the corps which followed the task of picking them up; and those to others and so on; hence they remained at liberty in the midst of us, till the conflagration and pillage of the City having reminded them of their duty, and rallied them all in one general feeling of antipathy, they went and rejoined Kutusof.

"Murat who had been stopped but a few moments by the Kremlin, dispersed this crew which he despised. Ardent and indefatigable as in Italy and Egypt, after a march of nine hundred leagues and sixty battles fought to reach Moscow, he traversed that proud City without deigning to halt in it, and pursuing the Russian rear-guard, he hastily and without hesitation, took the road for Voldimar and Asia.

"Napoleon did not enter Moscow till after dark. He stopped in one of the first houses of the Drogomilan suburb. There he appointed Marshal Mortier governor of that capital. "Above all" said he to him "no pillage! For this you shall be answerable to me with your life. Defend Moscow against all, whether friend or foe."

"That night was a gloomy one: sinister reports followed one upon the heels of another. Some Frenchmen resident in the country, and even a Russian Officer of Police, came to denounce the conflagration. He gave all the particulars of the preparations for it. The Emperor alarmed by these accounts, strove in vain to get some rest. He called every moment; and had the fatal tidings repeated to him. He nevertheless entrenched himself in his incredulity, till, about two in the morning, he was informed the fire had actually broken out.

"It was at the Exchange, in the centre of the City, in its richest quarter. He instantly issued orders upon orders. As soon as it was light he himself hastened to the spot and threatened the young guard and Mortier. The Marshal pointed out to him houses covered with iron; they were closely shut up, as yet untouched and uninjured without, and yet a black smoke was already issuing from them. Napoleon pensively entered the Kremlin.

"At the sight of this half gothic and half modern palace of the Ruricks and Romanoffs, of their throne still standing of the cross of the great Ivan, and of the finest part of the City, which is overlooked by the Kremlin, and which the flames as yet confined to the bazaar seemed disposed to spare, his former hopes revived. His ambition was flattered by this conquest. "At length then" he exclaimed "I am in Moscow in the ancient palace of the Czars in the Kremlin." He examined every part of it with pride, curiosity, and gratification.

"He required a statement of the resources afforded by the City; and in this brief moment given to hope, he sent proposals of peace to the