

producing the olive, fig, pomegranate and laurel, while the arbutus adorns the steepest cliffs with its red bark and foliage of perpetual green. In this natural orchard the vine also abounds, and the numerous flocks of sheep and goats (some of the Tartars have from 1000 to 50,000) bounding from rock to rock and feeding on the hills, joined to the simple manners and good humour of the Tartar inhabitants, render the scene most delightful.

In European Russia the forests are so numerous that it would be in vain to enumerate them. The elevated range of the Valday mountains may be looked upon as one continued one—that of Volkoskoi, on the road through them, from Petersburg to Moscow, is about 150 miles in length; it consists of oak, beech, mountain ash, poplar, pines and firs, mingled together in endless variety. There are others between Vlademir and Arzomas. Farther south, there seems to have been a forest of still greater extent, and probably, the Riphean forest of antiquity. The trees of most use and most abundant are the fir, the Scotch pine, the yew leaved fir and the larch, all of which growing together form these amazing forests, which supply the rest of Europe with masts, deals, pitch and tar; and it is from those forests, on the Valday chain towards the province of Smolensk, are brought the masts, &c. exported from Riga, and which are brought from the Dnieper to the Dwina, which approach each other very near between Smolensk and Polotski, and floated down the latter stream*.

The breed of horses in many parts of the Empire, are large, strong and beautiful. At Archangel are found small ponies like those of the North of Britain. The steeds of Lithuania are noted for strength, and those of Livonia for speed. The spirit and beauty of the Tartarian horse is well known, and these have been much improved by the introduction of the Turkish and Arabian breed.

Even the country about Archangel, in the lat. of 65°, is famous for excellent pasturage, and fine cattle; but the summer is very short, and the winter severe.

* For several observations in the two last pages, I am indebted to that valuable system of Geography, by Mr. Pinkerton.