

which he studied practically, with the view of immediately introducing these branches of industry into his own dominions. '*Was is dat? Dat wil ik zien,*' was his eternal exclamation to the quiet Hollanders, who looked with profound astonishment at this boisterous prince, in carpenter's disguise, flying round like a harlequin with a restless activity of body and mind which seemed incomprehensible. He devoured every possible morsel of knowledge with unexampled voracity. Having spent about nine months in the Netherlands, he left that country for England. His purpose in visiting England was principally to examine her navy-yards dock-yards, and maritime establishments, and to acquire some practical knowledge of English naval architecture."

"He shunned the public gaze," says Macaulay, "with a haughty shyness which inflamed curiosity. He was desirous to see a sitting of the House of Lords; but, as he was determined not to be seen, he was forced to climb up to the leads, and to peep through a small window.

"The Czar could not be persuaded to exhibit himself at St. Paul's; but he was induced to visit Lambeth Palace. Nothing in England astonished him so much as the archiepiscopal library. It was the first good collection of books that he had seen; and he declared that he had never imagined that there were so many printed volumes in the world.

"The impression which he made on Burnet was not favourable. The good bishop could not understand that a mind which seemed to be chiefly occupied with questions about the best place for a capstan and the best way of rigging a jury-mast might be capable, not merely of ruling an empire, but of creating a nation. He complained that he had gone to see a great prince, and had found only an industrious shipwright. Nor does Evelyn seem to have formed a much more favourable opinion of his august tenant. It was, indeed, not in the character of tenant that the Czar was likely to gain the good word of civilized men. With all the high qualities which were peculiar to himself, he had all the filthy habits which were then common among his countrymen. To the end of his life, while disciplining armies, founding schools, framing codes, organizing tribunals, building cities in deserts, joining distant seas by artificial rivers, he lived in his palace like a hog in a sty; and, when he was entertained by other sovereigns, never failed to leave on their tapestried