

power of schamanary. This unpleasant intelligence had such an effect on the imagination of the thief, that he actually conceived that his stick did increase in length, and thought to relieve himself from this dilemma by breaking a piece off. The next morning, every Kamtschadale carrying back his stick, the thief was instantly discovered. He was now obliged to confess the theft, and make restoration. His apology was, that all his own tobacco being gone, he had no money to buy more, and could not dispense with this necessary. Tobacco was remarkably dear at that time in Kamtschatka, a single pound costing a hundred rubles; and yet the inhabitants of this place sacrificed every thing to the indulgence of their passion for this intoxicating herb. Its ordinary price on a fresh supply is only two rubles and a half.

Tobacco is one of the most lucrative branches of trade in these parts, and always finds a ready sale; for there is not a tribe or nation having any intercourse with the Russians, which does not smoke, chew, and take snuff. The Burats, Jakuts, Koraks, Jakugirens, and Tschukschens, like the strong Tscherkapian tobacco, and are not fond of that which grows in the country of Irkutsk. They smoke it with a mixture of half saw-dust; but the Kamtschadales and Aleutians only chew tobacco and take snuff.

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## CHAP. XI.

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WINTER OCCUPATION ON BOARD THE SHIP.—TREM-  
BLINGS OF THE EARTH, AND ERUPTION OF THE KULT-  
SCHEWISH CRATER.—SCURVY AMONG THE MEN.—  
EQUIPMENT OF THE VESSEL.—DESCRIPTION OF THE  
BAY AWATSKA.—HINTS ON THE FACILITY OF ESTA-  
BLISHING A TRADE FROM KAMTSCHATKA TO THE  
EAST INDIES.

THE winter afforded us a good opportunity for completing what had remained unfinished at Ochotsk. We built another cutter with six oars of alder-wood, fetched from the banks of the Paratunka, at thirty versts distance. We had, indeed, birch-wood in the vicinity of the harbour, which served for many useful purposes, but was not close enough for vessels of any magnitude. For shallops and other small craft, however, this wood is in general use here, and always found to answer. The double-built shallop of Kamtschatkish birch, which was used on the first expedition, not only lasted the time required, but was afterwards employed as a victualling barge from Ochotsk to Kamtschatka. Judging from the richness of the soil, I should be inclined to think, that oaks might be introduced here by acorns, and would thrive remarkably well.

On the 25th of February, we observed an evident agitation of the earth, which is very frequent and strong, owing to its