

1823. route of Cuxhaven, Berlin, and Riga, and his  
——— journals bear witness to the powers of observation and judgment already exercised by him on the countries through which he travelled, and especially on their commercial resources. On the 4th of May he reached St. Petersburg.

Here he remained for nearly two years, making the most of his time and the opportunities afforded by his admission to the best society of that capital, in which he was a general favourite, and especially among the diplomatic body. Nor did he neglect the study of books, and his anxiety to store up knowledge appears from entries in his journal of this period, in which he occasionally records as a "lost day," one in which he had been able to add nothing to his previous acquirements.

In the winter of 1822 and spring of 1823, he took a journey to Moscow, and thence through the centre of Russia by Kieff and Orel, making a tour of visits to the country-houses of several of the Russian nobility. And on the 1st of August of the latter year he quitted Petersburg for the last time, on a journey through the eastern and southern provinces of Russia, especially with the view of being present at the great fair of Nishni-Novogorod, which takes place early in that month, and is the principal mart for exchange of the products of Europe and Asia.

From Nishni he embarked on the Wolga for Astrachan, and descended the whole course of that enormous river, stopping at times to visit several