

From the latitude of 58° the climate of Russia is excessively severe. About Petersburg, the snow commences in the latter end of September and continues till May, during which time the frost is most intense. Only two months in the year are reckoned to be completely free from snow. At Ostiong, in the Government of Vologda, situate in 61° , the cold is so great, that on the 4th November, 1786, the quicksilver froze in the open air in a cold of $30\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ of Reaumer. On the 7th of December, it fell even to 60° , the quicksilver freezing to a solid mass, on which several strokes of a hammer were struck before any part fell off. On an average of 10 years, according to an accurate account kept by the Academy of Sciences at Petersburg, there are during the year, 97 bright days, 93 cloudy, 96 rainy, and 79 snowy. The ground is frozen during winter to the depth of 2 and 21 feet, and the ice upon the Neva is often 36 inches thick; the number of frosty days is reckoned from 150 to 190.

The middle regions of this vast Empire from the latitude of 58° to 50° , enjoy the mild climate of England and Germany; while Taurida and other southern parts from lat. 50° to 43° are blessed with all the warmth and luxuriance of the southern climate.

The grand population of Russia is Slavonic. The Slavons form an extensive original race of mankind, radically distinct from the Goths on the one hand, who, as possessing the countries more to the west, must have preceded the Slavons in their passage from Asia into Europe, and equally distinguishable in language, person, and manners from the Tartars, and other nations on the east. They are the Sarmatæ of the ancients, and were ever remarkable for their personal elegance and strength.

The soil is of course extremely diverse, from the chilling marshes which border the White and Frozen Seas, to the rich and fertile plains on the Volga. The most fertile is that between the Don and the Volga, from Voronetz to Sinbersk, consisting of a black mould strongly impregnated with saltpetre, that is, a soil formed from successive layers of vegetable remains. The great extent of arable land might be much ex-