

Kunaschier, Tschikotan and Eetooroop (Turpu). To the south of Nippon, lie the two considerable Islands of Kiosu and Sikoufu. The length of the first is above 300 wersts; and that of the second, 200. Besides these eight principal Islands, the Japanese possess many others of inferior consequence.

The Japanese possessions, surrounded by the Eastern ocean, lie opposite to the coasts of Corea, China and Tartary, from which they are separated by a broad strait, which is called the Japan sea, and in the narrowest parts, the straits of Corea. The least breadth of this strait, between the southern coast of Nippon and Corea, is 140 wersts: but the greatest breadth is above 800 wersts.

On a comparison of the geographical situation of the Japanese possessions, with that of the countries of the western hemisphere, under the same degrees of latitude, it might be imagined that the climate, the changes of the seasons, and the atmosphere were alike in both; but such a conclusion would be very erroneous.* The difference of the

* Charlevoix states, that the Japanese are much prejudiced in favor of their own climate, and acknowledges that it must be very healthy, since the people are long-lived, the women very prolific, and diseases very uncommon. We know not what dependence to place upon Kœmpfer's wonderful story of a village upon the side of a mountain, all the inhabitants of which were