

industry were directed unceasingly to one object, and that was the improvement of his country; and the rule of Alexander, notwithstanding the adverse influence of events, rapidly changed the aspect of the Empire. Since his accession to the Imperial Crown, the increase of the Russian navy, and the improvement of the character of the service, were darling objects of the Emperor, and to the attainment of these, Krusenstern contributed no small nor inconsiderable assistance. Alexander was not without the distinguishing characteristic of his race, and events in the latter portion of his reign gave him facilities in fostering his ambition, which, before the close of his rule, greatly increased his popularity. At home, the success of Russian arms made him popular among the nobles, who had become discontented on account of his protracted absence; and abroad, he had, by the favourable impression he had made by his character, and the results he had attained by his arms, placed himself in a position in which he could pursue his measures for maintaining the foreign influence which he had acquired, whilst he lost no opportunity in prosecuting his darling policy, to push the boundaries of Russia