

EXPORTATION of RHUBARB

from St. PETERSBURGH.

In 1777, 29 poods 13 pounds } at 76½ Dutch * dollars, or 91 roubles, 30 co-
 } pecks, per pood.

In 1778, 23 poods 7 pounds, at 80 ditto, or 96 roubles.

In 1779, 1055 poods were brought by the Bucharian merchants to Kiakta; of which 680 poods 19 pounds were selected. The interior consumption of the whole empire of Russia for 1777 amounted to only 6 poods 5 pounds †.

The superiority of this Tartarian rhubarb over that procured from Canton arises probably from the following circumstances. 1. The southern parts of China are not so proper for the growth of this plant, as the mountains of Little Bucharina. 2. There is not so scrupulous an examination in receiving it from the Chinese at Canton, as from the Bucharians at Kiakta. For the merchants, who purchase this drug at Canton, are obliged to take it in the gross without separating the bad roots, and cutting away the decayed parts, as is done at Kiakta. 3. Probably also the long transport of this drug by sea is detrimental from the humidity which it contracts during a long voyage.

* If we reckon a Dutch dollar, on an average, to be worth 1 rouble 20 copees.

† This calculation comprehends only the rhubarb purchased at the different magazines belonging to the College of Commerce; for what was procured by contraband trade is of course not included.

F I N I S.