

*R. Palmatum*, *R. Rhaponticum*, and *R. Rhabarbarum*, when found in a drier and milder alpine climate, and in proper situations, are indiscriminately drawn up, whenever the size of the plant seems to promise a fine root. Perhaps the remarkable difference of the rhubarb, imported to Kiakta, is occasioned by this indiscriminate method of collecting them. It is certain that these plants grow wild on the mountains, without the least cultivation; and those are esteemed the best which are found near the Koko-Nor, and about the sources of the river Koango.

Formerly the exportation of rhubarb from Russia was confined to the crown. This monopoly, however, was abolished by Catherine the second, and a free exportation from St. Peterburgh granted to all persons on paying the duty. It is sold, in the first instance, by the College of Commerce, for the profit of the Sovereign; and is preserved in their magazines at St. Peterburgh. The current price is settled every year by the College of Commerce.

It is received from the Bucharian merchants at Kiakta in exchange for furs; and the prime cost is rated at 16 roubles per pood. By adding the pay of the commissioners who purchase it, and of the examining apothecary, and allowing for other necessary expences, the value of a pood at Kiakta amounts to 25 roubles: add to this the carriage from the frontiers to St. Peterburgh, and it is calculated that the price of a pood stands the crown at 30 roubles. The largest was made in the year 1765, when 1350 pood were exported, at 65 roubles per pood.