

trousers tucked into high Wellingtons, Russian fashion. A low-crowned broad-brimmed hat, or a black cloth cap edged with fur, completes the costume. The women very generally dress in black, with a grey scarf or kerchief on the neck; the gown, of ordinary make, is of rags or satin, as may happen; their head-dress has a high front, divided in the centre above the forehead, and covered with black velvet; it is usually ornamented with gold, jewels, and quantities of seed or other pearls. Many of these tiaras are of great value, and descend as heirlooms in their respective families.

MOSCOW.

The view from the belfry of the tower of Ivan Veliki is perhaps the most interesting "sight" in this grand city:—

Clustered round the base of the Velki are the numerous gilt domes of the churches within the Kremlin, and those of the ancient and peculiar building called the Tower of the Kremlin. Amongst these are grouped the Treasury, the Bishop's Palace, and many other modern edifices, strangely out of keeping with the eastern architecture of the place. These are all enclosed by the old walls, towers, and bastions of the fortress. Close to the Holy Gate, the green and white towers of which are surmounted by golden eagles, is the Cathedral of St. Basil, grotesque in form and colour; and, winding under the terrace of the Kremlin gardens, is the Moskwa, the silvery though narrow line of which may be traced far into the country. Round this brilliant centre stretches on every side the city and its suburbs, radiant in all the colours of the rainbow, which are used in the decoration of the roofs and walls of the churches and houses; the effect of this mosaic is heightened by the foliage of the trees, which grow in many parts of the town as well as on the banks of the river.

The Greek façade of the Foundling Hospital attracts attention from its immense length, and the style of its architecture, in such striking contrast with that of the town generally. The old monasteries, with their bright blue domes, *remé* with golden stars, and minarets gilt or coloured, particularly of the Seminoff and Donskoi, surrounded by groves of trees, lie scattered on the skirts of the town. Beyond these are the Sparrow Hills, from which Napoleon pushed ere he descended to take possession of the deserted city. No view of any capital in Europe can be compared with that of Moscow from this tower, except that of Constantinople from the Galata or Seraskier's; which, however, surpasses it in beauty, for the horizon here is one unbroken line of dreary steppe, while at Stamboul the distance is formed by the sea of Marmora, and the snowy summits of Olympus.

ST. PETERSBURG.

St. Petersburg, from the regularity and unusually large scale of its streets and squares, the splendid barracks and quays, churches, palaces, and public offices, must be allowed to be a city of extreme magnificence, though Moscow far exceeds it in picturesque beauty. The low and swampy level that it stands on certainly gives ample room to lay out a city of any extent, but there is nothing to give it an interest. From the top of the Isaac church the traveller will see, at one *coup d'œil*, not only the remote corners of the suburbs, but the country for many miles, till the horizon is closed by the rocky shores of Finland on the one side, and loses itself in marsh and low forests on the other. The

course of the Neva, with Peterhoff, Sarsko-Selo, and a few other villages, breaking the middle distance, and Cronstadt, with its fleet and fortifications, that of the gulf. The Admiralty is one of the most striking of the public buildings; the spire is gilt, and out of character with the design, which is intended to be Grecian.

Though magnificent, St. Petersburg is not pleasing, there is an everlasting sameness about it; and the houses are so whitewashed, that it all looks unpleasantly new. No one is allowed to wash or colour the front of his house as he pleases; the government saves him the trouble of deciding upon the particular shade, or any anxiety as to the period at which it shall be done.

COFFEE vs. LIQUOR.—The substitution in Great Britain of coffee for beer and spirits, has increased its consumption to such an extent as to call the attention of the government to the propriety of reducing the duties on the importation of it, as one of the most efficient means of moral reform among the people. The examination before a parliamentary committee, of several keepers of modern Coffee Houses in London, gives a curious and interesting view of the progress of Coffee drinking. It seems that there were not over ten or twelve of these coffee houses in London 25 years ago; now they number 1700, and they are increasing at the rate of 100 a year. The price per cup of coffee is from 1d to 3d, and one keeper who charges 1 1-2d per cup, testifies that he has from 1500 to 1800 persons daily at his house. The consumption of coffee by the laboring classes in London, is shown by the examination of another witness—the proprietor of an extensive coffee house. The laboring man comes in the morning at 4 o'clock and has a cup of coffee and a slice of bread and butter, for which he gives 1 1-2d; and again at 8, for his breakfast he has a cup of coffee, a penny loaf, and a penny worth of butter, which is 3d; at 1, he comes again, has his coffee, his bread and meat; at this hour of the day, there are upwards of 100 dining in one room at a time. These coffee houses are now generally resorted to by all classes, and it has become fashionable and customary, to drink coffee and ask a friend to partake, instead of using spirituous liquors. The duties on coffee in England are very high, the duty on colonial coffee being about 12-1-2 cents per lb., and on foreign coffee almost 30 cents. Even at these high duties a cup of coffee is sold at 4 cents, and the consumption is twenty-five million pounds annually. It is supposed that with a moderate rate of duties, the consumption would be increased to one hundred millions of pounds.

In Ireland the reformation has been still more extraordinary; through the exertions of Father Matthew, the great Temperance Reformer, millions have taken the pledge of total abstinence, and those reformed drinkers are aided in their resolutions, by the use of coffee instead of whiskey. In the districts of Ireland, under the influence of Father Matthew, in all the public houses, coffee is sold instead of whiskey.

ATROCITY.—The *Times* Correspondent gives the following version:—It appears that a gentleman of large fortune, and well known here for the splendour of his style of living, lately invited a party of kindred spirits to his mansion at Phillipstown, to pass the Christmas, and numberless