

happiness of enjoying an uninterrupted communication with Krusenstern, he does not recollect that either the subject of war, or any political topic, was ever alluded to. His desire to aggrandize his country, which he naturally loved, was by elevating her moral character among nations, and of extending her influence by the legitimate means of science, especially by the steady pursuit of geographical enterprise. Krusenstern lived during a remarkable period of Russian progress. He had been the witness of a series of brilliant and unparalleled improvements. The mighty impulse communicated to Russia by the Great Peter, had not been exhausted in the succeeding reigns, and a general spirit of amelioration animated Europe, and reaching Russia, had directed the ambition of her sovereigns in a path which naturally led to remote advantages to the people, and slowly, but certainly tended to precipitate the civilization of the country. In the century which gave birth to Krusenstern, Russia was still covered with hordes of barbarians,—passions and vices which debase the human race, and arrest its aspirations to the high vocation which, under favourable circumstances, it fulfils, were the common