

Russian Empire, about five-and-twenty weeks after our arrival at Sitka from the Sandwich Islands. The distance from Ochotsk to Petersburg, including stoppages, had occupied ninety-one days, during which time we had traversed about seven thousand miles. From Irkutsk the journey had occupied forty-one days, the nights being passed as follows:

In the carriage,	36 nights,
At Tomsk, on a sofa,	1 "
At Ekaterineburg, on the floor,	2 "
At Kazan, on a sofa,	1 "
At Moscow, in a bed,	1 "
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Mrs. Wilson's excellent house being full, we fixed our abode at Miss Dee's, where I at once took to my bed in consequence of a most severe and obstinate cold; so that, to my great regret, I was unable to partake of the proffered hospitalities of any of my friends. Of St. Petersburg, of course, I saw nothing; nor did I particularly regret this, inasmuch as I had seen the city before.

The uppermost thought, I believe, in the mind of every person who visits this magnificent creation, is admiration of the genius, energy and perseverance of its founder. This admiration, moreover, is vastly enhanced by recollecting that the site for the new capital of the monarchy was selected within the recently conquered dominions of a rival, who had hitherto defeated every enemy, Russian, or Saxon, or Dane, or Pole, in every field. If the Romans have commanded the applause of posterity by selling and buying at full value the very ground, on which Hannibal, within sight of their walls, had pitched his camp after the battle of Cannæ, how much more is Peter the Great worthy of renown for having confidently committed both the honor and the wealth of his empire to the territories of the irresistible hero of Narva. But, in the estimation of this the greatest of the czars, the case was the same with Russia, as with Moscow. She was to draw victory from defeat, and triumph from humiliation. She was to be taught by the Swedes to beat Sweden. The Normans of Russia were to shake off the rust, which they had gathered through the admixture of inferior races, under the discipline of the unadulterated Normans of Scandinavia. In illustration of the often repeated view, to which I have just alluded, may be stated the admitted fact, that the three branches of the northern line of modern times, the English, the Swedes, and the Russians, excel all other nations in the grand element of military efficiency, a patient and stable infantry.

After having so frequently referred to the providential mission of the Norman race, I ought, perhaps, to mention that I altogether disclaim any and every idea of wanton aggression. The genius and benevolence of the present emperor will find congenial and profitable occupation in prosecuting his enlightened views for ameliorating the