

the equator. At the period of the first Kamtschatkish expedition, about 50 years ago, some horned cattle were transported hither, which we might suppose would have considerably multiplied with proper care. It is impossible to find a place more fitted for breeding cattle than Kamtschatka. It has a number of enclosures, particularly in the vicinity of Petropaulowsk, by the rivers Awatska and Paratunka, which yield an excellent pasture of tall and nutritious grass, well calculated to give the flesh a delicious flavour.

On the approach of winter, the inhabitants are busied with putting their sledges in order, and tying up their dogs, to fit them for drawing, as they are in fine weather allowed to run loose. Sledges and dogs are in general use here, both for travelling and conveyance. Mr. Hall, and I also, furnished ourselves with one, taking at first only small journeys with three dogs; but growing bolder afterwards, as our skill increased, we ventured with five dogs over the mountains, to the dwelling-place of Paratunka, 25 versts distant from Petropaulowsk.

The sledges here differ very considerably from those of Ochotsk, being shorter, smaller, lighter, and much higher. They will scarcely hold two, and are very unsteady on account of their monstrous height. In descending any hill, the utmost care and dexterity is requisite, to keep the feet and the oschtol in the proper direction; for the smallest oversight of this kind may cost a person his life, as has been the case with even experienced drivers, who have been dashed to pieces against the trees lying in the way.

The management of the dogs is no less difficult and dangerous here than at Ochotsk; for they are equally apt to become ungovernable on the scent of any animal. In order to stop them, they drive the oschtol between the front sledge of the conveyance as far into the snow as possible, and always keep the two fore dogs in a tight rein, that none may be able to run away. When the declivity of any mountain is unusually steep and dangerous, they bind birch-twigs round the bottom of the sledge, to impede its course. The cry of ko ko ko stops the dogs; aach aach drives them on; chna chna chna, turns them to the right; and uga uga uga, to the left. Hunters do not make use of these words, for fear of frightening their game, but strike gently with the oschtol on the right side of the sledge, when they should turn to the right, and bend them down to the snow to the left, when they should go to the left. Besides the danger in this mode of travelling, it is attended with many inconveniencies. You must never let your dogs go loose. If ever you are overturned, you must rather be dragged along in the snow than leave your hold, for it is a great disgrace to lose your