

growth has been that of a giant. Starting into barbarous existence in the cold and barren regions of the north, it has lengthened its cords and strengthened its stakes through its rude and unscrupulous native vigor — trampling down ancient kingdoms in its way, and subduing the tribes and peoples around it, — until it has become a just object of suspicion and cause of alarm, both to the European and Asiatic powers. Take down the map of Europe, and there you see more than a third, almost one half, of its territorial surface taken up by Russia. You see Russia [stretching west to east, from the shores of the Baltic to the borders of Asia, and north and south, from the Arctic to the Euxine. Take down the map of Asia, and there you see how this vast empire covers the whole northern portion of the chart — crossing the Don and the Volga, and laying claim to the shores of the Caspian — passing over the Ural Mountains, and sweeping clear away to the North Pacific Ocean. Take down the map of America, and you will see that Behring's Strait has not arrested this formidable march. Russia is continued still, until stopped by a British frontier, where the long wall of the Rocky Mountains strikes the shore of the Arctic Ocean. Measured from west to east, then, on the map of the globe, this colossal empire extends from the Baltic waters in Europe, almost to the Rocky Mountains in America, while from north to south it reaches from the Arctic to the waters of the Black Sea and the Caspian, and to the mountains of the Chinese empire.

Here is a compact extent of territory, under the absolute control of one governing head, which is without any parallel in the world. Of course a large proportion of it is mere barren waste, but still the empire contains an im-