

may be said every
with it a mist,
pt a storm. These
ut and terrible.
ut produces them
ch; the vapours,
atmosphere, collect
and the sides and
Caucasians, warned
prepare for the ex-
long experience,
rap themselves in
made of wool and
roof), and under a
ly for such emer-
rock or tree, await-
ing of the tempest.
Sometimes, how-
tree destroys those
out these accidents
not often that the
of their felt tents,
angers unprovided
these storms, the
fatal. One or, at
a varying influence
the Russian soldier
with a con-
n. The uncertain
of the atmosphere
unhealthy to stran-
d flat towards the
vers of a very grave
ngly obstatine; and
is also very com-
nt connected with
e Herodotus, Clio,
a varying humidity,
wise to impress the
ces; observations of
the boiling point of
results at different
the extent of hori-
ite startling. The
from the summit
; and the Snowy
e Wolga, a length
roth, p. 158.) The
exclusive of refrac-
about 94° m., in
amount of refrac-
than 1°, and nearly
ary states of the
ing only 33', the
as a variable den-
truly surprising.
said, in the tradi-
caused by earth-
enticated records of
t, i. 217-432; Pal-
melin, iii. pass.;
33, &c.; Charlin,
125, *et seq.*, 320,
eith, G. J., iii. 31,
Except in its de-
as many points of
others, an appa-
s. It is true that
may be apparent-
ly believed these
ecious metals, but
other districts that
; and the limited
in modern times
A yellow mine-
ound, which may,

perhaps, have occasioned the stories as to the gold mines of the Caucasus; but it is perfectly worthless. Iron, copper, saltpetre, sulphur, and lead, are found, the last in tolerably large quantities. Salt is almost wholly wanting, and of gems there does not appear to be any vestige. Indications of coal have lately been discovered; and, from the enormous quantity of lime deposits, it is likely that marbles may be found. (Pallas, i. 429; Guldenstadt, i. 441, 456; Klaproth, p. 391; Spencer, W. Cauc., i. 331.)

2. *Vegetables.*—In amount and variety of vegetation, the Caucasian regions seem to be unrivalled. Charlin, writing in 1692, says, 'Mount Caucasus, till ye come to the very top of it, is extremely fruitful'; and Spencer, in 1838, says, 'However high the ascent, we see luxuriant vegetation, mingling even with the snow of centuries.' Nearly every tree, shrub, fruit, grain, and flower, found from the limit of the temperate zone to the pole, is native to or may be raised in the Caucasus. The N. bases consist of arable land of an excellent quality, meadows of the finest grass, and dwarf wood in great abundance. At a very little distance the increase of wood indicates a higher and colder country, but the plants which delight in a warm situation still continue to be very numerous. From the more rapid rise of the ground, bare rocks are more numerous on the N. than on the S., but every shelf, however limited, is marked by a rich vegetation to a height almost inconceivable. The S. slopes and table-lands are still more abundant and varied in their productions than those on the N.; to say nothing of the swampy shores of the Euxine and Caspian, which are, in most cases, nearly impenetrable jungles of the rankest and most varied vegetation. The rising country consists of a succession of small flats, each covered with a most productive earth. The mountain sides and higher plains are clothed with dense forests, and the rivers are frequently unapproachable for a great distance. The forest trees consist of oaks of every species, cedars, cypresses, beeches, savins, junipers, hazels, fir, boxes, pines, alders, and a host of others. Among the standard fruits are found the date palm, the jujube, quince, cherry, olive, wild apricot, and willow-leaved pear. Pomegranates, figs, and mulberries grow wild in all the warmer valleys; and vines twine round the standard trees to a very great elevation up the mountains. A hard-wood tree, called by the natives *outchelia*, is apparently peculiar; it is of a deep rose colour, very closely grained, and susceptible of an extremely high polish. In addition to the vine, the other climbing plants are innumerable, which mixing with the standards, the bramble fruits, such as raspberries and blackberries, and other dwarf woods, form a density of vegetation which it is impossible to penetrate, unless a passage be hewn with the hatchet. Rye, barley, oats, wheat, and millet are abundantly raised, even as high as 7,500 ft. above the sea; and besides these grains, the warmer plains and valleys produce flowers of every scent and dye, cotton, rice, flax, hemp, tobacco, and indigo, with every variety of cucumber and melon. This list is of necessity very imperfect, as will be evident when it is stated that Guldenstadt has filled eighteen quarto pages with the mere names of the various plants seen by him on the banks of the Terek and in Georgia. (i. 188-197, 418-430.) It may serve, however, to exhibit the vegetable riches of a region which seems to produce everything necessary for the existence, and, with the exception of salt, even for the luxurious accommodation of man. (Guldenstadt, as above, *et pass.*; Gmelin, iii. 22-58, *et pass.*; Pallas, i. 340, 357,

364, 368, 379, &c.; Klaproth, pp. 167, 309, 391, &c.; Spencer, Circassia, i. 317, 330, ii. 293, 318, 357, &c.; W. Cauc., i. 29, 188-195, 216, &c.; Monteith, G. J., iii. 31-35.)

3. *Animals.*—Animal life in the Caucasus is on a scale of magnitude and variety equal to its vegetation. Wolves, bears, lynxes, jackals, foxes, wild cats, a peculiar beast of prey called *chima*, together with many varieties of deer, wander in the forests and on the sides of the mountains. The smaller fur-bearing tribes are also common, as weasels, polecats, ermines, and moles of many varieties. Hares and every other species of game abound, with chamois and goats, of which the Caucasian goat (*Capra Caucasica*) seems peculiar. Sheep with peculiarly long wool are numerous; and it is even doubtful if, among the mountains, this creature be not yet living in a state of nature. This also is one of the homes of wild cattle; the largest species (the aurochs) being found in its forests; while of the domesticated kinds the varieties are numerous and serviceable. The horses of the Caucasus have been famous from a very high antiquity, the Bechtag Mountain having formerly been called Hippicon (*Tricavor*), from the number of these animals which were grazed upon its sides. (Ptolemy, v. 9.) They are not less numerous in the present day, and are among the very finest varieties of the species. Of birds there are pheasants, partridges, grouse, and the whole tribe of mountain game, a great variety of the crow kind, nearly every species of birds of prey and passage, and some of the best specimens of the domestic varieties. Among insects, the bee and silkworm claim pre-eminence; they are both numerous, and their productions, particularly the honey, formed a considerable branch of trade with Turkey, till the power of Russia sealed the ports of the Black Sea. Other insects are equally numerous, as are also the reptile tribes, among which are some fine species of tortoises and snakes, both harmless and venomous. (Guldenstadt, i. 418, *et passim*; Gmelin, iii. 58, *et passim*; Pallas, i. 341, 410, &c.; Klaproth, p. 344, &c.; Spencer, *passim*.)

Inhabitants.—There is probably no other part of the world, except Africa, S. of the Sahara, where so many nations and languages are collected within so small a space as in the Caucasus. Guldenstadt gives a list of seven different nations, besides Tartars, who speak languages radically different, and who are again subdivided into almost innumerable tribes, among whom the varieties of dialects are nearly infinite. The principal nations he thus enumerates:—1. Georgians; 2. Basians; 3. Abchassians; 4. Tcherkessians; 5. Okesians; 6. Kistiens; 7. Lesghians; 8. Tartars. (Reise, i. 458-495.) Of these the most numerous and important are the Georgians and Circassians or Tcherkessians; but the Abchassians and Okesians, called by Pallas and Klaproth Abassians and Osetians, are also powerful tribes. In habits and manners a strong resemblance is observed among them all; they are usually wandering hunters and warriors, for which occupations their country is peculiarly fitted, and only in an inferior degree shepherds or agriculturists. A partial exception must, however, be made to this general character in favour of the Georgians, who reside in towns, and have long possessed a fixed form of government and internal polity; but, for the rest, they appear to possess the erratic disposition, reckless courage, boundless hospitality, and much of the predatory habits which mark the Arab and other half-barbarous people. (See CIRCASSIA, GEORGIA, &c.) It is well known that Blumenbach looked here for the origin of his first and most intellectual