A PEDESTRIAN JOURNEY THROUGH RUSSIA AND SIBERIAN TARTARY, TO THE FRONTIERS OF CHINA, THE FROZEN SEA, AND KAMTCHATKA

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A pedestrian journey through Russia and Siberian Tartary, to the frontiers of China, the Frozen Sea, and Kamtchatka by John Dundas Cochrane

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JOHN DUNDAS COCHRANE

A PEDESTRIAN JOURNEY THROUGH RUSSIA AND SIBERIAN TARTARY, TO THE FRONTIERS OF CHINA, THE FROZEN SEA, AND KAMTCHATKA



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JOURNEY

THROUGH

RUSSIA AND SIBERIAN TARTARY.

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JOURNEY

THROUGH

RUSSIA AND SIBERIAN TARTARY.

CHAPTER I.

Departure from St Peter and St Paul's—Avatcha—Koraki
—Nachickin—Apatchinsk—Bolcheretzk—Utka Ostrog
—Kolpakofskoi—Itchinsk—Kavaranskoi—Napanas—
Tygil—Sedanka—Yelof ka—Khartchina—Kamennoy
Ostrog—Kamakic—Nishney Kamtchatsk—Cliutchie—
Krestova Ostrog—Kozerofsky—Massurah—Kirgannick
—Milkova—Verchney Kamtchatsk—Stchegatchik—
Sherom—Puschien—Ganal—Malak—Return to St Peter and St Paul's.

All being prepared for me, I quitted the port of St Peter and St Paul's, accompanied by seventeen nartes, driven by the officers and principal inhabitants, and for two miles by the ladies, one of them, at parting, imprinting upon me a kiss, which was

> Speaking silence, dumb confession, Passion's birth, and infant's play, Dove-like fondness, chaste concession, Glowing dawn of brighter day!

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It was not long before I reached Avatcha, where I found all the officers awaiting me, with tea and other refreshments. The distance we had come is eight miles, along the beach, and over a few little hillocks covered with some stunted birch. At eight in the evening of the 20th November, O. S. I proceeded upon my journey, with a Cossack and four nartes; not that such a number was necessary to stow away my baggage, for it would not even fill the portmanteau of Sterne's Sentimental Traveller, although my pantaloons were of leather, while his were of silk, and consequently more easy to be stowed away.

From Avatcha the path lies along the river of its own name, which impeded our progress, and was otherwise unpleasant, as wetting me a good deal. The scenery was very dull, and I was so absorbed in contemplation, that I could hardly see the right side of any thing. At midnight I reached the ostrog of Koraki, forty miles from the port, where are a few fishing hamlets in tolerable condition. At one of them I fell in with an old shipmate, who had come in the same transport from Okotsk. He had departed from the port three days before me, but a too frequent use of brandy had induced the Kamtchatdales to deny him dogs, in hopes of getting a portion of it.

The Cossack did not arrive at the halting place until eight in the morning, and then in such a state as to render him a fit companion for my old shipmate. By noon, however, I got away, and proceeded towards Nachiekin, thirty miles. The country was so deep in snow, that it was midnight before we arrived. We passed numerous half-frozen streams, the dogs suffering a good deal, and whenever I walked to relieve them, I was sure of ha-