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R U S S I A.

$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Length} \\ \text{Breadth} \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{miles.} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{between } 44^{\circ} 40' \text{ and } 72^{\circ} \text{ No. Latitude.} \\ 23^{\circ} \text{ and } 62^{\circ} \text{ East Longitude.} \end{array} \right. \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Iqu. miles.} \\ \{ 4,880,000 \end{array} \right.$

THIS is the largest empire in the world, extending from the Baltick and Sweden on the west, to Kamtschatka, and the eastern ocean; and on the north, from the frozen ocean to the 44th degree of latitude.

Divisions.] Russia is at present divided into 42 governments, which are comprehended again under 19 general governments, viz.

	<i>Governments.</i>	<i>Inhabit.</i>	<i>Capitals.</i>
European part of Russia,	30	20 millions.	Petersburg.
Asiatick Russia,	12	4 do.	Casán.

The superiority of the European part over the vast but uncultivated provinces of Asia is striking. The provinces acquired by the division of Poland are highly valuable to Russia, to which the acquisition of Crimea is by no means comparable in value.

This immense empire comprehends upwards of 50 different nations, and the number of languages is supposed not to be less than the number of nations.

Wealth and Commerce.] In so vast a tract of country as the empire of Russia, spreading under many degrees of latitude, watered by more than eight rivers, which run through the space of 2000 miles, and crossed by an extensive chain of mountains, we may expect to find an infinite number of natural productions, though we must make some allowances for the great deserts of Siberia, and the many parts not yet thoroughly investigated by natural historians. The species of plants peculiar to this part of the globe, which have already been discovered, amount to many thousands. The soil contains almost all minerals, tin, platina and some semi-metals excepted. Russia abounds with animals of almost all the various kinds, and has many that have never been described. It has the greatest variety

of the finest furs. In 1781, there were exported from Petersburg alone, 428,877 skins of hares, 36,904 of grey squirrels, 1,354 of bears. 2,018 of ermine, 5,639 of foxes, 300 of wild cats, besides those of wolves and of the *fussic* (a beautiful animal of the rat kind) exclusive of the exportation of the same articles from Archangel, Riga and the Caspian sea. In one year there were exported from Archangel 783,000 pud of tallow (a pud is equal to 40lb.) 8,602 pud of candles, and 102 pud of butter. In 1781 from Petersburg, 148,099 pud of red leather, 10,885 pud of leather for soles, 530,646 pud of candles, 50,000 pud of soap, 27,416 pud of ox bones, 990 calve skins. The fisheries belonging to Russia are very productive. The forests of fir trees are immensely valuable. Oaks and beeches do not grow to a useful size beyond the 60th degree of north latitude. They export timber, pitch, tar and potash to a vast amount. Rye, wheat, tobacco, hemp, flax, sail cloth, linseed oil, flax seed, iron, silver, copper, salt, jasper, marble, granit, &c. are among the productions of Russia. The whole of the exports of Russia amounted in 1783 to near 13 millions of rubles or dollars; the imports did not much exceed the sum of 12 millions. The imports consist chiefly of wine, spices, fruits, fine cloth and other manufactured commodities and articles of luxury. There are at present no more than 484 manufacturers in the whole empire.

Government.] The Emperor or Autocrator of Russia, (the present Empress styles herself Autocratrix) is absolute. He must be of the Greek church by the ancient custom of the empire. The only written fundamental law existing is that of Peter the first, by which the right of succession to the throne depends entirely on the choice of the reigning monarch, who has unlimited authority over the lives and property of all his subjects. The management of publick affairs is entrusted to several departments. At the head of all those concerned in the regulation of internal affairs (the ecclesiastical Synod excepted) is the senate, under the presidency

presidency of a Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor. The sovereign nominates the members of this supreme court, which is divided into 6 chambers, 4 at Petersburg and 2 at Moscow. The provinces are ruled by Governors appointed by the sovereign.

Religion.] The religion established in the Russian empire is the Greek. The most essential point in which their profession of faith differs from that of the Latin church, is the doctrine, that the Holy Ghost proceeds from the Father only. Their worship is as much overloaded with ceremonies as the Roman Catholick. Saints are held in veneration, and painted images of them, but no statues, are suffered in the churches. The church has been governed, since the time of Peter the Great, by a national council called the Holy Synod. Marriage is forbidden to the Archbishops and Bishops, but is allowed to the inferiour clergy. There are 479 convents for men, 74 for women, in which are about 70,000 persons. Above 900,000 peasants belong to the estates in possession of the clergy.

History.] The earliest authentick account we have of Russia is A. D. 862, when Rurick was Grand Duke of Novogorod in this country. In the year 981. Wolodimer was the first Christian King. The Poles conquered it about 1058, but it is uncertain how long they kept it. Andrey I. began his reign 1158, and laid the foundation of Moscow. About 1200 of the Mungls Tartars conquered it, and held it subject to them till 1540, when John Basilowitz restored it to independency. About the middle of the sixteenth century, the Russians discovered and conquered Siberia. It became an empire 1721, when Peter I. assumed the title of Emperor of all the Russias, which was admitted by the powers of Europe to be observed in future negociations with the court of Petersburg.

The reign of Elizabeth, in the course of the present century, is remarkable, on account of her abolishing the use of torture, and governing her subjects for twenty years without inflicting a single capital punishment.

The present Empress is actually employed in founding