

and little or no beard—they are abject, gross, indolent and disgusting, both in appearance and in their habits.

At Orcha, the French, on their advance, fought a short battle, and crossed the river, by two bridges, below the town. In this affair the Russians only lost thirty-five men. With the greatest difficulty and vexation we contrived to procure horses from the imposing Jews, after seven hours delay. We continued our journey from Orcha, by a very pleasant country, on a fine road beautifully ornamented with birch trees, until we reached a small bourg called Kokanovo, chiefly possessed by Jews.—The next stage was Tolotzin, straggling in a zig-zag manner over a rising ground. The houses are partly built of brick and wood; but extremely mean: the inn is kept by a Polish nobleman. The country here is generally flat, with a small quantity of irregular plantations of fir and birch—the soil is whitish clay and sand. It is tolerably cultivated, but has neither green crops, nor fences.

Leaving Tolotzin, the road becomes hilly, and the beautiful avenue of birches, which had continued from Smolensko, nearly one hundred miles, here terminates, and the country as-

sumes a cold, flat, uninteresting, appearance. We reached Kroupki early in the morning, after having rode through an immense gloomy forest of fir and birch. Kroupki is a small bourg, built on a flat space between extensive forests, and near to a small lake. The houses are entirely of wood, with a population of about three hundred Jews. We were detained the whole day before the Jews would give us horses. They disregarded the Russian order for horses, and nothing could equal their knavery and extortion. In most countries Jews are perfectly alike; but in none perhaps do they excel more, in knavery, than here. Every traveller must bargain for what horses he requires, and is sure of being imposed upon:—there is no appeal, and he must be at the mercy of these impostors. The instant he arrives, he is assured that there are no horses to be procured—shortly after he is asked what price he would give for them, and a price is demanded in proportion to the haste of the traveller to proceed. At night they invariably deny having horses, in order that the traveller might be detained, and pay lodging money, or more likely, be robbed. Indeed, throughout Russia, and Lithuania in particular, the carriage