

Berezina. Multitudes of prisoners have expiated their rashness, in a climate, very different from their own; and still greater multitudes have fallen by the sword, lances and bayonets of the Russians, or by hunger, cold and fatigue, and every privation man could undergo—but the towering pride of France has been quelled, and her ruler has received a punishment—though not adequate to his presumption!

Before we left Borisoff, we procured a guard of Cossacks from the Governor, as a security in passing through these immense forests, and which, at this time, were crowded with these irregular warriors. We could not but admire the lofty mien of these men, their uncommon politeness, and mild disposition. We could glean no information from them, as their language was unintelligible to our interpreter. They were dressed in all manners of uniform, and were armed with the pike and pistol. Their horses are extremely small, but very fat and round shaped—their gait is a quick trot. The whole of their baggage, &c. is carried on the saddle, over which the rider sits, in a very elevated manner. By means of this, the head of the horse is completely out of the range

of his fire-arms. From Borisoff, the road crosses a country little cultivated, very moist, covered with forests and most dreary. This part of the road was excessively bad. We reached a miserable collection of wooden hovels scarcely deserving name or mention, and some other stages equally wretched and forlorn—indeed there cannot be, perhaps, in any country, more miserable specimens of architecture than the Lithuanian villages present. The huts are about twelve feet square, the walls formed of the unshapen trunks of trees, laid parallel, one above another, with the ends projecting over, and forming a most clumsy angle. The roof is covered with large shapeless boards; the window is a small hole in the wall,—it answers a double purpose of giving ingress to the light and egress to the smoke. No less miserable are the wretched inmates of these hovels, both in person and manners. They are hard-boned, and sallow complexioned. The men wear coarse white woollen frocks, and a hat of the same, without a brim. The hair of the head is not cut; it hangs loose and is generally of a flaxen colour.

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