

could not avoid remarking the extreme speed with which the horses are driven. The postillions are generally boys; they are clad in a loose frock coat, without shoes or stockings, and constantly ride without a saddle. Leaving Mir, we entered on an excellent road, and passed through a fine extensive grain country; on all sides, as far as the eye could reach, there were neither trees nor waste land; every acre seems to be under the influence of the plough; the soil is a light black loam, but the crops do not appear plentiful. Single oxen are yoked in small wains, and driven by women, who also assist at the plough and harrow, &c. Large flocks of horned cattle and horses were herded together; but we observed neither sheep nor hogs. It is worthy of remark that, along the country, from Moscow, the harvest was completely finished; here it is generally finished by the middle of September, when the rye is sown.

Pursuing our road we came to a small bourg, named Korelitz, consisting of mean wooden houses, thatched, very small and comfortless, and resembling their inmates. The streets are execrably paved, and filthy. It is impossible for

any one to walk through the streets of the Lithuanian towns, without wading above the ankles in dirt. Here was stationed a large depôt of Russian artillery and Cossacks. At sunset we left this village, and had not proceeded more than seven wersts, when, on descending a steep hill, we felt one of the carriage wheels giving way, in consequence of the damage it had received the night before, and the rapid manner in which we had been driven during the day. Shortly after we had procured a light, and examined the extent of the damage, a band of Lithuanian Jews arrived, and offered their assistance. The wheel was taken off, and the carriage dragged to a solitary house named Polanna, in a lonely, wild and sequestered vale; here our perplexities were increased, for no sooner had the Jews and their associates got possession of the wheel, than it was stolen;—neither threats nor reward could induce them to restore it. Hitherto we had travelled by night, as well as by day, among hordes of Cossacks, through endless forests and marshes, over hill and dale, and never met with an obstacle which could retard our progress; but such a check given to our speed made us feel the inconvenience of being in  
the