

dreadful bellowing, with the howling of dogs, and confusion of tongues. The cause we found to proceed from our Tartar, who, in a most piteous manner, was complaining of the liberty which an old sow and her young ones were taking with his sheep-skin cloak, and with whom he was disputing possession—this however, after some *violent* differences of opinion, was settled—peace was restored; the Tartar continued his snore—the sow continued her grunt—all was lost in sleep—the feeble lamp-light flung its cheering ray around, and, not until morning's dawn had summoned us from our couch, did we bid adieu to the sow, and our lively companions.

We proceeded on a narrow road, until we reached Ioloudoke, a collection of mean huts. Along this stage are two roads, the travelling, and the post-road; both are bad, particularly the latter. At this stage the road to Wilna branches off to the north. Here we dismissed our Tartar, whom we found the worst driver that ever managed the reins. Towards Tstouchino, the road became more open and regular, and the country better cultivated, with a hard

clay soil, and few trees. In passing along these tracts, and for the last few stages, we could not avoid remarking the calm and undisturbed state of the country, without any of those marks of devastation and burning, which we had before so often witnessed. The retreat of the French army having been cut off at Borisoff, the road hence, by Minsk, to Grodno and the country round, was untouched, and the only marks of spoliation, which it now shews on one or two spots, resulted from the early effects of the campaign.

The country through which we now travelled was open and cultivated, but extremely sour and sombre, without a tree to relieve the wearied sameness. The weather was gloomy, lowering and cold: the sun, enveloped in misty vapours, threw around an unwarming light; the bleak winds waved over the immense fields of withered grass, and sighed along the endless plain; all denoted the early approach of winter. Next day the towers of Grodno came into view, and compensated us. It stands on a rising ground; the surrounding prospect is most extensive, and includes a view of the distant forests of Poland. We descended into a deep broad valley,