

SIBERIAN PICTURES.

VOL. I.

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SIBERIAN PICTURES

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BY

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BY

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CONTENTS

OF

THE FIRST VOLUME.

CHAPTER	PAGE
INTRODUCTORY	1

PART I.—ETHNOGRAPHICAL STUDIES.

I. THE TUNGUZ	7
II. THE GILLIACKS	39
III. THE BURIATI	53
IV. THE SAYANS, MONGOLS, AND YAKUTS	86
V. THE CHUKCHAS AND KAMTSCHATKANS	114
VI. THE OSTIAKS	123
VII. THE TARTARS	136
VIII. ETHNOGRAPHICAL AFFINITIES	173

PART II.—SIBERIAN FAUNA.

I. FUR-SUPPLYING ANIMALS	223
II. FOOD-SUPPLYING ANIMALS	247

PART III.—ECONOMIC STUDIES.

RAILWAYS AND AGRICULTURE	261
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PART IV.—HABITS AND CUSTOMS.

I. THE FORTRESS OF SNOW	283
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SIBERIAN PICTURES.

INTRODUCTORY.

SIBERIA only a short time ago possessed neither towns, nor villages, nor even habitable houses. Her steppes were not traversed by any practicable roads, or varied by arable fields bearing witness to agricultural labour. No trace of a thinking being existed. Wherever the eye ranged there spread an immense desert, hiding in its valleys and innumerable steppes Polar inhabitants completely isolated from the rest of the world. In the west lived the Tartars, in the north the Ostiaks, in the south the Sayans and the Buriati. The centre was occupied by the Tunguz and Yakuts. Their occupation consisted of hunting, fishing, and rearing animals. They migrated from place to place, were governed by