The lands of this province are for the general very fertile, producing abundance of wheat, millet, roots, and cotton. They alſo afford pasture to great numbers of sheep and oxen, which are rarely ſeen in any of the provinces of China. They have indeed but little rice; yet, to make amends, there is plenty of apples, pears, hazel nuts, ſilberds, and cheſnuts, even in the foreſts. The eaſtern part, which borders on the ancient country of the Manchews and kingdom of Korea, is full of deſerts and bogs. The principal cities of this go­vernment are Shing-yang or Mugden, Fong-whang ching, Inden, Ichew, and Kingchew. This country was the ori­ginal ſeat of the Tartar tribe of the Manchews, who have been maſters of China above 100 years.

The government of Kirin-ula-hotun is bounded weſtward by the paliſade of Lyau-tong ; on the eaſt, by the Eaſtern Ocean ; ſouthward, by the kingdom of Korea ; and on the north by the great river Saghalian ; ſo that it extends no fewer than 12 degrees, and almoſt 20 degrees in longitude, being 750 miles in length and 600 in breadth.

This vaſt country abounds in millet and oats, with a sort of grain unknown in Europe, called by the Chineſe *may- ſem-mi,* as being of a middle kind between wheat and rice. It is wholeſome, and much uſed in thoſe cold regions. There is but little wheat or rice here ; but whether that is the fault of the soil or the inhabitants, we cannot assert. The cold begins much ſooner in theſe parts than at Paris, whoſe latitude is near 50 degrees. The foreſts, which are very thick and large the nearer you advance to the Eaſtern Ocean, contribute not a little to bring it on and keep it up. The banks of the rivers here, in ſummer, are enamelled with a variety of flowers common in Europe, excepting the yellow lilies, which are of a moſt lively colour, in height and ſhape exactly reſembling our white lilies, but are of a much weaker ſcent. But the plant which is moſt eſteemed, and draws a great number of herbaliſts into theſe deſerts, is the ginseng@@\*, called by the Manchews *orhota,* that is, the chief or queen of plants. It is highly valued for its virtues in curing ſeveral diſeaſes, and all decays of ſtrength proceeding from exceſſive labour of body or mind. For this reaſon it has always been the principal riches of Eaſtern Tartary ; what is found in the north of Korea being conſumed in that kingdom.

Formerly the Chineſe uſed to get into the ginſeng coun­try among the mandarins and ſoldiers continually paſſing ; but in 1700 the emperor Kang-hi, that his Manchews might reap this advantage, ordered 10,000 of his ſoldiers, encamp­ed without the great wall, to go and gather it, on condition that each ſhould give him two ounces of the beſt, and take an equal weight of fine ſilver for the remainder : by which means the emperor got in that year 20,000 pounds of it for leſs than one-fourth of the price it bears at Pekin. The root is the only part that is uſed medicinally. Its value is enhanced by its age, for the largeſt and firmeſt are the beſt. This country abounds alſo in fine fables, grey ermines, and black foxes.

One of the tribes of Tartars inhabiting this country are called the Yu-*pi Tartars,* whole manner of life is ſomewhat extraordinary. All the ſummer they ſpend in fiſhing : one part of what they catch is laid up to make oil for their lamps ; another ſerves for their daily food ; and the rest, which they dry in the ſun, without ſalting, for they have no salt, is laid up for their winter’s proviſions, whereof both men and cattle eat when the rivers are frozen. Not- withſtanding this diet, a great deal of ſtrength and vigour appears in moſt of theſe poor people. Their raiment con- ſiſts of the ſkins of fiſh, which, after dreſſing and dyeing of three or four colours, they ſhape and ſew in so delicate a manner, that one would imagine they made uſe of ſilk, till, on ripping a ſtitch or two, you perceive an exceeding fine thong, cut out of a very thin ſkin. When the rivers are frozen, their fledges are drawn by dogs trained up for the purpoſe, and highly valued.

Although the Manchew language is as much uſed at the court of Pekin as the Chineſe, and all public acts are drawn up in the one as well as the other ; yet it began to decline, and would probably have been loſt, had not the Tartars ta­ken great pains to preſerve it, by tranſlating Chineſe books, and compiling dictionaries, under the emperor’s patronage. Their language is Angular in this reſpect, that the verb dif­fers as often as the ſubſtantive governed by it ; or, which is the ſame thing, to every different ſubſtantive they uſe a different verb ; as for inſtance, when they would lay, *make a verſe, a picture, a statue* ; for though the repetition of the same verb in diſcourſe might be excuſable, it is with them unpardonable in writing, as making a monſtrous grating to their ears.

Another singularity of their language is the copiousneſs of it ; for inſtance, beſides names for each ſpecies of ani­mals, they have words to expreſs their ſeveral ages and qua­lities. *Judagon* is the general name for a dog ; but *tayha* ſignifies a dog who has very long and thick hair both on his ears and tail ; and *yolο,* a dog with a long thick muzzle and tail, large ears, and hanging lips. The horse, as more ſerviceable to them, has 20 times more names than the dog; almoſt every motion of him giving occaſion to a different name. Where they could get that aſtoniſhing multitude of names and terms, is not eaſy to determine.

This country is but thinly peopled, and contains only four cities, namely, Kirinula-hotun or Khotun, Pedne or Petuna, Ninguta, and Putay-ula-hotun, which are very ill- built, and encompassed with no better than mud-walls. The firſt ſtands on the river Songari, and is the reſidence of the Manchew general, who has all the privileges of a viceroy, and commands the mandarines as well as the troops Nin­guta, which the family now reigning in China conſiders as its ancient patrimony, is ſituated on the Hurkapira, which runs northward into the Songari. Its name is compound­ed of two Tartarian words which ſignify ſeven chiefs, to expreſs the rise of the Manchew kingdom, which was firſt eſtabliſhed by ſeven brothers of the late emperor Kanghi’s great-grandfather’s father.

The tribe of the Manchews, who inhabit a part of Eaſt­ern Tartary, and are lords of all the other inhabitants there­of, are called by the Ruſſians *Bοgdοy,* and the emperor of China *Bοgdοy Khan* and A*mulοn Bοgdοy Khan.*

The third government into which Eaſtern Tartary is di­vided, is that of Tſitſikar. It is 740 miles long and 600 broad ; and belongs partly to China and partly to Ruſſia. The people are great hunters, dexterous archers, and pay their tribute in ſable-ſkins ; each family being aſſeſſed two or three, or more a-year, according to the number of able perſons.

This province is inhabited chiefly by three sorts oſ Tar­tars, the Manchews, the Solons, and Taguri, of whom the firſt are maſters. The Taguri are a large robuſt people, but not very numerous. They live in houſes or huts, and cultivate barley, oats, and millet. Their cattle are princi­pally horſes, dromedaries, oxen, cows, and sheep. They make much uſe of their oxen to ride on.

The Solons alſo are a brave robuſt people. Their dreſs is a ſhort jacket of wolves skins, with a cap of the ſame ; and they have long cloaks made of fox or tigers skins, to defend them againſt the cold, eſpecially of the night. They hang their bows at their backs. Their women ride on horſeback, drive the plough, hunt ſtags and other game.

Beſides the country towns or villages, there are three ci­