observes this judicious writer, “ have assumed the same cruel and rapacious character which marks their foreign warfare ; avarice has quite overpowered religious zeal ; and the unholy practice of selling captives of their own faith is now frequent.”

The tribe of Tuckeh is the most numerous of the Toorko- man tribes, containing 40,000 families. They are a treach­erous and faithless race, and never suffer an opportunity to escape of plundering even their friends. The Gocklans were formerly powerful, but their power has been broken by adverse events, and they now acknowledge the Persian supremacy. The Yamoot tribe is divided into two parts : the one, amounting to 15,000 families, acknowledges the Persian monarch ; the other, amounting to 16,000 families, is subject to Khyvah. All these tribes resemble each other in their customs and manners. They live in tents or port­able houses, and frequently change their stations, as pasture becomes scarce, seldom remaining more than five or six days in one place. They encamp in parties of from 30 to 200 families ; each party is ruled by its elder, whose ad­vice is taken in all matters affecting the interests of the community, and who adjusts petty disputes ; but they have no governors, chiefs, or nobles among them, nor would they endure any one arrogating such superiority. The same spirit of equality prevails in common life, no distinc­tions of rank being at any time observed, nor any great deference to the claims of age or relationship. Like all rude tribes, the Toorkomans pique themselves on hospita­lity ; but so vitiated have their morals become by the love of plunder, that even this tie is often violated.

The wealth which they acquire by perfidy and rapacity, they generally invest in such property as camels, horses, valuable swords, arms and armour, women’s ornaments, clothes, jewels of gold or silver, and rich furniture. The women are not concealed, as in Mahommedan countries ; nor do they wear veils. Their dress consists of a long loose vest or skirt, with sleeves, which covers the whole person down to the feet, and is open at the breast in front, but buttons or ties close up to the neck. It is made of silk or cotton stuff, red, blue, green, striped red or yellow, check­ed, or variously coloured. Underneath are drawers of silk or cotton. Their head-dress is a lofty cap with a broad crown, made of light chips of wood or split reeds covered with cloth. With respect to the dresses of the men, those of the poorer class consist of a stout woollen shirt, and a pair of woollen drawers, or a long brown woollen wrapper ; but the better classes have generally adopted the common Persian habit. There is much individual variety among those tribes. The Tuckehs have a good deal of the Tartar physiognomy. Many of them are tall, stout, and well made, with scanty beards, small eyes drawn up at the corners, high cheek-bones, and small flat noses ; all the true features, in short, of a Tar­tar face; while others have handsome features, more re­sembling a European than an Asiatic countenance. The Gocklans also bear traces of a Tartar origin, but less than the Tuckehs, while there are remarkable differences among them, marking the intermixture of different races. The Ya- moot men have less of the Tartar physiognomy than any of the other tribes. Many of them resemble the Persians, and also the Russians, in a certain harsh irregularity of feature which they possess. They are all ferocious and warlike in their habits. Their arms are a spear and sword, in the use of which they are sufficiently dexterous. The sword is gene­rally formed in the curved Persian fashion, and very sharp. They also wear a dagger. Fire-arms are as yet not in general use among them. The Gocklans and Yamoots use bows and arrows, in the use of which they are not nearly so dexterous as their ancestors. These tribes arc all excellent horsemen, and they possess a race of horses which are celebrated all over Asia. They greatly value size and bone, which are indigenous to the country ; but figure and blood, borrowed from the Arab breed, much more. Their horses are capable of enduring extraordinary fatigues. When properly trained for a plundering expedition, they will carry their riders without flagging for eight days together, at the rate of from eighty to a hundred miles per day. Those of the best breeds cannot be purchased under L. 150 or L.200. For the protection of their flocks they have a breed of very large and fierce dogs, which assist their shep­herds in managing their flocks. But though they attend to their flocks, they still delight in plunder, to which they look for riches and extraordinary indulgences ; and when they re­solve on any expedition, they unite under some leader whose conduct and courage inspire them with confidence; and, sal­lying from their haunts, they move with astonishing celerity into some of the frontier provinces of Persia. They lie near the gates of the town or village which they have mark­ed out for their prey ; and watching in silence until dawn, when the unsuspecting inhabitants begin to issue from the gates to pursue their daily labour, they start from their lurk­ing place, seize all they can catch, murder those who resist, rapidly plunder the houses, and, binding their booty on the cattle, hasten to retreat before the country is alarmed. They massacre the old and infirm ; and those who are taken cap­tive to be sold for slaves, they fasten by ropes to their horses, with their arms tied behind their backs ; and they drive them on with blows of heavy whips to increase their speed. They have a few manufactures, such as carpets, which they weave of a very beautiful fabric, and which are highly valued, and bring high prices. They also weave cloth of camels’ hair, and coarse woollens chiefly for their own use ; and they dispose of butter and cheese, the produce of their flocks.

A large portion of Independent Tartary, farther to the east of the Caspian, in the neighbourhood of Bockhara, Balk, and Samarcand, countries which lie near the river Oxus, is inhabited almost entirely by the Oosbecks, a people of the widely extended race of the Turk or Toork, but whose original seat is not precisely ascertained. They appear to have come from the north, and to have been tempted from their original and inhospitable abodes by the finer countries on the plains of the Oxus and the Jaxartes. Like the other Turks, they are celebrated all over the east for their fine appearance, which is remarkably contrasted with the Mongoles, Kalmucks, and other Tartar tribes. They are distinguished by broad foreheads, high cheek-bones, thin beards, and small eyes ; by a clear and ruddy complexion, and generally by black hair. The women are fair and beautiful. Their dress resembles that of the Toorkomans of the desert. They wear a lofty cap upon the head, with a handkerchief over it. The shirt and trousers, with the gown, are not unlike those of the men. The dress of the latter at Khyvah consists of a shirt and drawers of white cotton cloth, with two or three gowns over them of striped silk stuff, blue, red, and gray, all open at the breast, so that when the girdle is loose the person is very indecorously ex­pelled. A broad-topped sheep-skin is worn upon the head. The khan is hardly to be distinguished by his dress from his subjects ; but on grand days he wears a small jewel in his turban, with a gold-embroidered Oosbeck gown over his white shirt and drawers ; and the other ensign of roy­alty which he assumes, is a tuft of gold and jewels upon his horse’s head.

The Oosbecks at Khyvah are described as a very unci­vilized race, gross in their domestic habits, and coarse and disgusting in their food and manner of eating; the khan, his ministers, and almost all his nobles, being fat and un- wcildy, owing to their habits of indolence. There is little distinction between the different ranks of society ; the mas­ter and servant, the chief and the groom, standing or sitting promiscuously together. In Bockhara, where the Oos­becks constitute the chief portion of the population, along with the Taujicks and Toorkomans, they are represented