ties in the province of Tſitſikar, namely, Tſitſikar, Merghcn, and Saghalian-ula-hotun. The garriſon of Tſitſikar, the capital, conſiſts of Manchews; but the inhabitants are mostly Chinese. According to their own account, they are all ſhammams, or conjurors, and invoke the devil with frightful cries. They give their dead two burials, firſt leaving a hole at top of the grave, where the relations daily bring victuals, which they convey to the mouth of the deceaſed with a ſpoon, and leave drink in ſmall tin cups standing round the grave. This ceremony holds for ſeveral weeks, after which they bury the body deeper in the ground.

Several rivers in this country produce pearls, which, though much cried up by the Tartars, would be little va­lued by Europeans, on account of their defects in ſhape and colour.

The kingdoms or countries of Corea, Lyau-tong, and Nyu-che, forming a part of Katay, Kitay, or Cathay, and by ſome included under Eaſtern Tartary, are more properly provinces of China, though they lie without the great wall.

*Uſbeck Tartary.* To the north and north-eaſt of Perſia lie the countries of Karaſm, and Great and Little Bukharia, which being moſtly subject to and inhabited by the tribe of Uſheck Tartars, are commonly known by the general name of *Uſheck Tartary.*

The kingdom of Karaſm was known to the ancient Greeks, as appears from Herodotus, Ptolemy, and other authors of that nation, by the name of *Khorasmia.* At preſent it is bounded on the north by the country of Turkeſtan, and the dominions of the great khan of the Eluths or Kalmucks ; on the eaſt, by Great Bukharia, from which it is ſeparated partly by the mountains of Irdar, and partly by the deſerts of Karak and Gaznah ; on the ſouth, by the provinces of Asterabad and Khoraffan, belonging to Iran or Perſia at large, from which it is divided by the river Jihun or Amu, and ſundry deſerts of a vaſt extent ; and on the west by the Caſpian Sea.

It may be about 440 miles in length from ſouth to north, and 300 from west to eaſt; being ſituated between the 39th and 46th degrees of north latitude, and the 71st and 77th degrees of eaſt longitude. The country conſiſts, for the moſt part, of vaſt ſandy plains, ſome of which are barren deſerts, but others afford excellent paſture. There is good land in ſeveral of the provinces, where vines grow, and wine is made ; but water being scarce, a great part of the coun­try turns to no account.

Karaſm owes all its fertility to three rivers and a lake. The rivers are the Amu, Kheſil, and Sir. The Amu, as it is called by the Uſhecks and Persians, is the Jihun of the Arabs, and Oxus of the ancient Greeks. It has its ſource in thoſe high mountains which ſeparate Little Bukharia from the dominions of the Great Mogul ; and, after paſſing through Great Bukharia and Karaſm, divides into two branches, one of which falls into the Kheſil, and the other into the Caſpian Sea, towards the borders of the province of Astarabad. The Amu abounds with all sorts of excel­lent fiſh, and its banks are the moſt charming in the world. Along them grows thoſe excellent melons and other fruits so much eſteemed in Perſia, the Indies, and Ruſſia.

The river Kheſil riſes in the mountains to the north-eaſt of the province of Samarkant, and falls into the lake of Aral or Eagles, 50 or 60 miles below its junction with a branch of the Amu. Its banks are exceeding fertile wherever they are cultivated.

The Sir or Daria riſes in the mountains to the eaſt of Little Bukharſe, and after a long courſe weſtward, along the borders of the Bukharias and Karasm, falls at laſt into the lake Aral.

Karaſm is at preſent inhabited by three sorts of people, the Sarts, Turkmans, and Uſheck Tartars. With regard to the firſt of theſe, we are told, that they are the ancient inhabitants of the country, or thoſe who were ſettled there before the Uſhecks became matters of it ; and that they ſupport themlelves like the Turkmans by their cattle and huſbandry. The Turkmans or Turkomans came originally from Turkeſtan or the parts of Tartary to the north of Ka­raim and Great Bukharia, towards the 11th century. They divided into two parties; one of which went round the north side of the Caſpian Sea, and settled in the wettern parts of the Greater Armenia, from thence called *Turkomania,* or *the country of the Turkomans.* The second party turned ſouth, and rested about the banks of the river Amu and the ſhores of the Caſpian Sea, where they still posseſs a great many towns and villages, in the countries of Karaſm and Aſtarabad.

The name of *Usbecks,* which the ruling tribe of the Tar­tars of Karaſm and Great Bukharia bear at preſent, is de­rived from one of their khans. The Uſhecks of Karaſm are divided into ſeveral hords, and live for the most part by rapine; resembling in all reſpects thoſe of Great Bukharia, excepting that they are much more rude and uncivilized. Like the Turkmans, they dwell in winter in the towns and villages which are towards the middle of Karaſm ; and in ſummer the greater part of them encamp in the neighbour­hood of the Amu, or in other places where they can meet with patture for their cattle, always watching for ſome con­venient opportunity to rob and plunder. They never ceaſe making incurſions upon the adjacent territories of Perſia or Great Bukharia, and are to be reſtrained by no treaties or engagements whatsoever. Although they have fixed habi­tations, yet, in travelling from one place to another, they carry with them all their effects of value, conformable to the way of living in uſe among their ancestors before they had settled dwellings.

Theſe Tartars, it is ſaid, never ride without their bows, arrows, and ſwords, although it be in hawking or taking any other diverſion. They have no arts or ſciences. among them, neither do they till or sow. They are great devourers of fleſh, which they cut in ſmall pieces, and eat greedily by handfuls, eſpecially horſe fleſh.

Their chief drink is sour mare’s milk, like that in uſe with the Nogays. They eat their victuals upon the ground, sitting with their legs double under them, which is their ρotture also when they pray.

All theſe tribes have abundance of camels, horſes, and ſheep, both wild and tame. Their ſheep are extraordinary large, with great tails weighing 60 or 80 pounds. There are many wild horſes in the country, which the Tartars frequently kill with their hawks. Theſe birds are taught to ſeize upon the head or neck of the beast ; which being tired with toiling to get rid of this cruel enemy, the hunter, who follows his game, comes up and kills him. Some travellers tell us, that the inhabitants of this country have not the uſe of gold, silver, or any other coin, but barter their cattle for neceſſaries. Others tell us, that they have money, particularly a piece of ſilver called *tanga,* the value near the fourth part of a crown. It is round, and has on one side the name of the country, and on the other that oſ the khan, with the year of the hegira. There are also, it is ſaid, ſmall pieces of copper, of different-sizes, which anſwer to our pence, half­pence, and farthings.

As to the government of Karaſm, the Uſhecks being matters, it is commonly vetted in divers princes of that tribe of the ſame house; of whom, notwithstanding, only one has the title of *khan,* with a kind of ſuperiority over the others.