

The *Moscovites* are strong and active of body, of a middle stature, but square-set, and brawny arm'd; of a natural ingenuity and subtilty, which they make use of to cheat with in their bargains and contracts, being false, treacherous, and perfidious; withal very lazy, and wholly unaddicted to Learning and Arts; only necessity obliges them to follow Husbandry: they are malicious, quarrellsome, and scurrilous in company; yet their choler seldom advances to farther violence than can be managed with the stick, fist, or foot, which saves many a murder the Sword or Gun would be guilty of. They are generally lascivious, and beastly drinkers, both men and women, when occasion offers: for all their great Solemnities and Festivals are so many drunken *Bacchanals*, in which they wallow one among another like Swine: at other times, if they are sober, it is for want of what they love above all things, strong liquor, for their ordinary drink is but a piti-

ful poor sort of tiff; and though the Countrey affords wherewith to fare delicately enough, yet the best of them scarce know how to feed elegantly, and the meaner sort eat like what they are, poor slaves, and lodge as ill, that is, like the wild *Irish*, or barbarous *Indians*: the whole Family, man, woman, and beast, lie higgledy-piggledy altogether in a room upon straw or mats; and in Summer-time upon benches or tables. And no wonder their manner of life is so animal and uncultivated, since they live subordinately in most wretched slavery; the common People to the Nobles, the Nobles to the *Czars* whose grand maxim it is, as generally in Monarchies so very absolute, to proscribe Learning, well knowing that the necks of the ignorant most tamely subject themselves to the yoke of tyranny.

The Religion they profess is according to the *Greek-Church*, which they are said to have received from the Patriarch of *Constantinople*, Ann. 987; though in the *Moscovitish Annals* it is said to have been from St. An-