

ASIATIC RUSSIA.

1. ASIATIC RUSSIA extends from the Ural Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. It comprises Siberia, the districts lying between the Volga and Ural rivers, and the region called Caucasian Russia.

SIBERIA.

2. SIBERIA contains nearly a third part of Asia, and is mostly a cold, dreary region, occupied by extensive plains called *steppes*. Some of its southern districts are, however, rich and fertile.

3. Siberia serves as a place of banishment for convicts and prisoners of state. Some of the latter have been men of superior talents, and have been banished only for their virtues and adherence to liberal principles.

4. The Ural and Altay Mountains contain numerous mines, which furnish gold, silver, platina, and precious stones. Fur-bearing animals abound in Siberia, the skins of which form an important article of trade. Fossil ivory, formed of the tusks and teeth of the extinct mammoth, is found in considerable quantities on the northern shores and islands. The original inhabitants are composed of various barbarous tribes, who live by hunting and fishing.

5. Omsk, the capital of Western Siberia, is strongly garrisoned and has a military school. Tobolsk is inhabited chiefly by exiles and their descendants; it is the chief commercial town in Siberia. Irkoutsk, the capital of Eastern Siberia, is a gay and lively place. Tomsk, Yakoutsk, and Ochotsk, are the next important towns. Kiachta is the only place at which the trade with China is permitted.

6. The country between the Volga and Ural rivers contains Astrachan and Orenburg: the former is noted for its sturgeon fisheries, Orenburg carries on a great trade by caravans with Khokan, Bokhara, Khiva, and other Tartar cities.

CAUCASIAN RUSSIA.

7. THIS country lies between the Black and Caspian seas, and on both sides of the Caucasus Mountains. It is a rough and rugged region, but contains many fertile districts, peopled

Asiatic Russia. Q.—1. What is Asiatic Russia? 2. Describe Siberia. 3. What is said of convicts, &c.? 4. The Ural and Altay Mts.? Furs? Fossil ivory? Inhabitants? 5. Describe Omsk, &c. 6. Astrachan, &c. 7. Caucasian Russia. Describe the country. 8. The Circassians