

mouth of the Jana or Lena, before even the melting of the snow or the breaking of the ice. Want of pasture soon forces them to direct their course towards the south, following principally the course of the Lena, in order to search the lakes, marshes, &c. which, at this period, present them with insects and aquatic plants. In this manner they extend as far each year as Jakutsk; but they do not go beyond; if they are occasionally seen near the river Olecman, it is only in small troops, of ten at most, in number; and nothing is less common than to see any one of them near the place where the Wittim empties itself into the Lena. They do not abide long in these places, as do the common wild geese and the laughing goose, which arrive from all sides at the same time; but the hyperborean goose, not being able to endure the heat returns to the shores of the frozen sea, as soon as the mild temperature of spring begins to shed its tardy influence upon countries long hardened by excessive frosts. It is on the shores of this ocean, yet half frozen, that they occupy themselves with the propagation of their species. It must be observed, that they do not take the same road in returning as they did in setting out; but when they have arrived at
Jakutsk,