

Giles Fletcher 1591.

**“Of the Russe Commonwealth”**

-77 a-

.....

The Lappes.

On the North side of *Russia*, next to *Corelia* lieth the countrey of *Lappia*, which reacheth, in length from the farthest poynt Northward,(towardses the Northcape) to the farthest part Southeast (which *the Russe* calleth *Sweetnesse* or Holie nose, the English men *Capegrace*) about 345. verst or miles. Fro *Sweetnesse* to *Candelox* by the way of *Versega* which measureth the breadth of that countrey) is 90. miles or thereabouts. The whole countrey in a manner is eyther lakes, or mountaines, which towardses the Sea side

-77 b-

are called *Tondro*, because they are all of hard and craggy rocke, but the inland partes are well furnished with woods, that growe on the hilles sides, the lakes lying betweene. Their diet is very bare & simple. Bread they haue none, but feed onely vpon fish & fowle. They are subiect to the Emperour of *Russia*, and the two Kings of *Sweden*, and *Denmark*: which all exact tribute and custome of them (as was said before) but the Emperour of *Russia* beareth the greatest hand ouer them, and exact of them farre more then the rest. The opinion is that

they were first termed *Lappes* of their briefe and short speach. The *Russe* deuideth the whole natio of the *Lappes* into two sorts. The one they call *Nowremanskoy Lapary*, that is the *Noruegian Lappes*: because they be of the *Danish* religion. For the Danes and *Noruegians* they account for one people. The other that haue no religion at all, but liue as brute and Heathenish people, without God in the world, they call *Dikoy Lopary*, or the wild *Lappes*.

The whole nation is vtterly vnlearned, hauing not so much as the vse of any Alphabet, or letter among the. For practice of witchcraft and sorcery, they passe all nations in the world. Though for the enchaunting of shippes that saile along their coast (as I haue heard it reported) and their giuing of winds

-78 a-

good to their friends, and contrary to other, whom they meane to hurt by tying of certain knots vpon a rope (somewhat like to the tale of *Æolus* his windbag) is a very fable, deuised (as may seeme) by themselues, to terrifie sailers for comming neare their coaft. Their weapons are the long bow, and handgunne, wherein they excell, aswell for quicknes to charge and discharge, as for nearnesse at the marke, by reason of their continuall practise (wherto they are forced) of shooting at wild fowle. Their manner is in Sommer time to come downe in great companies to the sea side, to *Wardhuyse*,

*Cola, Kegor, and the bay of Vedagoba & there to fish, for Codd, Salmon, & But-fish, which they sell to the Russes, Danes, & Norugians, and now of late to the English me that trade thither with cloth, which they exchange with the Lapps and Corelians for their fish, oile, and fures, whereof also they haue some store. They hold their mart at Cola on S. Peters day: what time the Captain of Wardhuyse(that is resiant there for the king of Denmarke) must be present, or at least send his deputie to set prices vpon their stockfish, traine oile, fures, and other commodities: as also the Ruffe Emperours customer, or tribute taker, to receiue his custome, which is euer payed before any thing can be bought, or sold. When their fishing is done, their ma-*

-78 b-

ner is to drawe their carbasses, or boates on shoare, & there to leaue them with the keele turned vpwardes, till the next spring tide. Their trauaile too & fro is vpon sleds, drawen by the Olen deer: which they vse to turne a grasing all the Sommertime, in an iland called *Kilden* (of a very good soile compared with other partes of that countrie) and towards the winter time, when the snow beginneth to fall, they fetch them home again, for the vse of their sledde.

OCR fra

“Of the Russe Commonwealth” by Giles Fletcher 1591.

Facismile Edition Variants.

Harvard University Press 1966.