ance ; and the ſpot itſelf ought to ranked among the fine parts of Italy. The ſame may be obſerved of the small lake of Vico, encompassed with gentle riſings, that are all clothed with forest trees.

Some yews have been found in Britain 60 feet round. Palms in Jamaica attain the height of 200 feet ; and ſome of the pines in Norfolk Island are 280 feet high.

Of all the different kinds known in Europe, oak is beſt for building ; and even when it lies expoſed to air and wa­ter, there is none equal to it. Fir-timber is the next in de­gree of goodneſs for building, eſpecially in England, where they build upon leaſes. It differs from oak in this, that it requires not much ſeaſoning, and therefore no great ſtock is required before hand. Fir is uſed for flooring, wainſcoting, and the ornamental parts of building within doors. Elm is the next in uſe, eſpecially in England and France : it is very tough and pliable, and therefore eaſily worked : it does not readily ſplit ; and it bears driving of bolts and nails better than any other wood ; for which reaſon it is chiefly uſed by wheel-wrights and coach-makers, for shafts, naves, &c. Beech is alſo uſed for many purpoſes : it is very tough and white when young, and of great ſtrength ; but liable to warp very much when expoſed to the weather, and to be worm-eaten when uſed within doors ; its greateſt uſe is for planks, bedheads, chairs, and other houſehold goods. Aſh is likewiſe a very uſeful wood, but very ſcarce in moſt parts of Europe ; it ſerves in buildings, or for any other uſe, when ſcreened from the weather ; handſpikes and oars are chiefly made of it. Wild cheſnut timber is by many eſteemed to be as good as oak, and ſeems to have been much uſed in old buildings ; but whether theſe trees are more ſcarce at preſent than formerly, or have been found not to anſwer ſo well as was imagined, it is certain that this timber is now but little uſed. Walnut-tree is excellent for the joiner’s uſe, it being of a more curious brown colour than beech, and not ſo ſubject to the worms. The poplar, abel, and aſpen trees, which are very little different from each other, are much uſed inſtead of fir; they look well, and are tougher and harder. See Quercus, Oak, Pinus, Ulmus, Pla­tanus, Populus, &c.

The goodneſs of timber not only depends on the soil and ſituation in which it ſtands, but likewiſe on the ſeaſon wherein it is felled. In this people diſagree very much ; ſome are for having it felled as ſoon as its fruit is ripe, others in the ſpring, and many in the autumn. But as the ſap and moiſture of timber is certainly the cauſe that it periſhes much ſooner than it otherwiſe would do, it ſeems evident, that timber ſhould be felled when there is the leaſt ſap in it, *viz.* from the time that the leaves begin to fall till the trees begin to bud. This work uſually commences about the end of April in England, becauſe the bark then riſes moſt freely ; for where a quantity of timber is to be felled, the ſtatute requires it to be done then, for the ad­vantage of tanning. The ancients chiefly regarded the age of the moon in felling their timber ; their rule was to fell it in the wane, or four days after the new moon, or ſometimes in the laſt quarter. Pliny adviſes it to be in the very inſtant of the change; which happening to be in the laſt day of the winter ſolſtice, the timber, ſays he, will be incorrup­tible.

Timber ſhould likewiſe be cut when of a proper age ; for when it is either too young or too old, it will not be so durable as when cut at a proper age. It is ſaid that oak ſhould not be cut under 60 years old, nor above 200. Timber, how­ever, ſhould be cut in its prime, when almoſt fully grown, and before it begins to decay ; and this will be ſooner or later according to the dryneſs and moiſtneſs of the soil where the timber grows, as alſo according to the bigneſs of the trees ; for there are no fixed rules in felling of timber, experience and judgment muſt direct here as in moſt other cases.

Great attention is necessary in the ſeaſoning of timber. Some adviſe the planks of timber to be laid for a few days in ſome pool or running ſtream, in order to extract the ſap, and afterwards to dry them in the ſun or air. By this means, it is ſaid, they will be prevented from either chop­ping, calling, or cleaving ; but againſt ſhrinking there is no remedy. Some again are for burying them in the earth, others in a heat ; and ſome for ſcorching and ſeaſoning them in fire, eſpecially piles, poſts, &c. which are to ſtand in water or earth. The Venetians firſt found out the method of ſeaſoning by fire; which is done after this manner : They put the piece to be ſeaſoned into a ſtrong and violent flame ; in this they continually turn it round by means of an engine, and take it out when it is everywhere covered with a black coaly cruſt ; the internal part of the wood is thereby ſo hardened, that neither earth nor water can damage it for a long time afterwards.

Dr Plott ſays, it is found by long experience, that the trunk or body of the trees, when barked in the ſpring, and left ſtanding naked all the ſummer expoſed to the ſun and wind, are ſo dried and hardened, that the ſappy part in a manner becomes as firm and durable as the heart itſelf. This is confirmed by M. Buffon, who, in 1738, preſented to the royal academy of ſciences at Paris a memoir, intitled, “ An eaſy method of increaſing the ſolidity, ſtrength, and duration of timber ;” for which purpoſe he obſerves, “ nothing more is neceſſary than to ſtrip the tree entirely of its bark during the ſeason of the rising of the ſap, and to leave it to dry completely before it be cut down.”

By many experiments, particularly deſcribed in that essay, it appears, that the tree ſhould not be felled till the third year after it has been ſtripped of the bark ; that it is then perfectly dry, and the ſap become almoſt as ſtrong as the reſt of the timber, and ſtronger than the heart of any other oak tree which has not been ſo ſtripped ; and the whole of the timber ſtronger, heavier, and harder ; from which he thinks it fair to conclude, that it is alſo more durable. “ It would no longer (he adds) be neceſſary, if this method were practiſed, to cut off the ſap ; the whole of the tree might be uſed as timber ; one of 40 years growth would ſerve all the purpoſes for which one of 60 years is now required ; and this practice would have the double advantage of in­creaſing the quantity, as well as the ſtrength and ſolidity, of the timber.”

The navy board, in anſwer to the inquiries of the commiſſioners of the land revenue, in May 1789, informed them, thay they had then ſtanding ſome trees ſtripped of their bark two years before, in order to try the experiment of building one half of a ſloop of war with that timber, and the other half with timber felled and ſtripped in the com­mon way. This very judicious mode of making the expe­riment, if it be properly executed, will undoubtedly go far to aſcertain the effects of this practice. We are ſorry that we are not able to inform our readers what was the reſult of the experiment.

After the planks of timber have been well ſeaſoned and fixed in their places, care is to be taken to defend or preſerve them ; to which the ſmearing them with linſeed oil, tar, or the like oleaginous matter, contributes much. The ancients, particularly Heſiod and Virgil, adviſe the ſmoke- drying of all inſtruments made of wood, by hanging them up in the chimneys where wood fires are uſed. The Dutch preſerve their gates, portcullices, drawbridges, ſluices, &c. by coating them over with a mixture of pitch and tar, whereon they ſtrew ſmall pieces of cockle and other ſhells,