Theſe ſevere winters are rapidly ſuceeeded by ſummers, in which the heat is ſo intenſe that the Tunguſians, who live in the province of Jakutſk, go almoſt naked. Here is ſcarcely any night during that ſeaſon ; and towards the Frozen Ocean the ſun appears continu­ally above the horizon. The vegetables and fruits of the earth are here extremely quick in their growth.

The whole track of land beyond the 60th degree of north latitude is a barren waſte ; for the north part of Siberia yields neither corn nor fruits ; though barley is known frequently to come to perfection in Jakutſk.— For this reaſon, the inhabitants of the northern parts are obliged to live on fiſh and fleſh, but the Russians are ſupplied with corn from the ſouthern parts of Siberia, where the soil is ſurpriſingly fertile. The countries be­yond the lake of Baikal, especially towards the eaſt, as far as the river Argun, are remarkably fruitful and pleaſant ; but ſuch is the indolence of the inhabitants, that ſeveral fine tracts of land, which would make ample returns to the peaſant for cultivating them, lie neglect­ed. The paſtures are excellent in this country, which abounds in fine horned cattle, horses, goats, &c. on which the Tartars chiefly depend for ſubſiſtence. How­

ever, there are ſeveral ſteppes, or barren waſtes, and un­improvable tracts in theſe parts ; and not a single fruit tree is to be ſeen. There is great variety of vegetables, and in ſeveral places, particularly near Kraſnaia Sloboda, the ground is in a manner overrun with aſparagus of an extraordinary height and delicious flavour. The bulbs of the Turkiſh bundes, and other forts of lilies, are much uſed by the Tartars inſtead of bread. This want of fruit and corn is richly compenſated by the great quantities of wild and tame beaſts, and fowls, and the infinite variety of fine fiſh which the country af­fords @@(b.)

In that part of Siberia which lies near the Ice Sea, as well as in ſeveral other places, are woods of pine, larch, and other trees ; beſides which, a conſiderable quantity of wood is thrown aſhore by the waves of the Ice Sea; but whence it comes is not yet aſcertained.

Beſides the wild fowl with which Siberia abounds, there is a prodigious number of quadrupeds, ſome of which are eatable, and others valuable for their ſkins or furs.

The animals moſt valued for their ſkins are the black

ſome diſtance from the river Argun, for which purpoſe they thawed the earth by degrees, and dug ſome fathoms till they had penetrated a fathom and half below the level of the river, but found no ſpring. Hence perhaps we may venture to affert, that beſides the great elevation of the earth in theſe countries, there is another cauſe, perhaps latent in the earth itſelf, of this extraordinary cold, naturally ſuggeſted to us by considering the cavity of an old ſilver mine at Argun, which being exhauſted of its ore, now ſerves the inhabitants in ſummer time for a cellar to keep their proviſions: this place is ſo extremely cold as to preſerve fleſh meats from putrefaction in the hotteſt ſummers, and to ſink the mercury in de Liſle’s thermometer to 146 and 147. The author travelling from Nerſchoi towards Argun, to viſit the works of the ſilver mines in that place, Auguſt 1735, came to the river Orkija, near Soloniſchaia, on July the 1st, from whence he arrived a little before dark at the village of Seventua, diſtant from the river 27 leagues. In this journey he and his fellow travellers for more than four leagues felt it vaſtly cold ; ſoon after they came into a warm air, which continued ſome leagues ; after which the cold re­turned ; and thus are travellers ſubjected to perpetual viciſſitudes of warmth and cold. But it is obſerved, in ge­neral, that the eaſtern parts are colder than the weitem, though ſituated in the same latitude ; for as in thoſe eaſtern regions ſome tracts of land are much colder than the rest, their effects muſt be felt by the neighbouring parts. And this conjecture is favoured by the thermometrical obſervations made with M. de L’Iſle’s inſtrument in all parts of Siberia, in which the mercury was depreſted to the 226th degree, even in thoſe parts that lie very much towards the ſouth, as in the territory of Selinga, which ſaid degree anſwers in Fahrenheit’s thermometer to about *55*.5 below 0, but the ſame thermometer ſometimes indicated, a much greater cold. At the fort of Kiringa, on Feb. 10. 1738, at 8 in the morning, the mercury ſtood at 240, which anſwers nearly to 72 be­low 0 in Fahrenheit’s. On the 23d off the ſame month it was a degree lower. At the ſame place, December 11. at three in the afternoon, it ſtood at 254 in De Liſle’s thermometer, and very near 90 in Fahrenheit’s ; on December 29. at four in the afternoon; at 263 ; on November 27. at noon, at 270 ; January 9. at 275, which ſeveral depreſſions anſwer in Fahrenheit’s to 99.44, 107.73, and 113.65; on January 5. at 5 in the morning, at 262, an hour after at 281, but at eight o’clock it returned to 250, and there remained till 6 in the afternoon, and then roſe by degrees till an hour before midnight, when it ſtood at 202. So that the greateſt depreſſion of the mercury anſwers in Fahrenheit’s thermometer to 120.76 degrees below 0, which is indeed very ſurpriſing, and what no body ever imagined before. While this cold laſted at Jenisea, the ſparrows and magpies fell to the ground, ſtruck dead, as it were, with the froſt, but revived if they were ſoon brought into a warm room. The author was told alſo that numbers of wild beaſts were found in the woods dead and ſtiff with the froſt, and ſe­veral travellers had their blood and juices quite frozen in their veſſels. The air itſelf at that time was ſo dismal, that you would think it changed to ice, as it was a thick fog, which was not diſſipable by any exhalations, as in the ſpring and autumn, and the author could ſcarce ſtand three minutes in the porch of his houſe for the cold.

@@@(b) The oak, though frequent in Ruſſia, it is ſaid, is not to be found through this vaſt region nearer than, the banks of the Argun and Amur, in the dominions of China. The white poplar, the aspen, the black poplar, the common ſallow, and ſeveral ſpecies of the willow, are very common. The Norway and ſilver fir form great foreſts ; but the former does not grow beyond the 60th degree of north latitude, and the latter not beyond 5.8 degrees. To this dreary region of Siberia, Europe is indebted for that excellent ſpecies of oats called Av*ena Sibirica,* and our gardens are enlivened with the gay and brilliant flowers brought from the same country.