

*Sleighs—Expeditions mode of Convergence.*

nor is one half the preparatory labour necessary to produce crops that British land requires; and the rapid growth, and quick perfection of every species of grain, requires not that constant and protracted attendance, which a tardy maturity demands. The winter is therefore only a season of relaxation and amusement, and mostly devoted to recreation. Gloomy pictures of these fertile and capacious provinces have been drawn, which, heightened by imagination, have served to make them appear, at this season, so cheerless as almost to preclude the possibility of venturing abroad; the very reverse of this is the case; the cold is seldom so intense as to prevent travelling, which, in sleighs, is so pleasantly and speedily performed, that few people travel at any other season; the solidity of the rivers and the frozen state of the snow, make excellent roads, which are passed over with incredible swiftness, and two horses can draw, in sleds, a greater weight than four in a wheeled carriage. All large bodies of timber are conveyed to the rivers, in the winter, from the ease with which the task can be performed, and the small portion of labour and expense which are necessary, compared with what would be required at any other season. A single horse will draw a fallen tree along the glossy surface of frozen snow, with more ease and expedition than five could on the bare ground; indeed, from the impossibility of timber carriages passing through the intricacies of a thick wood, this necessary species of labour could be performed by no other means and at no other time; so that winter, with all its imaginary and exaggerated horrors, has its peculiar advantages. The crowd of sleighs that stand near the market-places of large towns, for the purpose of hire; and the display of contending dexterity in the management of hundreds passing and repassing in the environs; not only prove the practicability of recreative excursions, at this season, but serve to shew the eagerness with which they are sought, and the pleasure they afford. Stage-coaches, carriages, and chariots, are sometimes separated from the wheels, and placed on the iron-shod runners of sleighs, which afford a comfortable and an elegant mode of travelling.

Houses are kept warm by means of stoves, which are constructed with a great regard to convenience; they are closed on all sides, are of various dimensions, and generally placed in the centre of the room. Pipes or flues are attached to them, to convey warmth to the same and adjoining apartments; and most of them are calculated for culinary purposes, the centre serving