

Reaumur. In summer, the parts of Europe under the same latitude as Matsmai enjoy, almost constantly, serene and warm weather ; in Matsmai, on the other hand, the rain pours down in torrents, at least twice a week, the horizon is involved in dark clouds, violent winds blow, and the fog is scarcely ever dispersed. In the former, oranges, lemons, figs, and other productions of the warm climates, thrive in the open air ; in the latter, apples, pears, peaches and grapes, hardly attain their proper ripeness.

I have not, it is true, been in Nippon, the principal island of the Japanese possessions ; but I have heard from the Japanese that, in Yeddo, the capital city of the empire, in the thirty-sixth degree of latitude, snow often falls, in the winter nights, to the depth of an inch or more. It is true, it melts immediately the next day ; but if we consider that Yeddô is under the same latitude as Malaga, in Spain, we shall be convinced that the climate of the eastern hemisphere is much ruder than that of the western. The Japanese assured me that, on the southern part of Sagaleen, in the forty-seventh degree of latitude, the ground is often thawed, during the summer, only to a depth of a foot and a half. If we compare with this the climate of a place in Europe, whose latitude corresponds, for example, Lyons, in France, how dif-