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This also causes a great want of fuel, particularly in the drier districts, where turf is unknown.

'The climate also suffers in this extremely dry rocky district. In winter there is no shelter from the icy winds, and everything is scorched in summer, unless the weather be very wet.' There follow local statistics which I do not think any of my readers would find interesting.

'*Romsdal Bailiwick.*—The amount of wood is almost the same as in Nordmore, with only this difference—that Romsdal has always possessed fewer fir woods, and even these are rapidly disappearing. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries Britain imported largely from this district; and its near neighbourhood to scantily wooded Soudmore, has occasioned a further drain on its resources. The inhabitants say that the day of the fir is past, that it will not now thrive. This is a mistake. Good management is all that is needed, both climate and shelter being pretty good, and many trees rare in Nordmore are here quite common. The people are economical in their own use of the timber, though using unhewn timber for their houses, or at most, with only two planks cut off. Here also the climate has changed for the worse, wherever the woods have been cut down, and the people are themselves aware of this.' There follow statistics of the several parishes.

'*Soudmore Bailiwick.*—The whole of this district is very mountainous, some of the peaks being 4000 feet high. There is only a small area fit for the growth of timber, and even this is much exposed to both sea-storms and avalanches. Sheep and cattle go at large, and greatly add to the destruction of the young trees. All these circumstances, combined with communal privileges, caused the fir woods to vanish long ago. In fact, the scarcity of trees is by the country people said to have been the work of enemies in the olden time; but I do not believe this. The fragments of charcoal still to be found scattered on the fields may have either been purposely manufactured, or the trees may have been accidentally burned.'