

to call the attention of philosophy to this curious subject, and enable us to give proper attention to it in all the practical operations of agricultural pursuit. Much time and expense might be saved, and profits realized, if this were more generally understood.

"We have already observed, that the heat of the sun in southern climes forces plants to a false maturity, runs them on too rapidly to fructification, and renders dry and woody the culms, stalks and leaves of the plants, where these parts are used. Hence the chaffiness of the leaf, the dryness of the culm, the lightness of the grain, and the unsavoury, spongy quality of the pulp of the plants in those latitudes. Hence the difficulty of fermenting their juices, distilling their essences, and preserving for use the fruit, juice or blades of such plants. The prevalence of insects is another bar to the productiveness of southern plants; swarms of them invade and strip the leaves, bore the fruit, and lead to blight and decomposition; and just in proportion as the labours of man have rendered plants succulent and their fruits and seeds sweet and pleasant, do these insects multiply on them, devour their crops and defeat the objects of husbandry.

"The labour of man, too, is more conservative in northern climates, because his arm is better nerved for exercise, his health and spirits more buoyant; and instead of saying, "Go and work," he says, "Come and work;" treads with a cheerful heart upon his own soil, and assists in the cultivation, collection and preservation of his own productions. It is in temperate climates that man can be most familiar with nature; it is there he has the best opportunities of observing the guarantees which nature has for the preservation of her animals and plants against the devastation of the elements; he sees an occasional apparent neglect of individuals, but a constant parental care of races. In everything he sees the wisdom and benevolence of God."