

CHAPTER XIX.

OF THE TREES, SHAUBS, ROOTS, HERBS, FLOWERS, &c.

I SHALL here observe the same method that I have pursued in the preceeding chapter, and and having given a list of the trees, &c. which are natives of the interior parts of North America, particularize such only as differ from the produce of other countries, or, being little known, have not been described.

OF TREES.

The Oak, the Pine Tree, the Maple, the Ash, the Hemlock, the Bass or White Wood, the Cedar, the Elm, the Birch, the Fir, the Locust Tree, the Poplar, the Wickopie, the Spruce, the Hornbeam, and the Button Wood Tree.

There are several sorts of oaks in these parts; the black, the white, the red, the yellow, the grey, the swamp and the chestnut oak: the five former vary but little in their external appearance, the shape of the leaves, and the color of the bark being so much alike, that they are scarcely distinguishable; but the body of the tree when sawed discovers the variation, which chiefly consists in the color of the wood, they being all very hard, and proper for building. The swamp oak differs materially from the others both in the shape of the leaf, which is smaller, and in the bark, which is smoother; and likewise as it grows only in a moist, gravelly soil. It is esteemed the toughest of all woods, being so strong yet pliable, that it is often made use of instead of whalebone, and is equally serviceable. The chestnut oak also is greatly different from the others, particularly in the shape of the leaf, which much resembles that of the chestnut tree, and for this reason is so denominated. It is neither so strong as the former species, nor so tough as the latter, but is of a nature proper to be split into rails