

squatting down to rest, were easily over-raken and knocked on the head. Their flesh was sometimes eaten by the sailors; but it was rank and filthy, and thought more fit for the hogs, which eat it greedily, and fatted well upon it, boiled.

The *snur-goose* is in length two feet eight inches. The general colour of the plumage is snow-white. The young are of a blue colour, till they are a year old. These are very numerous at Hudson's Bay. They visit Severn River in May, and stay a fortnight; but go farther north to breed: They return to Severn Fort the beginning of September, and stay to the middle of October, when they depart for the south, and are observed to be attended with their young, in flocks innumerable. At this time many thousands are killed by the inhabitants; who pluck them and take out the entrails, and putting the bodies into holes dug in the ground, cover them with earth, which freezing above them, keeps them perfectly sweet throughout the severe season; during which there is no more to do than occasionally to open one of those storehouses, when they find them sweet and good. In the summer months, they are plenty on the arctic coast of Siberia, but never migrate beyond longitude 130. They are supposed to pass the winter in more moderate climes, as they have been seen flying at a great height over Silesia; probably on their passage to some other country, as it does not appear that they continue there. In like manner, those of America pass the winter in Carolina. Here they arrive in large flocks; and feed on the roots of sage and grass, which they tear up like hogs. It used to be a common practice in that country to burn a piece of a marsh, which enticed the geese to come there, as they could then more readily get at the roots, which gave the sportsman opportunity of killing as many as he pleased. This species is the most numerous and the most stupid of all the goose race. They seem to want the instinct of others, by their arriving at the mouths of the Arctic Asiatic rivers before the season in which they can possibly subsist. They are annually guilty of the same mistake, and annually compelled to make a new migration to the south in quest of food, where they pass their time till the northern estuaries are freed from the bonds of ice. They have so little of the shyness of other geese, that they are taken in the most ridiculous manner imaginable, about Jakut, and the other parts of Siberia, which they frequent. The inhabitants first place, near the banks of the river, a great net, in a straight line, or else form a hovel of skins, sewed together. This done, one of the company

dresses himself in the skin of a white reindeer, advances towards the net or the hovel; and his companions go behind the flock, and by making a noise, drive them forward. The simple birds mistake the man in white for their leader, and follow him within reach of the net, which is suddenly pulled down, and captures the whole. When he chooses to conduct them to the hovel, they follow in the same manner; he creeps in at a hole left for that purpose, and out at another on the opposite side, which he closes up. The geese follow him through the first; and as soon as they are got in, he passes round, and secures every one.

### SINGULAR MODE of DISTILLING BRANDY in SWEDEN.

[From Consett's Tour through Sweden.]

IN Stockholm, as in other cold countries, the custom of drinking spirits prevails rather too much. Even ladies, who by no means deserve an improper epithet, comply with this pernicious custom. It is usual in this country, previous to dinner, for the company to assemble round the side board, and to regale themselves with bread, butter, cheese, or any thing of that nature, which preface is regularly followed in both sexes by a bumper of brandy. This custom in the fair sex reminds me of a set of rules which I have seen for the regulation of a Russian assembly. It concludes with this remarkable injunction—'N B: Ladies are not to be drunk before ten o'clock.'

Grain is not the only ingredient used in Sweden for the distilling of spirits. The low priced brandies are made from rye and ants, a species of insect very plentiful in this country. Upon enquiry I find, that 'Ants supply a resin, an oil, and an acid, which have been deemed of considerable service in the art of physic.' The ant used upon these occasions is a remarkably large black insect, commonly found in small round hills at the bottom of the fir-tree. It is less to be wondered that they should use these insects in their distilleries: than that they should eat them and consider them as highly palatable and pleasant. As I was walking with a young gentleman in a wood near Gottenburg, I observed him sit down upon one of these living hills, which from the nature of its inhabitants I should rather have avoided, and begin with some degree of keenness to devour these insects, first nipping off their heads and wings.