ously imputed to the moon. If the forest laws of the latter country interdict heavens be clear and unclouded, all substances on the surface of the earth which are strong and powerful radiators of heat, lose temperature by radiation, while the unclouded sky returns no heat to them to restore what they have lost. Such bodies, therefore, under these circumstances, become colder than the surrounding air, and may even if they be liquid, be frozen. Ice, in tact, is produced, in warm climates, by similar means. But if the firmament be enveloped in clouds, the clouds, having the quality of radiating, substance gain upon the surface of the earth as much heat as such substances lose by radiation; the temperature, therefore, of such bodies will be maintained at a point equal to that of the air surrounding them.

The moon, therefore, has no connection whatever with this effect; and it is certain that plants would suffer under the same circumstances, whether the moon is above or below the horizon.---It equally is quite true that if the moon is above the horizon, the plants cannot suffer unless it be visible, because a clear sky is indispensable as much to the production of the injury to the plants as to the visibility of the moon; and, on the other hand, the same clouds which yeil the moon and, intercept her light give back to the plants that warmth which prevents the injury here adverted to. The popular opinion is therefore right as to the effect, but wrong as to the cause; and its error will be at once discovered by showing that on a clear night, when the moon is new, and therefore not visible, the plants may nevertheless suffer.

Time for felling Timber.—There is an opinion generally entertained that timber should be felled only during the decline of the moon; for if it be cut down during its increase, it will not be of a good or durable quality. This impression prevails in various countries. It is acted upon in England, and is made the

the cutting of timber during the increase of the moon. M. Auguste de Saint Hilliare states that he found the same opinion prevalent in Brazil. Signor Francisco Pinto, an eminenthagriculturist in the province of Espirito Santo, assured him, as the result of his experience, that the wood which was not felled at the full of the moon was immediately attacked by worms and very · • • • soon rotted. 1.51.10 . A.

In the extensive forests of Germany, the same opinion is entertained and act-. ed upon with the most undoubting confidence in its truth. Sauer, a superintendent of one of these districts, assigns what he believes to be its physical cause. According to him, the increase of the moon causes the sap to ascend in the timber; and, on the other hand, the decrease of the moon causes its descent ----If the timber, therefore, be cut during the decrease of the moon, it will be cut in a dry state, the sap having retired ; and the wood, thereforo, will be compact. solid and durable. But if it be cut during the increase of the moon it will be felled with the sap in it, and will therefore be more spongy, more easily attacked by worms, more difficult to season, and more readily split and warped by changes of temperature.

Admitting for a moment the reality of this supposition concerning the motion of the sap, it would follow that the proper time for felling the timber would be the new moon, that being the epoch at which the descent of the sap would have been made, and the ascent not yet commenced. But can there be imagined in the whole range of natural science, a physical relation more extraordinary and unaccountable than this supposed correspondence between the movement of the sap and the phases of the moon? Assuredly theory affords not the slightest countenance to such a supposition; but let us inquire as to the fact whether. it would be really the case that the quality of timber depends upon the state ground of legislation in France. The | of the moon at the time it is felled.