

for medicine, ground-nuts, wild pease and leeks, plantain, radish, antichokes, and many other nutritive roots and herbs might be gathered in every direction.

Nor was the country less productive of wild animals, the chase and spoils of which furnished at once the amusement and the wealth of the tawny hunter. In the woods there were plenty of deer, moose, bears, turkeys, herons, partridges and quails. Of pigeons, there were such incredible numbers when the English first began to settle in Connecticut, as to fill them with amazement. Such extensive flocks would be seen, at certain seasons, flying for some hours in the morning, as absolutely to darken the sun. An old historian says,—‘ It passeth credit, if but the truth were written.’

The finest furs were taken from the otter, the beaver, the black, gray and red fox, the racoon, mink, musk-rat and other animals of the same class. The wolf and wild-cat were so numerous here, as well as in other parts of New England, after the English settlements commenced, as to prove exceedingly troublesome to the farmers.

To all these circumstances in the situation of the Connecticut natives, let it be added, that