

SMALLER FRUITS.

These smaller fruits are usually found coincident with the grasses, and the currants and gooseberries with the forests, failing only in the North from climatic defects where the grasses and forests fail. Sir John Richardson found the wild currant growing with the grasses and shrubs, and the showy epilobium on the shores of the Arctic Ocean in latitude 69° . Strawberries have been found by explorers on the most northern limits of the grass-producing regions, even around the cold humid shores of Hudson Bay and as high as 57° on the eastern coasts of that vast inland sea. Small fruits, cucumbers, musk-melons and vegetables of all kinds come to maturity at Norway House, near latitude 54° (Geo. R., 1879, p. 31, *cc.*) But the isothermal of July and August which would pass through Norway House would go north of 60° on Mackenzie river and to the Arctic Circle at Youkon.

A high temperature even in a short summer is sufficient to ripen these smaller fruits, and the temperature beyond the Arctic Circle at Fort Youkon is given in the Russian records at $65^{\circ} 7'$ for July, 60° for August and $59^{\circ} 7'$ for the summer—June, July and August. Fort Simpson on Mackenzie river, in latitude $61^{\circ} 51'$, has a June of $63^{\circ} 6'$ and a July of $61^{\circ} 51'$. Fort Chipewyan on lake Athabaska, latitude $58^{\circ} 43'$, has a July 63° . Even York Factory, in latitude 57° , on Hudson Bay, the temperature of which is lowered by the cold waters of that vast inland sea, has a July of 60° .

In Norway and Sweden the berry fruits go to latitude 63° and even in Kamchatka on the eastern coast, where it is at least ten degrees colder than on the western or interior regions, the blackberry is found in latitude 53° to 54° .

The northern boundary of these smaller fruits may be placed as high as the grasses, and over the vast regions of the interior co-extensive with the pastures and meadows.

"Strawberries, raspberries, currants, cranberries, and two kinds of cherries are abundant on Peace river [to latitude 58°]. The flora of the whole of Peace river is much the same as central Ontario. Cucumbers started in the open air were fully ripe" [August 15th, latitude $58^{\circ} 24'$.] (*Prof. Macoun's evidence.*)