

AMERICA.

Climate, Soil, Productions, and different Kinds of Animals, &c.

The climate is temperate; and the soil, which is a kind of red slate, is exceedingly rich, that, in a short time after it has been turned up, and exposed to air and moisture, it is converted into a species of marle. The soil of the Holy Land is said to be of a similar nature. The province produces vast quantities of grain, hemp, flax, hay, Indian corn, &c. &c. There are also in this and the Southern colonies abundance of wild vines, of three or four species, different from the European; but no wine has yet been made from them worthy of notice.

Colonel Peter Schuyler has, in his garden, a fine collection of citrons, oranges, limes, lemons, balsams of Peru, aloes, pomegranates, and other tropical plants; and, in his park, several English and American deer, with some elks or moose deer.—Here are also valuable copper-mines, in particular those belonging to Colonel John Schuyler; and rich veins of ore. But the country abounds with mosquitoes.

The climate of Pennsylvania, during winter, is in general milder than that of the Northern colonies, in proportion as it lies more to the South: nevertheless, from December to March, the cold is frequently so intense as to freeze over the Delaware, though a very broad river. On the other hand, in the summer season, the months of July, August, and September, would be almost intolerable, were it not for the frequent cool breezes which moderate the heat.—The soil is extremely strong and fertile, producing spontaneously an infinite variety of trees, flowers, fruits, and plants, of different sizes; and the mountains are enriched with ore. This province is cultivated to greater perfection than any other; and in this state yields not only great plenty, but great variety of grain; also flaxseed, hemp, and various other articles.

It must be observed here, that in the Southern the timber is not so proper for ship-building as in the Northern colonies; for in a comparative degree as they lie nearer to the South, the wood becomes less and less compact, and splits easily;—a quality, however, that, though rendering it improper for ships, makes it fitter for staves.—The land abounds with cattle, and the rivers with fish.

The staple commodity of Maryland is the Oronooko sort of tobacco, which is much stronger than the Virginian, and for this reason preferred in the Eastern and Northern parts of Europe.

The climate both of Maryland and Virginia, on the whole, is extremely fine. Autumn and spring are delightful seasons, and in winter the weather is so mild as scarcely to require a fire; yet now and then there are some extremely sharp days; and it is not uncommon, after a warm day, to have such sudden and severe cold as to freeze over a river a mile broad in one night. The summer brings violent heats, and frequent and furious gusts, with terrible thunder and lightning, whence, however, little mischief happens to the buildings, owing to the electrical rods which are affixed to most of them. The natural productions of the soil, which, for the most part, is good, are trees and flowers of infinitely various sorts, with great quantities of fruits and medicinal plants; particularly, tobacco and Indian corn, pigeon-berry and rattle-snake root, much esteemed in ulcerous and pleuritical disorders; strawberries, hickory-nuts, mulberries, chestnuts, myrtles, cedars, cypresses, sugar-trees, different sorts of fir-trees, seven or eight kinds of oak, red-flowering maples, sassafras-trees, dog-woods, acacias, scarlet-flowering chestnuts, red-buds, flowering poplars, magnolias, fringe-trees, umbrellas, chamædaphnes (reckoned the most beautiful of all flowering shrubs), pacoons, yellow jessamines, may-apple, atamuseo, lilies, &c. &c. &c. For an elegant and