

*Cape Breton and Louisburg.* 7

and water form but one solid mass. All kind of commerce is then at a stand, and the town puts on a melancholy aspect, very different from the appearance it makes in summer, when crouded with sea-faring people. Yet the air is wholesome, notwithstanding the tediousness of the winter. Properly speaking they have but two seasons, winter and autumn; but in the inland parts there are three, summer, autumn, and winter.

The surface of almost the whole country is extremely disagreeable, being nothing else but a light kind of moss and water. The great humidity of the ground is productive of continual vapours.

A circumstance that considerably adds to the horror of this season, is a kind of meteor seldom observed in other countries, and which the inhabitants distinguish by the name of *poudrerie* or *powdering*. It is a species of very fine snow, which insinuates itself into every hole and corner, and even into the minutest crevices. It does not seem to fall upon the ground,