

the peculiarities of soil and local circumstances, the difference of latitude, and the remote ascent of the plains and mountains from the level of the ocean. The climate of a country is best exemplified in the revolutions of its seasons: I shall therefore give a description of each season, in its regular order of succession.

The spring is often wet and cloudy, and attended with easterly winds. The shores of the lakes being now loosened by the resolving influence of the season, have their deeps covered with shoals of ice, broken into pieces by the violence of the winds. The vast quantity carried down by the different rivers of the country, is truly astonishing. Their deep and rapid currents are often filled for the space of ten days; nor is that period, when the winter has been more severe than usual, adequate for its passage. Those beds of undissolved ice and snow, which remain for a long time in the northern regions of the province, have a powerful effect in retarding the progress of vegetation. In April