

the heat circulate, and to prevent it from being too soon dissipated : by means of a lever, the air may be condensed and rarefied at pleasure. Wood here is not dear, and little care is employed to save it. The price of provisions is equally moderate ; but the case is not the same with labour and objects of luxury. The lower classes of people live principally upon hard bread, salted or dried fish, and water gruel ; beer is their ordinary beverage, and they can procure it exceedingly cheap. At the tables of the rich and opulent, there is always plenty of meat, and the repast is preceded by a kind of collation, consisting of butter, cheese, salt provisions, and strong liquors. Strangers are astonished to see women here often swallow large quantities of these liquors, and with the same ease as the men. The consumption of wine is very great in Sweden ; but people seldom drink it to excess. The use of tea and coffee is every day extended more and more.

One cannot travel in Sweden, without being struck with the arrangements which administration have formed for the convenience of travelling. They bear a peculiar character which is altogether national. The peasants furnish horses, each of which costs four schellings per mile, except in cities, where people must pay six. At each post, a certain number of them is kept always in readiness, and when these are not sufficient, others are sought for in the neighbourhood. The person who procures the horses, presents to the traveller a book, the leaves of which are divided into several columns. In these the latter inserts the day and hour of his arrival ; his name and quality ; the place from which he came, and to which he is going ; the number of horses he has employed, and the manner in which he has been served. At the end of every month this book is transmitted to the territorial judge. The horses are small, and make little shew ; but they go very fast, especially in winter. The sledge may be said to cleave the air ; it passes over lakes covered with ice and snow, and you are at your journey's end when you perhaps think that you have only got half way. If you treat the peasants with mildness, you may make them do whatever you choose : It is only in the neighborhood of the capital that they are self-interested and unruly. It is a great pity, that an establishment so convenient for the traveller, should be hurtful to agriculture.

Such are the principal outlines of the picture exhibited in general, by the character, manners, and customs of the Swedes. By examining each province in particular, we shall, however, find various shades of a

deeper or lighter cast. The Scandian, who cultivates a fertile soil, and who commonly possesses a moderate share of wealth, is sensible of his happiness, and imparts it to others. The Smolander, his neighbour, placed amid barren rocks, and melancholy woods, is humble, mild, and submissive ; the smallest reward will satisfy him, and he testifies his gratitude in the most simple and affecting manner. The Westrogoth, who likewise inhabits a country little favoured by nature, is well-acquainted with the resources of industry, and puts them in practice : above all, he understands to perfection every kind of traffic. The Ostrogoth has nothing against him but his name ; he is distinguished by his politeness, his affability, and the easiness of his manners ; he resembles that nature with which he is surrounded, and which every where presents itself under the most pleasing aspects. The vicinity of the capital gives to the Sudermanian, and the Uplander, a double physiognomy, the natural features of which have been disfigured. The Westmanian prepossesses by a noble figure, a firmness and steadiness of character, and simple but mild manners. The inhabitant of that district called Norland, is very tall ; has an intrepid look : and frankness and loyalty is painted in his countenance. The inhabitant of Finland is honest, industrious, enured to labour, and capable of enduring great hardships ; but he is reproached with being stiff and obstinate. The Laplanders, who live on the borders of Norland, begin to be civilized ; but the rest are still in a savage state, and acquainted with no other rule of conduct than the instinct of nature.

We cannot here pass over in silence that remarkable tribe, whose name alone recalls the idea of patriotism and courage. Under a rigorous sky, amid mountains covered with snow, during eight months of the year, the Dalecarlians accustom themselves to the severest labours, and fear no fatigue. Like the rocks which surround them, they brave every attack ; proud and intrepid, as all mountaineers are, they detest slavery, resist oppression ; and, attached to their manners and customs, they transmit them unchanged from generation to generation. Short coats, all black or white, a long beard, and an uncouth but nervous dialect, distinguish them from the other inhabitants of Sweden. Placed upon an ungrateful and barren soil, they have often no other nourishment than bread composed of the coarsest meal, mixed with the bark of trees, gruel seasoned only with water and salt, or dried fish. These people emigrate, in great numbers, to seek for a maintenance in the