

on the surface of the earth, when not drifted by the winds, is therefore influenced by the degrees of latitude. When the surface of the snow has been congealed by the frost, it proves very serviceable for the passage of *sleighs* *, by which means a communication is kept up between distant parts of the country. While the frost continues, the air is always pure and salubrious, and the sky is remarkably serene. It often happens, that the winter passes away without much frost ; but when this is the case, the moist state of the atmosphere renders the season extremely unpleasant. Accordingly, the medium temperature of the air varies considerably in different winters. The thermometer often indicates as great a reduction of heat as is met with in any country.

The winters of Upper Canada are now less severe than at a former period, and also of much shorter duration. It has been observed, that the severity of the cold has de-

* Sledges.