

may have passed through a spruce swamp, and arrived at a ridge covered with a deciduous growth, it is supposed there is a sufficient obstacle to stop its further progress. But, in the event of a long continued drought having dried every rotten wind-fall into touch-wood, and of the fire being attended with a strong wind, the sparks and ignited bark would be driven through the hard wood ridge, and, in a few minutes, the next evergreen tract would be in a fearful blaze, destructive of the life and vegetation of every thing within the bounds of its influence ; leaving the trees, and even their limbs standing, but scathed and charred, resembling in many respects a vast collection of masts of merchant vessels in a very large port. Fire will continue to exist in every rotten log or decayed tree, until rain fall in sufficient abundance to penetrate into all its recesses, and until that auspicious event, no one residing in its neighbourhood considers himself in safety.

“ The effect of fire on the standing timber is so superficial that, provided it be cut down and hewed without delay, none but practised eyes can discern the difference between it and that which may have been cut green ; but, after the first succeeding winter, the worm quickly pierces it with holes, and bereaves it of sap, which renders the timber useless.

“ Large tracts of burnt woodland now deform the face of this province ; but, in the course of a few years, they will be covered with an almost impenetrable thick forest of young trees. On the Tobique, in 1821, an extensive district was devastated by fire ; and, the same year, a considerable space on the eastern bank of the Etienne, with a large saw-mill on Savoy's river, was consumed. But all former fires did inconsiderable damage, when put in competition with those awful visita-