

tribute of gratitude and esteem to their attention, disinterestedness, and hospitality. Naturally serious and grave, they are acquainted with, and cultivate the valuable bonds of sociability. Under the most simple external appearance, they conceal a profound judgment, an acute and delicate genius, and often an active and intrepid spirit. They long made a conspicuous figure by their military exploits, and have since proved, that they are equally fit for the arts of peace. They are very fond of travelling; but, at the same time, they love their country, never forget it, and always long to see it again. With an irresistible inclination for liberty, they are attached to their sovereigns, and majesty is always certain of their veneration and respect. They support poverty with courage and patience; but riches to them are often attended with danger.

There are some cantons in Sweden, where the manners of the people are still truly patriarchal, and display the utmost purity, innocence, and candour. Ye travellers, endowed with upright and feeling hearts, hasten to behold this interesting spectacle: it is superior to that exhibited by the wonders of art, and the monuments of pomp and luxury! But delay not: corruption already begins to diffuse abroad her destructive breath, and more than one trace of its baneful influence are already to be perceived. Pernicious maxims, a taste for frivolous objects, and the ambition of imitating other nations, whose manner of living is generally boasted of, will insensibly produce a revolution, which every virtuous citizen must lament. The excessive use of spirituous liquors is no less dangerous and destructive to good morals; the number of the places where they are sold increases every day; and some of them may be met with at every step, on the most frequented roads. Thither the labourer and the artist go, to sacrifice both their health and money, to swallow a destructive poison, which enervates their bodies, and renders them stupid.

The Swedes are distinguished from other people of Europe by a national dress, established in 1777, with the laudable design of repressing luxury in the article of clothes. The men wear a close coat, very wide breeches, strings in their shoes, a girdle, a round hat, and a cloak. The usual colour is black. In court dresses, the cloak, the buttons, the girdle, and the shoe strings are of a flame colour. The women wear a black robe, with puffed gauze sleeves, a coloured sash and ribbands. Those who go to court have their sleeves of white gauze.

There is also a particular uniform for

gala days. The men appear in a blue satin suit, lined with white, and ornamented with lace; the women in a white satin robe, with coloured sashes and ribbands. Two days of the year, the first of May and midsummer, are in Sweden particularly consecrated to public mirth and joy. On the first of May, large fires, which seem to announce that natural warmth about to succeed the severity of the winter, are kindled in the fields; around these fires the people assemble, while others go to enjoy good cheer, and with the glass in their hands to banish care and sorrow. Midsummer-day is still better calculated to inspire mirth and festivity: the fine season is then established; the sun every where diffuses his vivifying rays; the tenants of the woods, freed from their long captivity, tune their throats to joy; the flocks range the fields at their ease, to taste the juicy grass; and man, awakened from that lethargy into which he has been sunk, together with all nature, seems to be animated by a new soul, while his faculties resume their wonted vigour, and his heart becomes open to the soft impressions of sensibility. On the evening before this happy period, the people assemble; the houses are ornamented with boughs; and the young men and young women erect a pole, around which they dance till morning. Having recruited their strength by some hours of repose, they repair to church, and, after imploring the protection of the Supreme Being, they again give themselves up to fresh effusions of joy. During these two festivals, the people display all their gaiety by dances and songs, the greater part of which are national, and partake somewhat of the climate.

The inhabitants of the southern provinces endeavour to provide places of shelter from the heat; and those of the north, living near the abode of Boreas, employ all their ingenuity to preserve themselves from the cold. This art is well known in Sweden: pelisses, cloaks, great coats, and boots lined with furs, are of excellent service. The greater part of the houses are of wood; but, when well constructed, and kept in repair, they are warmer than those built of brick or stone: they likewise contract less moisture, and are not so apt to retain that nourisher of cold. The seams of the windows are daubed over with pitch or cement, and double ones are sometimes employed; but these are attended with a very sensible inconvenience in winter, by rendering the apartments too dark. The stoves are constructed in such a manner as is most suitable to the country; the tubes of them are so twisted as to make the