

constantly carry a steel and tinder-box, with matches, &c. in their pockets. At night they make large fires, near which they wrap themselves up in blankets, and lay down to sleep with as much composure as if they were in their own houses. From such a practice we are led to think that this climate is never so cold as it has often been represented. When the snows are very deep, they have what they call snow shoes to walk in, which keep them from sinking. On the outside of those shoes is a wood rim, about the thickness of a good walking stick, turned like an ox-bow, the back part is almost close, they are near a foot broad in the middle, and a foot and a half long; worked at the bottom like a sieve with thongs of the mouse-deer's skin, pieces of wood are fixed across, which make a place for the feet, and they are fastened on with straps. The snow usually begins to go about the beginning of March. Their spring is generally cold, and something later than in England. When their vegetables of any kind once begin to grow, they make a more rapid progress than any we ever observed in England; and it is really astonishing how a clove of grass or corn will spring up in a few days.

Money is indeed very scarce in this part of the world, so that trade is chiefly carried on by the bartering of their goods, which is undoubtedly a great disadvantage to the country, and on account of which they labour under the greatest inconveniencies. What they purchase at present, is for the most part on a year's credit, and they do not pay less than a hundred per cent. interest. Their payments are made at the end of the year, with wheat, butter, cheese, beatts and horses, or whatever is convenient for them. There are merchants, whom they call store-keepers, who derive great advantage,