

inland parts of a country. There are plants which stand the winter in London exposed to the open air, that cannot be preserved at Paris ; and Siberia, which is a vast continent, is for this reason colder than Sweden, which is surrounded on all sides by the sea.

The coldest country in the world is Spitzbergen : it lies in the 78th degree of north latitude, and is entirely formed of small peaked mountains ; these mountains are composed of gravel, and flat stones somewhat like slate, heaped one on the other ; which, it is affirmed by navigators, are raised by the wind, and increase so quick, that new ones are discovered every year. The rein-deer is the only animal seen here, which feeds on a short grass and moss. On the top of these little mountains, and at more than a mile from the sea, the mast of a ship was found with a pulley fastened to one of its ends, which gives room to suppose that the sea once covered the tops of these mountains, and that this country is but of modern date ; it is uninhabited, and uninhabitable ; the soil of these small mountains has no consistence, but is loose, and so cold and penetrating a vapour strikes from it, that it is impossible to remain any length of time thereon.