

others, as olives, and almost all fruit-trees, shared a milder fate, shooting forth their leaves, their roots not having been hurt; and many large trees, which were more vigorous, shot forth every branch in spring, and did not appear to have suffered any material injury. We shall, nevertheless, remark on the real and irreparable damage this winter occasioned them.

Frost, which can deprive us of the most necessary articles of life, destroys many kinds of useful trees, and which scarcely ever leaves one insensible of its rigour, is certainly one of the most formidable misfortunes of human nature; we have therefore every reason to dread intense frosts, which might reduce us to the last extremities if their severities were frequent; but fortunately we can quote only two or three winters which have produced so great and general a calamity as that in 1709.

The greatest spring frosts, although they damage the grain, and principally barley, when it is but just eared, never occasion great scarcities. They do not affect the trunks or branches of trees, but they totally destroy their productions, deprive us of the harvest of the vines and orchards, and by the suppression of new buds cause a considerable damage to forests.

Although