

winter: of these, however, we cannot reason with so great a certainty as on those of spring; because, as we have already observed, we are seldom subjected to their tragical effects.

Most trees during winter being deprived of blossoms, fruits, and leaves, have generally their buds hardened so as to be capable of supporting very sharp frosts; unless the preceding summer was cool, in which case the buds not being arrived to that degree of maturity, which gardeners call *aoutes**, they are not in a state of resisting the moderate frosts of winter; but this seldom happens, the buds commonly ripening before winter, and the trees endure the rigour of that season without being damaged, unless excessive cold weather ensue, joined to the circumstances hereafter mentioned.

We have, nevertheless, met with many trees in forests with considerable defects, which have certainly been produced by the sharp frosts, and which will never be effaced.

These defects are, 1st, chaps or chinks, which follow the direction of the fibres. 2. A portion of dead wood included in the good; and lastly, the double sap, which is an entire crown of imperfect wood. We must dwell a little

* Ripened or filled with sap.