

foot of some of these trees, to see if the defect existed also in the roots, but we found them sound : therefore, it is probable that the earth which covered them had repaired the injury done by the frost.

Here then we see one of the most dreadful effects of winter frosts, which though locked up within the tree, is not less to be feared, since it renders the trees attacked by them almost useless ; but besides this, it is very difficult to meet with trees totally exempt from these injuries ; and indeed all those whose wood is not of a deeper colour at the centre, growing somewhat lighter towards the sap, may be suspected of having some defects, and ought not to be made use of in any matter of consequence.

By horizontally sawing the bottom of trees, we sometimes perceive a piece of dead sap or dried bark, entirely covered by the live wood : this dead sap occupies nearly half of the circumference in the parts of the trunk where it is found : it is sometimes browner than good wood, and at others almost white. From the depth also where this sap is found in the trunk, it appears to have been occasioned by the sharp frost in winter, by which a portion of the sap and bark perished, and was afterwards covered by the new wood ; for this sap is almost always
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