

injured by the frost, which spoiling the principal buds obliges the trees to shoot forth lateral branches, and thus prevents their ever becoming straight and handsome trees fit for service. What we have just advanced must not be understood only of deep vallies, which are liable to those inconveniencies from northern expositions, or those inclosed on the southern side in the form of an alley, in which it often freezes the whole year, but also of the smallest vallies, so that by a little custom we can discover the bad figure of the shoots from the inclination of the earth ; this I particularly observed on the 28th of April, 1734 ; on that day the buds of all the trees, from one year up to six or seven, were frozen in all the lower places ; whereas in the high and uncovered places there were only the shoots near the earth which were so ; the earth was then very dry, and the humidity of the air did not appear to have greatly contributed to this injury. Neither vines, nor the trees of the plain, are subject to frost, which might lead us to suppose they are less delicate than the oak ; but we think this must be attributed to the humidity, which is always greater in the woods than in the rest of the plains, for we have observed that oaks are often very much injured from
frosts