

a little declining to the north, which scarcely ever produce any fruit, although the trees are handsomer than those to the southern and northern. We cannot, therefore, avoid the inconveniences of the frost with respect to the southern exposition without feeling others that are worse.

All delicate trees, as fig, laurel, &c. must be set to the south, and great care taken to cover them; it is only requisite to remark that dry dung is preferable for this purpose to straw, because the latter not only does not so exactly cover them, but also from its always retaining some grain which attracts moles and rats, who sometimes eat the bark of trees to quench their thirst in frosty weather, when they can meet with no water to drink, nor herb to feed upon; and however singular this may appear, it is a circumstance which has happened to us several times; but when dung is made use of it must be dry, without which it will heat and make the young branches grow mouldy.

All these precautions are, nevertheless, very inferior to the espaliers in niches; as in that manner plants are sheltered from all winds, except the south, which cannot hurt them; the sun, which warms these places during the day, prevents the cold from being so violent during the night; and over these defended places