

panions; or from a depraved taste. None have ever consented voluntarily to feed on the flesh of horses, or of ravens; and *caviare* will always be *caviare* to the multitude.

Next in importance to those vegetable species which either afford the material of bread, or an equivalent for it, may be classed those which contribute partly to the *nourishment* of man, and partly to his *health* and solace. The human system certainly may be, and too often from necessity absolutely is, supported solely on the nutriment afforded by the former species: but if we view the actual state of society, we find that many vegetable species and products may now properly be classed among the necessities of life, which for many ages remained either undiscovered, or were only locally known, or sparingly employed; of which it will be quite sufficient to mention tea<sup>y</sup>, and sugar, and the potato. The sugar cane has for such a length of time usurped the prerogative of supplying the world with sugar, that other sources have been little considered: but even in cold climates there are plants capable of affording it in considerable quantities. There is, for instance, a species of maple cultivated in North America for the sake

<sup>y</sup> During five years, beginning with 1826, about one hundred and fifty million pounds of tea were sold at the East India House, the average annual consumption being, according to the preceding statement, thirty million pounds.