

the temples of Ellora, states that the town, which stands about 1020 yards from the fort, is surrounded by a hedge of prickly pear, nearly eighteen feet high, and thick in proportion. This natural defence around towns and villages on the western side of India is very common ; and it offers to a predatory body of horse or foot a formidable barrier : for the sharp and long thorns, which project from the stem and leaf, not only act as an immediate defence ; but, if broken off, they exude a liquid which often produces severe inflammation^h.

In a part of Normandy, lying between Caen and Falaise, is a district called “Le Bocage” (*petit bois*), which “derives its name from the “high and bushy hedges with which it abounds ; “and which are designed to afford shelter from “the stormy winds of the Atlantic. There are “but few trees in those parts ; but the hedges, “being from eight to ten feet in height, are sufficient to protect the crops from the boisterous “sea-breezes : and they thence bear the name “of *brise-vent*ⁱ.”

The last point in the history of vegetables which I propose to consider is their application as fuel ; and many nations entirely derive their supply of fuel, for culinary and other domestic purposes, from the vegetable kingdom alone :

^h P. 522.

ⁱ Conversations on Vegetable Physiology, vol. ii. p. 232.