

found exposed to the south, where the sun melting the ice, a humidity results, which again freezes soon after the sun disappears, and that forms a true ice, which is well known to cause a considerable prejudice to trees. This defect does not always appear throughout the whole length of the trunk, for we have seen many square pieces which seemed perfectly exempt from all defects, nor were the injuries of the frost discovered until they were slit into planks. It is, nevertheless easily to be conceived, how such a disorder, in their internal parts, must diminish their strength, and assist their perishing.

In forests, or woods, we meet with trees which strong winter frosts have split according to the direction of their fibres; these are marked with a ridge formed by the cicatrice that covers the cracks, but which remain within the trees without uniting again, because a re-union is never formed in the ligneous fibres when they have been divided or broken; nor can it be doubted, that the sap, which increases in volume when it freezes, as all liquors do, may produce many of these cracks. But we also suppose that there are some which are independent of the frost, and which have been occasioned by a too great abundance of sap.