

dew-drops, which are also spherical, produce the same? Perhaps, it may be thought that the most spirituous and volatile parts of the sap melting the first, they evaporate before the rest are in a state of moving in the vessels of the plant, which might decompose the sap.

But in general it may be said, that the frost increasing the volume of fluids, dilates the vessels of plants, and that the thaw cannot be performed without the parts which compose the frozen fluid enter into motion. This change may be made with sufficient gentleness not to break the most delicate vessels of plants, which will by degrees return to their natural tone, and then the plants will not suffer any injury; but, if it be done with precipitation, these vessels will not be able to resume their natural tone so soon after having suffered a violent extension, the liquors will evaporate and the plant remain dry.

Although we might conclude with these conjectures, with which I am not myself perfectly satisfied, yet the following data are irrevocably constant.

1. That it seldom happens with regard to fruit, either in spring or winter, that the plants are injured simply by the force of the frost and independently of any particular circumstances,
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