

shores of the genial Mediterranean to those of the frozen Baltic.

In the vegetable department, though the intertropical colonies sent their splendid exotics, and the woods, roots, and plants of the New World contended with those of the Indian Archipelago and the southern hemisphere, I saw nothing that at all equalled in completeness the collection of the Messrs Lawson of Edinburgh. It consists of all plants, seeds, and trees which are reared in Scotland for the use of man ; and, interesting at all times, it would have formed, had it been made in the last age, one of the best possible apologetic defences for Scotland against the gibes of the English. “Do you ever bring the sloe to perfection in your country ?” inquired Johnson, in one of his merrier moods, of the obsequious Boswell. The Messrs Lawson show most conclusively that we bring to perfection a great deal more. We find it stated that the making of their collection cost them about two thousand pounds sterling,—evidence enough of itself that the vegetable productions of Scotland useful for food and in the arts cannot be few. There are many Scotchmen, and in especial Scotchwomen, who complain of the climate of their country. I daresay it must have occurred to some of them, amid the beautiful specimens of the Messrs Lawson’s collection, that the wonder is, not that the climate of Scotland should be occasionally severe, but that in the average it should be so mild and genial. There is not another country in the world lying between the fifty-fifth and fifty-ninth degrees of latitude, whether in the northern or southern hemisphere, that could mature one-half the productions exhibited by the Messrs Lawson. On the American coast, under the same degrees, the isothermal line is that of the north of Iceland ; the ground always remains frozen hard as a rock to the depth of a few feet from the surface ; and as the winter sets in, the sea forms into a continuous cake of ice along the shores. The