

and even where such a supply is in a great measure needless, on account of the abundance of coal, yet, for many purposes, various forms of wood, either in a recent or in a charred state, are preferred, on account of the injurious effects arising from the sulphur with which coal is usually contaminated; in the heating of bakers' ovens, for instance, in the drying of malt, and in numerous processes of the arts. Around the shores of the Arctic Ocean, where scarcely any traces of native vegetation are observable, the inhabitants are amply supplied by drift-wood (Sauer's account of Billings's Expedition, p. 104—259). And captain Beechey says, that drift-wood is to the Esquimaux what forests are to us; being in such abundance and variety, that the inhabitants have the choice of several sorts of trees. All this drift-wood about the mouths of rivers, on the north coast of America, appears to be brought down by those rivers from the interior of America: but from the occurrence of many floating trees to the southward of Kamchatka, and from other circumstances, it is probable that much of the drift-wood, found at a distance from the mouths of rivers, comes very far from the southward (p. 575—580).

Nor does the benefit, arising from vegetable forms of fuel, terminate with their consumption. The residuary ashes are useful, as a manure for the land, on account of the alkaline matter which