

the heat in Summer, when they are very dense; and yet they do not,—the heat in the woods themselves being then very intense, although some nights it freezes as in Winter. I think, therefore, that the true reason is the dryness, called by Aristotle the *cos calorìs et frigoris*. I do not dispute whether the cold of new France is more intense than that of Countries which are under the same latitude; certain it is, that it is much more acute, and accompanied with much snow and ice, which keep the rivers frozen five and six entire months. But all this may be an effect of the dryness, which is necessary for the snows and ice,—it being a very well-founded opinion that even very intense cold is not sufficient to make ice; otherwise, water—which naturally never freezes except under the greatest cold, as many will have it, or at least under a highly intense cold, as no one denies—would in its natural state be frozen, contrary to its destined use, which is to serve for washing, and as a drink for men and animals. But, because cold alone, although intense, is not sufficient without either some little body, or exhalation, or dry quality, therefore water, even in its natural state, would be fluid; and where dryness prevails, although the cold is not greater than elsewhere, it contracts or expands itself into snow and into ice. Besides, the dryness of these countries is evident,—first, because most of the lands are either stony or sandy (but not, on that account, sterile), whence the Sun cannot derive other than very dry exhalations; and the maritime countries, as being more moist, have less snow, and it melts more quickly. Secondly, from experience, through the scarcity of rains, and by the salubrity of the air, so great that, in sixteen and more years during which