

ing ours which are born in the country, such as dogs, swine, etc.—with double fur, inner and outer, the former of which is very thick and very soft.

Secondly, that the Hares, as in the Alps, change their color in winter, [8] being white like the snow in which they live,—while, in summer, they resume the color of ours.<sup>20</sup> The earth contains iron ores, and certain rocks which melt like metal, with an appearance of having some vein of silver. There is a Copper ore, which is very pure, and which has no need of passing through the fire; but it is in places far distant and hard to reach, which render its transportation almost impossible. We have seen it in the hands of the Barbarians, but no one has visited the place. Besides the Pumpkins, which last for two months, and are very good baked under the ashes, there are no other fruits but wild ones. The best are the strawberries, of two sorts; the blackberries, which grow on briars; the hazelnuts, and certain haws, and the wild plum. The walnuts have scarcely anything but the shell, and the cherries are no larger than a pea,—being little else than stone and skin, and very sour. There are some wild vines, but in small quantity, nor are they esteemed by the Barbarians themselves; but they do esteem highly a certain fruit of violet color, the size of a juniper berry, which I have never seen in these countries. I have also seen, once, a plant similar to the Melon of India, with fruit the size of a small lime. There is also, in a certain place, abundance of garlic and cives; and elsewhere there are found some roots of fairly good savor, which serve—as also do acorns—in time of hunger.

The Inhabitants reflect the poverty of the Soil, in