

my squirrel. You know cats will eat squirrels—so mamma says.”

“Cats belong to a very different class of animals ; they are beasts of prey, formed to spring and bound and tear with their teeth and claws. The otter is also a beast of prey, but its prey is found in the still waters and not on the land ; it can neither climb nor leap—so I do not think he would hurt your squirrel if you had one.”

“See, Nurse, my dear little squirrel is still where I left him, clinging to the wires of the cage, his bright eyes looking like two black beads.”

“As soon as it grows dark, he will begin to be more lively, and perhaps he will eat something, but not while we look at him—he is too shy for that.”

“Nurse, how can they see to eat in the dark ?”

“The good God, Lady Mary, has so formed their eyes that they can see better by night than by day. I will read you, Lady Mary, a few verses from Psalm civ. :

Verse 19.—He appointeth the moon for seasons—the sun knoweth his going down.

20.—Thou makest darkness, and it is night, wherein all the beasts of the forest do move.

21.—The young lions roaring after their prey, do seek their meat from God.

22.—The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens.

23.—Man goeth forth to his work, and to his labor, till the evening.

24.—O Lord, how manifold are thy works ! In wisdom hast thou formed them all. The earth is full of thy riches.

“Thus, you see, my dear, that our Heavenly Father taketh care of all his creatures, and provideth for them both by day and by night.”

“I remember, Nurse, that my dormice used to lie quite still, nestled among the moss and wood in their little dark chamber in the cage, all day long, but when it was night, they used to come out and frisk about, and run along the wires, and play all sorts of tricks, chasing one another round and round, and then they were not afraid of me, but would let me look at them