

the berries of our Mountain Ash; on the whole of rather a good flavour, they easily dry up when preserved, and are therefore, like the rose-apples, more sought after by bears, sables, &c., than men. At about 1000 feet height these thickets are no longer seen, but the more common are the other two, one consisting of an Alder, *Alnus incana*, Cham. ($11 \frac{m}{l}$), the other, of the so-called "*Kedrownik*,"

by most botanists considered a variety of *Pinus Cembra* ($5 \mid 6 \frac{d}{c}$). The Alder forms of all three the most extensive thickets; it commences even at a low elevation, alternating with those of the others, but at about 2000 to 3000 feet it alone remains, surrounded by an Alpine flora, bare rocks, and perpetual snow; and there is in all the higher mountains of the peninsula a region in which the soil is exclusively covered by it. The pine growing more isolated about the coast is here only a shrub, and the higher one ascends the more extensive become the thickets it constitutes. As long as its fruits are fresh the seeds can be eaten raw; they taste rather resinous, but aromatic, are a little larger than peas, of good flavour, and a thin but, in a dry state, hard dark-brown skin; they are eaten like almonds, and much esteemed in Kamtschatka. These fruits are the principal food of sables during the winter, of bears during the autumn. The soil of the light forest of birches represented in our illustration, between the above-mentioned thickets, is clad with grass of no great height and isolated shrubs of the two *Loniceras* and one of the Roses alluded to, characterised by its rather larger spiny fruits, which are of a better flavour than those of the others, provided they have not become soft by night frosts. Amongst the herbs in the foreground predominate about this season an *Aconitum* (11 o), a *Cimicifuga* (9 o), a *Cacalia* with very broad leaves (10 p), a tall *Artemisia*, and a very fine thistle without spines (12 o), which is said to occur also in Siberia, and is a favourite fodder of the horses of jakutic descent. There is also the *Epilobium angustifolium* ($14 \mid 15 \frac{o}{p}$), which has attained its full height, and plays an important part in the domestic economy of the Kamtschadales, a part of its stem being preserved as an antiscorbutic dish during the winter. Except a species of *Clematis* (13 o), of which there is a specimen on the foot of the willow stem, there seems to be no creepers in Kamtschatka.