

"Nurse, I heard mamma say once that the Britons who lived in England were once savages, and lived in caves and huts, and such places, and were dressed in skins, and painted their bodies like the Indians."

"When you read the history of England, you will see that such was the case," said Mrs. Frazer.

"Nurse, perhaps the little birds like to see the flowers, and the sun shine, and the blue sky, and men's houses. I will make my garden very pretty this spring, and plant some nice flowers to please the dear little birds."

Many persons would have thought such remarks very foolish in our little lady, but Mrs. Frazer, who was as good as well as a wise woman, did not laugh at the little girl, for she thought it was a lovely thing to see her wish to give happiness to the least of God's creatures, for it was imitating His own mercy and goodness, which delighteth in the enjoyment of the things which He has called into existence.

"Please, Mrs. Frazer, will you tell me which flowers will be first in bloom?"

"The very first is a plant that comes up without leaves."

"Nurse, that is the Christmas rose (winter aconite); I have seen it in the old country."

"No, lady Mary, it is the colt's-foot, (*Tussilago farfara*), it is a common looking coarse yellow blossomed flower; it is the first that blooms after the snow; then comes the pretty snow-flower, or hepatica. Its pretty tufts of white pink and blue starry flowers, may be seen on the open clearing, or beneath the shade of the half cleared woods, or up-turned roots and sunny banks. Like the English daisy, it grows every where, and the sight of its bright starry blossoms delights every eye."

"The next spring flower that comes, is the dog's-tooth violet," (*Erythronium*.)

"What a droll name," exclaimed lady Mary, laughing. "I suppose it is called so from the sharpness of the flower leaves, (petals) my lady, but it is a beautiful yellow lily; the leaves are also pretty; they are veined or clouded with milky white or dusky purple; the plant is a bulb, and in the month of April sends up its single nodding yellow spotted flowers; they grow in large beds where the ground is black, and moist, and rich, near creeks at the edge of the forest."

"Do you know any other pretty flowers, nurse?"

"Yes, my lady, there are a great many that bloom in April and May; white violets, and blue and yellow, of many kinds; and then there is the spring beauty, (*claytonia*) a delicate little flower with