

thorny currants, as well as thorny gooseberries ; these have long, weak, trailing branches, the berries are small, covered with stiff bristles, and of a pale red color. They are not wholesome ; I have seen people made very ill by eating them, and I have heard even of their dying in consequence of doing so."

"I am sure, nurse, I will not eat those wild currants," said lady Mary ; "I am glad you have told me about their being poisonous."

"This sort is not often met with, my dear ; and these berries, though they are not good for man, doubtless give nourishment to some of the wild creatures that seek their food from God, and we have enough dainties, and to spare, without them.

"One of the most common, and also the most useful to us, among the wild fruits, is the red raspberry. It grows up in abundance all over the country, by the roadside, in the half-opened woods, on upturned roots, in old neglected clearings ; there is no place so wild but it will grow, wherever its roots can find a crevice. With maple-sugar, the farmers' wives need never lack a tart, or a dish of fruit and cream. The poor Irish emigrants' children go out and gather tin pails full, and carry to the towns and villages to sell. The birds too live upon the fruits, and flying away with it to distant places, help to sow the seed. A great many small animals eat the ripe raspberry, and even the raccoon and the great black bears come in for their share."

"The black bears ! O, Nurse ! O, Mrs. Frazer !" exclaimed lady Mary in great astonishment. "What ! do big bears eat raspberries ?"

"Yes, indeed, my lady, they do. Bears are fond of all ripe fruits. The bear resembles the hog in his tastes very closely ; both will eat flesh in their wild state, and grain, and fruit, and roots. There is a small red berry in the woods that is known by the name of the bear-berry,* which they say the young bears are particularly fond of."

"I should be afraid of going to gather raspberries, nurse, for fear of the bears coming to eat them too."

"The hunters know that the bears are partial to this fruit, and often seek them in large thickets, where they grow. A young gentleman, lady Mary, once went out shooting

* *Arbutus, uvawrei*, bear-berry, kinnikinnick, Dec. Mon.