

in the trunk of a decayed tree, in the midst of a thick forest, serve him for an habitation. Thither he retires alone, and passes part of the winter without provisions, and goes not out of it for several weeks. However, he is neither torpid, nor deprived of feeling, like the dormouse and marmot; but as he is excessively fat about the end of autumn, which is the time he retires, this abundance of grease enables him to endure abstinence; and he departs not from his den till he is almost famished. It is a common report, that during this time they live by sucking their paws, which is a vulgar error that scarcely requires refutation. These solitary animals couple in autumn, but the time of gestation with the female is still unknown. The female takes great care to provide a proper retreat for her young; she secures them in the hollow of a rock, and provides a bed of hay in the warmest part of the den; she brings forth in winter, and the young ones begin to follow her in spring. The male and female, by no means inhabit the same den; they have each their separate retreat, and seldom are seen together. When they cannot find a cavern for a den, to make a lodging; they break and collect branches of trees, which they so cover with herbs and leaves as to render them impenetrable by water. The voice of the bear is a deep murmuring, often accompanied with a grinding of the teeth, especially when irritated. He is very susceptible of anger, which is always furious, and often capricious. Though, when tamed, he appears mild and even obedient to his master, he should always be treated with diffidence and circumspection; and we should be particularly careful not to strike him in the nose, nor on the other sensitive parts. He may be taught to walk on end, to dance, and to perform various gesticulations. He seems even to listen to music, and to observe some kind of measure; but to give him this species of education, he must be taken young, and constrained during life. An old bear cannot be tamed, nor will he suffer restraint. He is naturally intrepid, or, at least, indifferent to danger. The wild bear seldom or ever turns out of his road, nor flies from the aspect of man. It is alledged, however, that the sound of a whistle surprises and confounds him to such a degree, that he rises on his hind feet. This is the time for shooting, and endeavouring to kill him; for if he be only wounded, he attacks the huntsman with fury, embraces him with his fore-feet, and suffocates him, if not timely assisted. Bears are hunted in different manners. In Sweden, Norway, Poland, etc. the least dangerous mode, it is said, is to intoxicate them by throwing ardent spirits on honey, of which they are fond, and search for it in the trunks of trees.* In Canada, where the black bears are very common, and where they live not in caverns, but in decayed trees, they were anciently taken by setting their habitations on fire. As they climb trees with ease, they seldom reside on a level with the ground, and their habitations are often thirty or forty feet high. If it was a mother with her young, she descended

* That bears have a singular fondness for ardent spirits may be concluded from a circumstance which lately happened in Upper Canada, the truth of which may be implicitly relied on. A gentleman residing in a newly settled District of that Province, having had occasion, from his late arrival at home, to leave out over night two small casks of whisky, found them in the morning invested by two bears, who had the sagacity to withdraw the bungs, spill the liquor on the ground, and to sip it all up.