

of the sun, or a warm room would make the liquid ferment, unless it had been boiled a long time, so as to become very sweet, and somewhat thick. The first fermentation, she told her, would only give a winy taste, but if it continued to ferment a great deal, then it turned sour and became vinegar.

"How very useful a maple tree must be nurse,—I wish there were maples in the garden, and I would make some sugar, and molasses, and wine, and vinegar, and what else would I do?"—

Mrs. Frazer laughed and said, "The wood is good to burn, it is considered excellent for fuel."

"If I cut down my tree nurse I should not have any sugar;" said the child quickly.

"The wood is used in making bedsteads and chests of drawers, and many other things. There is a very pretty wood used for furniture called bird's eye maple. The drawers in my bed-room, that you think so pretty, are made of it,—but it is a disease in the tree that causes it to have these little marks all through the wood. The bright scarlet leaves of the maple tree give a beautiful look to the woods in the fall. The soft maple is very bright when the leaves are changing, but it gives no sugar."

"Then I will not let it grow in my garden nurse."

"It is useful for other purposes my dear. The settlers use the bark for dying wool; and a jet black ink can be made from it by boiling down the bark with a bit of copers, in an iron vessel.—So you see it is useful. The flowers are bright red, and look very pretty in the spring. This tree grows best by the water side, and some call it swamp maple."

This was all Mrs. Frazer could tell Lady Mary about the maple trees. Many little girls as young as the Governor's daughter, would have thought it very dull to listen to all her nurse had to say about plants and trees, but Lady Mary would put aside her dolls and toys, to stand beside her nurse, and ask questions, and listen to her answers. The more she heard, the more she desired to hear about these things. "The hearing ear, and the seeing eye are two things that are never satisfied" saith the wise King Solomon.