

larch ; such as the common sorts of birch baskets, and the bark canoes, and bark for the covering of their wigwams. They call this 'wah-tap,' (root-thread,) and they prepare it by pulling off the outer rind and steeping it in water. It is the larger fibres which have the appearance of small cordage when coiled up, and fit for use. This 'wah-tap,' is very valuable to these poor Indians, who could not make their birch bark canoes so well or so strongly without it. There is also another plant called 'asclepias parviflora,' (Indian hemp,) which is a small shrubby kind of milk weed, that grows on gravelly islands. It bears white flowers, the branches are long and slender ; on stripping the bark off there is a fine silky thread that covers the wood, this is tough and can be drawn out and twisted. It has been spun into cloth.—It is very white, and fine, and does not break easily. There are other plants of the same family that have pods full of fine shining silk, but these are too short and brittle to spin into thread. This last, kind Lady Mary, I will show you in the Summer; it is called 'asclepias syriaca,' (milk weed,—fly traps.)”

Rut while Mrs. Frazer was talking about these plants the little lady was examining the contents of the small birch box,—“If you please, nurse, will you tell me what these hard dark shining seeds are ?”

“These seeds, my dear, are Indian rice ; an old squaw, Mrs. Peter Noggan, gave me this to take as ‘Present for Governor’s Daughter ;’” and Mrs. Frazer imitated the soft whining tone of the Indian which made Lady Mary laugh.

“The box is called a ‘mowkows,’ There is another just like it only there is a white bird, a snow bird, I suppose it is meant for—worked on the lid. The lid of this box was fastened down with a narrow slip of deer-skin ; Lady Mary cut the fastening, and raised the lid,—“Nurse it is only yellow sand ; how droll, to send me a box of sand.”

“It is not sand ; taste it, Lady Mary.”

“It is sweet—it is sugar, ! Ah now I know what it is that this kind old squaw has sent me ; it is Maple-sugar ; it is very nice. I will go and show it to mama.”