

## LESSON XXXVII.

## BEARS.

quad-ru-ped	Rus-sia	gen-tle-man
moun-tain-ous	Swe-den	gris-ly
so-li-ta-ry	A-mer-i-ca	nurs-e-ry
ca-pri-ci-ous	buf-fa-loe	ap-proach

Bears,\* as has been explained to you, belong to that tribe of quadrupeds, who, in walking, place the whole sole of the foot on the ground, as we do, so that they can raise themselves on their hind legs with much more ease than other animals; and, indeed, they usually rest on these legs.

Bears have teeth like those of men, which enable them to live either on flesh or vegetables; their cheek teeth are not sharpened like those of other beasts of prey.

They have five toes as we have, and these toes have strong claws which assist them in digging or climbing.

There are several kinds of bears; the commonest is the shaggy brown bear, which is found in the mountainous parts of middle Europe, and in much greater numbers in the north, in Norway, Sweden, and Russia. It is very common in the northern countries of Asia, and is also found in North America. Brown bears feed on vegetables and honey—honey is a great dainty with them, and, though they look so clumsy, they show great activity in climbing trees to obtain it. They will also very readily devour poultry, and all the smaller quadrupeds.

\* Plantigrade: see Sequel to Second Book of Lessons.