THE GREAT MIGRATON

Caused the latter to gallop in the opposite direction. One might have supposed that he had taken at the bear, and  
was endeavoring to get out of the way. Not so. His object was very different. The lazo still formed a link of connection  
between the hunter and his game. One end of it was fast to a staple firmly imbedded in the wood of the saddle tree,  
while the other, as we have seen, was noosed around the bear. As the horse stretched off. The rope was seen to tighten  
with a sudden jerk and bruin was not only floored from his erect attitude, but plucked clear off his feet, and laid  
sprawling along the earth. In that position he was not permitted to remain; for the horse continuing his gallop, he was   
dragged along the ground at the end of the lazo his huge body now bounding several feet from the earth, and now  
breaking through the bushes with a crackling, crashing noise, such as he had himself never made in his most impetuous  
charges. In this way went horse and bear for half a mile over the plain: the spectators following after to witness the  
ending of the affair. About that there was nothing particular: for when the tigrero at length halted, and the party got up  
to the ground, they saw only an immobile mass of shaggy hair so coated with dust as to resemble a heap of earth. It was  
the bear without a particle of breath in his body: but lest he might recover it again, the tigrero leaped from his horse,  
stepped up to the prostrate bear, and buried his machete between the ribs of the unconscious animal. That, he said, was  
the way they captured bears in his part of the country. They did not employ the same plan with the jaguars: because these  
animals, crouching, as they do, offered no opportunity for casting the noose over them: and, besides, the jaguars haunt   
only among thick woods, where the lazo could not be used to advantage. Of course, the skin of this particular bear was  
not suitable for the purpose for which one was required; and the tigrero kept it for his own profit. But that did not  
signify; another bear was soon discovered among the tagua trees; and this being despatched by a shot from the rifle of  
alexis, supplemented, perhaps, by a bullet from the fusil of the ex guardsman, supplied them with a skin according to   
contract; and so far as the ursus frugilegus was concerned their bear hunting in that neighbourhood was at an end. To  
find his cousin with the goggle eyes, they would have to journey onward and upward an adopting for their motto the  
spirit stirring symbol excelsior they proceeded to climb the stupendous cordilleras of the andes. In one of the higher  
valleys. Known among Peruvians as the sierra, they obtained a specimen of the hucumari. They chanced upon this  
creature while he was engaged in plundering a field of Indian corn quite close to a tambo, or traveller’s shed, where they  
had put up for the night. It was very early in the morning when the corn stealer was discovered; but being caught in the  
act and his whole attention taken up with the sweet milky ears of maize, his spectacled eyes did not avail him. Our  
hunters, approaching with due caution, were able to get so near, that the first shot tumbled him over among the stalks.  
Having secured his skin, they mounted their mules, and by the great cordillera road proceeded onward to the ancient  
capital of barbacoas, on the west coast of equador; and thence took passage for panama. Crossing the famous isthmus  
to porto bello, they shipped again for new orleans, on the mississipi. Of course, their next aim was to procure the north  
American bears including the polar, which is equally an inhabitant of northern asia, but which, by the conditions of their  
route, would be more conveniently reached on the continent of north America. Alexis knew that the black bear (ursus  
americanus) might be met with anywhere on that continent from the shores of hudson’s bay to the isthmus of panama,  
and from the seaboard of the Atlantic to the coast of the pacific ocean. No other has so wide a range as this species with  
the exception, perhaps, of the brown bear of europe which, as we have said, is also an Asiatic animal. Throughout the  
whole extent of country above defined, the black bear may be encountered, not specially confining himself to mountain   
ranges. True, in the more settled districts he has been driven to these as affording him a refuge from the hunter: but in  
his normal condition he is by no means a mountain dwelling animal. On the contrary, he affects equally the low wooded  
bottoms of ravines, and is as much at home in a climate of tropical or sub tropical character, as in the cold forests of the  
Canadas. Mr spencer baird the naturalist intrusted by the american government to describe the fauna of their territory,  
and furnished for his text with one of the most splendid collections ever made in speaking of the genus ursus, makes the  
following remarks: the species of bears are not numerous, nor are they to be found except in the temperate regions of   
the northern hemisphere. North America possesses more species than any other part of the world, having at least four,  
and perhaps with the exception of the very idle assertion that the species of bears are not numerous, every idea put  
forth in the above categorical declaration is the very reverse of what is true. Is the polar bear found only in the

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