THE GREAT MIGRATION

temperate regions of the northern hemisphere is the ursus arctos of europe confined to these limits are the bears of  
south america the sloth bear of India and ceylon the bruang of borneo and his near congener, the bruang of java and  
sumatra why, these last are actually dwellers among palm trees as the cocoa planters know to their cost even mr baird’s  
own American black bear is not so temperate in his habits; but loves the half tropical climate of florida and texas quite as  
much as the cold declivities of the alleghanies. And how does north America possess more species than any other part of  
the world even admitting the doubtful fifth, on the continent of asia there are species at the very least; and, if we are  
allowed to include the oriental islands, we make asiatic, There are species in the Himalaya mountains alone unquestionably  
distinct dwelling in separate zones of altitude, but with the territory of all visible at a single coup d’oeil. Mr baird is a  
naturalist of great celebrity in america, He is a secretary of the Smithsonian institution: he should make better use of the  
books which its fine library can afford him. The united states government is extremely unfortunate in the selection of its  
scientific employes more especially in the departments of natural history. Perhaps the most liberal appropriation ever  
made for ethnological purposes that for collecting a complete account of the north american indians has been spent  
without purpose, the job having fallen into the hands of a placeman, or old hunker, as the americans term it a man  
neither learned nor intellectual. With the exception of the statistics furnished by indian agents, the voluminous work of  
schoolcraft is absolutely worthless: and students of ethnology cannot contemplate such a misappropriation without  
feelings of regret. Fortunately, the american aboriginal has already found a true portrayer and historian. Private  
enterprise, as is not unfrequently the case, has outstripped government patronage in the performance of its task. In the  
unpretending volumes of george catlin we find the most complete ethnological monograph ever given to the world; but  
just for that reason, catlin, not schoolcraft, should have been choosen for the job. Knowing the range of the black bear to  
be thus grandly extended, our young hunters had a choice of places in which to look for one: but, as there is no place  
where these animals are more common than lousiana itself, they concluded that they could not do better there  
choose their hunting ground. In the great forests, which still covers a large portion of louisiana, and especially upon the  
banks of the sluggish bayous, where the marshy soil and the huge cypress trees, festooned with Spanish moss, bid defiance  
to all attempts at cultivation, the black bear still roams at will. There he is found in sufficient numbers to ensure the  
procuring of a specimen without much difficulty. The hunters of these parts have various modes of capturing him. The  
log trap is a common plan: but the planters enjoy the sport of running him down with dogs; or rather should it be  
termed running him up; since the chase usually ends by bruin taking to a tree, and thus unconsciously putting himself  
within reach of the unerring rifle. It was by this means that our young hunters determined to try their luck: and they had  
no difficulty in procuring the necessary adjuncts to ensure success. The great czar, powerful everywhere, was not  
without his agent at new orleans. From him a letter of introduction was obtained to a planter living on one of the  
interior bayous; and our heroes, having repaired thither, were at once set in train for the sport the planter placing  
himself, his house, his hounds, and his horses at their disposal. The northern forests. On their arrival, the hospitable  
planter sent to his neighbours, and arranged a grand hunt, to come off at an early day specified in the invitation. Each  
was to bring him such bounds as he was possessed of and in this way a large pack might be got together so that a  
wide extent of forest could be driven. Among the planters of the southern states this is a very common practice: only a  
few of them keeping what might be called a regular kennel of hounds, but many of them having or couples. In a  
neighbourhood favourable to the chase, by uniting a number of these little bands together, a pack may be got up large  
enough for any purpose. The usual game hunted in the southern states is the American fallow deer (cervus virginianus),  
which is still found in considerable plenty in the more solitary tracts of forest all over the united states. It is the only  
species of deer indigenous to lousiana: since, the noble stag or elk, as he is erroneously called (cervus canadensis), does  
not range so far to the south. On the pacific coast this animal is found in much lower latitudes than on that of the  
atlantic. Besides the fallow deer, the fox gives sport to the louisiana hunter. This is the grey fox (vulpes virginianus). The  
bay lynx also or wild cat, as it is called (lynx rufus) and now and then, but more rarely, this cougar (felts concolor), give  
the hounds a run before talking to the tree. Racoons, opposums, and skunks are common enough in the forests of  
louisiana: but these are regarded as vermin, and are not permitted to lead the dogs astray. With regard to the other  
animals mentioned, they all rank as noble game especially the cougar, called panther by the backwoodsman and the pack

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