THE GREAT MIGRATION

At once gave over his fly trapping; but irresolute in which direction to retreat, he turned round and round in the water,   
first swimming a bit one way and then another. At length, rearing himself high above the surface, and showing his sharp  
teeth, he uttered a deep growl of rage, and dashed recklessly towards the shore. It was to ivan’s side he first directed  
himself; but ivan was upon the watch; and, advancing close to the edge of the water, he took aim and fired. His bullet  
struck the bear right upon the snout, and it appeared to have spun him round so quickly was he seen heading in the  
opposite direction. It was now pouchskin’s turn; and in a second after the loud report of the granadier’s gun went  
booming over the lake, while the ball splashed the water right into the eyes of the bear. Though it did not hit any part of  
his body, it had the effect of half turning so that he now swam towards alexis stationed at the bottom of the bay.  
Alexis took the matter more coolly. There was a convenient tree behind to which he intended to retreat in case of  
missing and this influenced him to hold his ground, till the bear should come near enough to ensure a certain aim. The  
bear swam straight on, until within some yards of where Alexis was standing; when all at once he appeared to take the  
rue, and was turning off to one side. This was just what Alexis desired: it brought the head of the animal broadside  
towards him, and, taking steady aim, he planted his bullet a little under the left ear. It was a dead shot. The huge creature,  
loaded with fat, sank instantly to the bottom; but unfortunately the water was shallow; and the indian now coming in with  
his canoe, soon fished up the carcass, and towed it out upon beach where its fur coat was stripped off in a trice. The  
great grizzly. The grizzly bear (ursus ferox), the fiercest and most formidable of the ursine family, was the next to be  
captured and skinned. The range of the grizzly, though wider than that of the barren ground bear, is still not so extensive  
as that of the ursus americanus. The great chain of cordillera of the rocky mountains may be taken as the axis of his  
range since he is found throughout its whole extent, from mexico to its declension near the shores of the artic sea.  
Some writers have asserted that he is confined to these mountains, but that is an error. To the west of them he is  
encountered throughout all the countries lying between the rocky mountains and the pacific coast wherever  
circumstances are favourable to his existence: and to the east he extends his wanderings for a considerable distance into  
the great planes though nowhere so far as to the wooded countries near the meridians or the mississipi. In these the  
black bear is the only forest ranger of the family. Woods are not the favourite haunt of the grizzly bear: and although in  
youth he can make a sort of scramble up a tree, when full grown his enormous claws always blunted at the tips hinder  
him from climbing. Low bushy thickets, with open glades intervaining and especially where the underwoods consists of  
berry bearing bushes are his choosen retreats. He often sallies out into the open ground; and on those prairies where  
grows the pomme blanche, or indian turnip (psoralea esculenta), he may be seen tearing up the earth with his claws, and  
leaving it turned into furrows as if a drove of hogs had been rooting the ground. On the bottoms of the streams he also  
digs up the kamas root (camasia esculenta), the yampah, (anethum graveolens), the kooyah (valeriana edults), and the root  
of a species of thistle (circium virginianum). Many species of fruits and berries furnish him with an occasional meal; and  
the sweet pods of the mesquites (species of acacia), and the cones of the pinon tree (pinus edulis) form portions of his  
varied larder. He does not, however, confine himself to a vegetable diet. Like most of his kind, he is also carnivorous, and  
will dine off the carcass of a horse or buffalo. The latter animal, notwithstanding its enormous bulk and strength,  
frequently falls a prey to the grizzly bear. The long masses of hair that hang over the eyes of the buffalo, hinder it from  
perceiving the presence of an enemy; and, unless warned by the scent, it is easily approached. The bear, knowing this,  
steals up against the wind; and, when within safe distance, springs upon the hind quarters of the ruminant, and cramping  
it in his great claws, succeeds in dragging it to the ground. He is even able to transport the huge carcass to a  
considerable distance for the purpose of concealing it in some thicket, and devouring it at his leisure. The grizzly bear is  
more like to the brown bear of Europe than to any other species of the genius. His fur is long and shaggy not presenting  
the even surface which characterises the coat of the black bear. It is generally of a dark brown colour the hair being   
whitish at the tips, more especially during the summer season, when it becomes lighter coloured. The head is always of a  
grizzled grey; and it is this appearance that has obtained for the animal its specific name. There are brown, reddish brown,  
bay or cinnamon coloured, and white breasted varieties of the black bear; but the Indians can distinguish all these from  
the true grizzly at a glance. In all the latter, where there are white hairs intermingled with the fur, it is always   
observable that these odd hairs are white to the roots; whereas the hoary appearance of the grizzly is caused by only the

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