THE GREAT MIGRATION

tips of the hair being white. This characteristic is constant: and would of itself justify the distinction being made between  
the species; but there are many other points of greater importance. The ears of the grizzly are shorter, more conical, and  
set wider apart than in either the ursus americanus or arctos. His claws are white, arched, far longer, and broader than   
those of the other bears their greater breadth being acrass their upper surface. Underneath they are chamfered a way to  
a sharp edge; and projecting far beyond the hair of the foot, they cut like chisels when the strikes a blow with  
them. His huge paw is both broader and longer than that of other bears; why his tail on the other, hand is short and  
inconspicuous being completely buried under the fur of his buttocks. So characteristic is the appendage for its extreme   
shortness, than it is a standing choke among the Indians when they have killed a grizzly bear to desire any one  
unacquainted with the animal to take hold of its tail this appendage in the ursus americanus and ursus arctos is   
conspicuous and in the barren ground bear is still longer than in either. There could be no possibility of   
mistaking an old or full grown grizzly for any of the kindred species. Both in size and aspect his is different it is only in  
the case of young or half grown specimens where a mistake of this kind is likely to be made. The enormous size of the   
old males often weighing pounds, and quite equaling the largest individuals of the ursus maritimus renders them easy of  
identification: though it is certain that under favourable circumstances the ursus arctos often attains a similar bulk. In  
ferocity of disposition, however, in carnivorous inclination and in strength and power to carry out his mischievous   
propensities, no bear, not even the ursus maritimus, appears to be a match for the monster of the rocky mountains. The   
hunter never thinks of attacking him, unless when assisted by a number of his comrades; and even then it may be a fatal  
encounter for one or more of them. Were it not for the advantage obtained by their being mounted on horseback, the  
grizzly will always have a wide berth given him: but fortunately, this fierce quadruped is unable to overtake the  
mounted hunter although he can easily come up with a man on foot. As to fearing or running away from a human  
antagonist, the younger grizzlies may sometimes do so; but when an old male has been attacked the case is quite different.  
A full grown individual will stand his ground against a crowd of assailants charging from one to the other, and showing  
fight so long as there is breath in his body. The number of indian and white hunters who have either been killed or badly  
mutilated by grizzly bears, is almost incredible. Were it not that these men are usually mounted on goods horses the least  
would have being still geater; and his intended victims often find another means of escaping from his claws by taking to  
a tree. Fortunate it is that nature has not bestowed upon the grizzly the power of tree climbing; else many a pursued  
hunter, who has succeeded in gaining the branches of a friendly cottonwood, might have found his refuge anything but a  
secure in fact, climbing into a tree when one can be reached is the common resource of all person pursued by the  
grizzly bear; and by this means did our hunters themselves escape from a brace of infuriated grizzlies, while engaged in  
hunting these formidable animals. A fur trader’s fort. Having settled their account with bruin of the barren grounds, our  
travelers proceeded down the Mackenzie river to the hudson’s bay post of fort simpson. Thence they ascended a large  
tributary of the Mackenzie, known as the river of the mountains, or as the Canadian voyagers call it, riviere aux liards.  
This large stream has its sources far beyond the highest peaks of the rocky mountains thus exhibiting the curious  
phenomenon of a river, breaking through a chain of mountains in a transverse direction; though the same occurs in   
several other parts of the rocky mountains range, and also in the andes of south America. On the rivier aux liard the  
hudson’s bay company have several post as forts simpson, liard, and halketts the last mentioned been far among the   
mountains. Westward again, upon the pacific side, they have other training stations the most important of which is that of  
pelly’s banks, situated at the junction of lewis and pelly rivers. These rivers after joining, run into the pacific, not far   
from mount saint elios long noted as a landmark; to the navigators of the north pacific oceans. From fort halkett, a route  
has been established to the post at pelly’s banks by means of diease’s river which is one of the effluent of the river aux  
liards and partly by canoe navigation and partly by protage; the continent can be crossed in this northern latitude. From   
pelly’s banks to the pacific coast, the route is still easier for not only do the Russians visit this part, but they are native  
indian traders who go twice every year from pelly’s banks to sitka the entrepot of the Russian fur company and the lynn  
channel, a little to the north of sitka, is also visited by the streamers of the hudson’s bay company itself. Our travelers   
would therefore have no difficulty in reaching sitka and thence crossing to the peninsular of kamschatka, on the Asiatic  
coast. On their way over the rocky mountains, they would be certain to fall in with the grizzly: and in the countries lying.

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