THE GREAT MIGRATION

along the pacific, they could obtain that variety of the ursus americanus, known as the cinnamon bear for it is to the   
west of the rocky mountains in California, oregon, british Colombia, and Russian America that this spice coloured species is  
most frequently met with. A party of fur traders and trappers were just starting from fort simpson to carry supplies up  
to the posts of liard and halkett; and along with them our travelers went. On reaching the last named station, they came  
to a halt, for the purpose of hunting the grizzly. They were not long in starting their game for this fierce monsters of the  
mountains is far from being a scarce animal. In fact, in those district which they choose for their beat, the grizzly bears  
are more numerous than most other quadrupeds; and not unfrequently half a dozen or more of them may be seen   
together. It is not that they are gregarious; but simply, that, being in considerable numbers in a particular neighborhood,  
accidents thus brings them together. To see troops of associating together is very common; but these are merely the  
members of one family male, female, and yearling cubs for is the number of the progeny the grizzly bear in this respect  
resembling his congener of the ursus maritimus, and differing as essentially from the black and brown bears with whom  
is the usual number of cubs at a birth. There are good reasons why the grizzly bears are not in much danger of being   
exterminated. In the first place, their flesh is of inferior quality. Even the Indians will not eat it while they relish that of   
the black species. Secondly, their robe is of scarce any value, and fetches but a trifling price in the fur market. Thirdly  
and perhaps the most powerful reason of all is that the hunter cares not to risk his life in an encounter with these  
animals, knowing that there is no adequate reward for such risk. For this reason, old Ephraim as the trappers jocosely  
style the grizzly is usually permitted to go his way without molestation, and, therefore, instead of being thinned off by an  
exterminating chase such as is pursued against the buffalo, or even the black bear, who’s robe is marketable the grizzly  
maintains his numerical strength in most places where he is found. At fort halkett in consequences of a scarcity of hands,  
and the great pressure of business in forwarding the brigade onward to the pelly station our young hunters were unable  
to obtain a guide; and therefore started out for the chase alone pouchskin, of course, being one of the party. The trading  
post of fort halkett being situated in the midst of the wildest region without any cultivated ground or other settlement   
around it they would not have far to go before finding a grizzly. Indeed, they were as likely to meet with one within   
sight of the port as anywhere else; and from the moment of passing through the gate of the stockade they were on the  
lookout. They had not the good fortune, however, to meet with one so very easily, for although they came upon the   
traces of bears, and saw numerous signs of them, they could not set eyes upon them; and return from their first  
excursion rather disheartened with their day’s work. In one thing, however, they had their reward. The had succeeded in  
shooting one of the rarest animal of America, a creature only met with in the more northern district of the rocky  
mountains that is, the rocky mountain goat (capra Americana), This rare quadruped whose long, snow white, silky hair  
renders it one of the most attractive of animals is a true wild goat: and the only species of the genius indigenous to   
America. It is about the size of the common domestic breeds, and horned as they; but the shining hair over its flanks and  
body is frequently so long as to hang down almost to its hoofs giving the animal the appearance of having a much   
heavier body and much shorter legs than it really has. Like the ibex of Europe, it is only met with on the loftiest summits  
of the mountains, upon peaks and cliffs inaccessible to almost every other quadruped the mountain sheep alone excepted.  
It is much shyer than the latter, and far more difficult of approach the consequence being, that it beautiful skin, though  
highly prized, and commanding a good price, is but rarely obtained, even by the most expert hunters. Having succeeded  
in bringing down one of these precious animals, our young hunters were satisfied with their day’s work almost as well as  
if it had being a grizzly they had kill. On their second day’s excursion, however, this feat was also accomplished as we  
shall now proceed to relate. Treed by old Ephraim. They had got about a mile from the fort; and were proceeding   
cautiously along through a hilly country, where thicket like groves grew interspersed with patches of open ground,  
forming park like scenery. There are many scenes of this character in the valleys of the rocky mountains; and in the  
more northern latitudes these grows often consist of berry bearing bushes such as wild currants, bird and choke cherries,  
the amelanchier and hippophae Canadensis. Of all these fruits the grizzly bear is known to be exceedingly fond; and as the  
thickets among which our hunters had entered contained many trees of the above kinds at that season drooping under  
their ripe fruit it was but reasonable to expect they might find some of the grizzles engaged in gathering them. They had  
being told at the fort that this was a favourite browsing place of the bear; and as they passed along they had evidence of

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