THE GREAT MIGRATION

Sufficient height, the bear had arrived upon the ground, and reared upward to seize him. Ivan and alexis uttered a  
simultaneous shout of alarm. They saw the shaggy forearms of the quadruped doubled around the legs of their faithful  
follower; and were looking to see pouchskin in another moment pulled down from the tree. What was their delight, as  
well as astonishment, on seeing the bear fall slap back to the earth with one of the ex grenadier’s great boots fast  
clutched between his paws while pouchskin himself was seeing gliding upward to the top branches of the tree a shout of  
joy followed the cry of alarm, to which they had just given utterance; and without another word all hastened to reload  
their guns. Meanwhile the disappointed bear appeared determined to revenge himself on the boot; and for some seconds  
continued to tear it both with teeth and claws till nothing of its original shape remained the, scattering the fragments  
over the ground, he desisted from this idle employment; and rushed back to the trunk of the tree up which pouchskin   
had climbed. He knew from having often made this experiment that he could not climb it; nor did he attempt to do so;  
but seizing the slender trunk in his powerful grasp. He shook the trees backward and forward, as if endeavouring to drag  
it up by the roots or throw it to the ground. For some time our hunters were not without apprehension that he might  
succeed. The tree was not bigger than an ordinary pear tree; and its trunk vibrated from side to side, and bent over to  
such an extent that it roots could be heard cracking beneath the ground. Pouchskin, far up in the top was tossed  
backward and forward as if he had been a shuttlecock between battledores and it was just as much as he could do to keep   
his hold among the branches, much less finish the loading of his fusil which he had only half accomplished when the   
rocking began. Had he been alone, his position would have been one of great danger, for no doubt in process of time,  
the bear would have torn down the tree. But the efforts of bruin were brought to a sudden termination; for ivan and  
alexis, having now reloaded, took careful aim, and sent both their bullet into the body of the beast. One of the shots  
must have hit him in a mortal part; since on receiving it, the bear let go his hold, dropped down from his erect attitude,  
and doubling himself up at the bottom of the tree, looked as if he had suddenly gone to sleep but the red stream,  
pouring out from his still distended jaws, told that it was the sleep of death that had overtaken him. Our hunters, assured  
that both bears were death, now descended from their respective perches; but the sight of pouchskin with one leg in   
stocking, and the other buried up to the thigh in a great horse skin boot, would have been too much for the gravity of a   
judge, and his young masters were once more merry at his expense. Having skinned the bears, they returned to the fort  
with their spoils to the no slight astonishment of some of the old trappers stationed there. They could scarce believe that  
these young strangers were capable of accomplishing such a feat as the conquest of a couple of full grown grizzlies. The  
thing had been done, however, as the trophies testified and it is needless to say that our hunters by this gallant action,  
gained golden opinions from the mountain men. They had no desire, however, to try another contest of the kind. They  
had become perfectly satisfied of the great peril to be expected in an encounter with old Ephraim; and were only too  
well pleased of having it in their power, on all future occasions, to imitate the example of other travelers, and give the   
grizzly a white berth. Indeed, they would have had no opportunity, had they desire it to hunt the bear any longer in that  
neighbourhood; for the both brigade, with which they were travelling, started the next day for fort pelly; and it was  
necessary for them to accompany it, as the journey could not otherwise be accomplished. They arrived at this last named  
place in safety; and, with some native traders, that chanced to be at the fort, they were enabled to proceed onward to the  
russian settlement of sitka whereas the magic cypher which alexis carried in his pocket procured them the most hospitable   
treatment that such a wild, out of the way place could afford. They had been fortunate, upon their roots, to procure a   
skin of the cinnamon bear as well as one of black colour with a white pressed, boot of which alexis was able to identify as  
mere varieties of the ursus americanus. These varieties are sometimes seen to the east of the rocky mountains; but they   
are far more common throughout the countries along the pacific and especially in russian america, where the cinnamon   
coloured kind is usually termed the red bear. They occur, moreover, in the solution islands; and very probably in japan   
and kamschatka in which country bears are exceedingly numerous evidently of several species confusedly described and  
ill identified. Unfortunately, the Russian naturalists who’s special duty it has been to make known the natural history of   
the countries lying around the north pacific have done their work; in a slovenly and childlike manner. Bruin by captain   
mayne reid the kamschatdales. The bear of kamschatka had to be skinned next. But it was necessary to catch one before   
he could be skinned; and also necessary to go to kamschatka before he could be caught. To get to kamschatka was not so

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