

producing two at a birth, and are said to migrate to the south during the winter. The *Hare* of the plains is of very rare occurrence: in size it rather exceeds the British hare, and turns white during the winter. I killed a specimen of it on my journey to Edmonton House, in the autumn of 1825; it was a female, and giving suck at that time, (the middle of September,) and was of a much lighter grey than the English animal. Not being aware of the scarcity of this creature, and indeed confounding it with the common hare, I took but little care of its skin, which was lost in consequence.

Another very interesting animal is the *Badger* of the plains. Its general appearance resembles the European species, but it is not so large. These creatures burrow in the open plains, making their holes perpendicular at the entrance, which, when concealed by the growth of the grass, prove very troublesome to the pedestrian and dangerous to the mounted hunter, whose horse at full speed is often thrown by them, to the no small risk of the rider's neck. The badgers are very dexterous at concealing themselves in their burrows, and it is difficult to dig them out. We adopted the plan of filling their holes with water, which forced the animals to come out, when we secured them easily. The same method proved successful for catching the ground squirrels, but it is not likely that it would answer equally well when the earth is thoroughly thawed, as the water would then drain off, and the little creatures would dig deeper and deeper, throwing up the earth behind them, which would prevent the water from reaching them. The *Badgers* appear to be partly carnivorous, living on mice and ground squirrels, which their claws are admirably adapted for digging up.

The *Small Wolf*, or *Prairie Dog*, is a very common inhabitant of the plains. Its size is intermediate between the common wolf and the fox. Like the former of these animals, the *Prairie Dogs* hunt in packs of from 3 to 50 and more, and thus, from their number, they become an overmatch for the largest animals of the country; they are also so impudent that they will venture within a few yards of the hunter, and