

The porcupine, in shape, and size, differs but little from the skunk. Its tail is much shorter, and has little hair on it. The body is covered with hair of a dark brown colour, about four inches in length. This hair is interspersed with quills, about the size of a straw, that are white, with black ends, sharply pointed: and for about half an inch from the end, they are covered with a kind of beard, which renders it very difficult to extract them from any soft substance which they have entered. These quills are merely defensive weapons: for it is not true, though it has by some been asserted, that they can, at pleasure, eject them from their bodies. They are an inoffensive animal, move but slowly; and when overtaken by man or beast, they place their head and their legs under their bodies, and place all their reliance on their quills, for protection. The Indian women highly value these quills, which they die of different colours, and use for garnishing their shoes, leggins, &c. They also hold their flesh in high estimation, as an article of food.

There is a small animal, found only on the Rocky Mountain, denominated, by the Natives, Quis-qui-su, or whistlers, from the noise which they frequently make, and always when surprised, strongly resembling the noise made by a per-