

does not constitute an acceptable barter stock, even where the fur-trade rivalry is keenest. The flesh is wholesome food, but has never achieved any popularity. It may yet establish itself as desirable game, to which high rank all sporting men should aim to help it as a measure of protection. But in making such apologetic enumeration of possible virtues, I feel myself guilty of something like special pleading, of making an appeal to the earthy jury, 'called law-makers'; for after all, its claim strongest with the lovers of the wild things, certainly with myself, is this—that, like so many I would save, without being able to prove their economic worth, the Hare is an exquisitely beautiful creature, an ornament to the plains, a delight to behold. I would preserve it, and a hundred others, even as I would preserve a beautiful picture, or view, for the unsordid joy of feasting the eyes on a sentient fellow creature, that is a little pinnacle on the cathedral of evolution, and glorious as an exemplar of beauty in the wild way of life.



FIG. 18a—Tail-pieces of four species.

I. Prairie-hare.

II. Black-tailed Jack.

III. Snowshoe.

IV. Cottontail.