

noteworthy as being the expression of the lowest of its class known to the North American continent, as the Penguin of the antarctic regions represents the lowest of all. The Northern Penguin, as the Great Auk is sometimes designated, is now so rare in collections that each individual has its history and price, or, as in some instances, is absolutely priceless. Some time not long since, a list of the existing specimens owned by institutions or persons, was published, which exhibited only sixty in number. No living specimen has been obtained for over forty years. In 1869, the large sum of \$625 was paid, in London, by the American Museum of Natural History, New York, for the specimen from which our illustration is taken. The length of the Great Auk is about three feet; its wing is only four inches long. It inhabited the highest latitudes, and was at one time abundant in the arctic seas. The ancient shell heaps that are so numerous along the Atlantic coast show abundant remains of this bird, even as far south as the New England shores. Nuttall, in 1834, records this bird as then breeding in great numbers. "As a diver he is unrivalled," he says, "having almost the velocity of birds in the air. They breed in the Faroe Islands and in Iceland, Greenland, and Newfoundland, nesting among the cliffs, and laying but one egg each. They are so unprolific that if this egg be destroyed, no other is laid during that season."

It is supposed that the last of this species seen alive were at the Funks, a small island off Newfoundland. In 1844, the last specimen known to be alive on the Eastern Continent was seen in Iceland. In 1870, a specimen was found dead at Labrador. Though in poor condition, it was sold in England for \$200.

APTENODYTES PATAGONICA. *Penguin*.—This is the lowest of the class of birds. Its fish-like "paddles," or rudimentary wings, close, scale-like plumage, and extremely terminal feet and legs, show how completely it is formed to be an exclusively aquatic creature—as much so even as the seal, whose life and habits are quite similar. This bird is an inhabitant of the southern hemisphere, and found in the extreme antarctic regions, and is therefore not within the group of birds of North America. Its exceedingly interesting nature and position in the natural system, however, render it quite worthy of attention here. The name of the Penguin is derived from the term *pen-wing* or *pin-wing*.