

They are degenerating in size and weight. One of the old settlers told me the oxen, since he came to the Island, were decreased in weight more than 200lb; and that if any person were to bring a young bull and heifer to the Island, of a very heavy and hardy breed, he would be amply rewarded. The gendering of their cattle at so early a period, which they cannot prevent, and their poor feeding in the winter, I apprehend, are the principal causes of this decrease in bulk and weight. They would also be better of a heavier breed of horses. There is not an ass upon the whole Island. I believe, those that would take out a male and female of this species, of a heavy muke, might procure 100 acres of land for them. Their swine have also degenerated very much. They can manage to castrate the males, but the females they cannot, and are in great want of a person to teach them this art. Their sheep would also be better of being improved in the breed. The wild animals are bears, red, silver gray, and black foxes, the wild cat, or lucefee, (it is as big as a grey hound) martins, minks, musk rats, three different kinds of squirrels, the ground squirrel, the climbing and the flying squirrel. I never had the pleasure of seeing the one last mentioned, but the others are very plentiful; and it is very amusing to observe their motions, and hear their chirping and cooing when travelling in the woods. There are hares, but they are small, and their fur is of little value; they are gray in summer, and white in winter. There is a reptile called a snake, but it does no harm. There are two kinds of frogs, or, I suppose, toads and frogs; they are of the same bulk as in Scotland, but more lively; and one of the species, which I consider as the real frog, is much brighter and more beautiful in its variegated colours than ours, and will spring twice as far at one leap. There are rats and mice the same as at home, and field mice that stay in the woods; but there is not a mole in the whole Island.

Having mentioned that there are bears upon the