

brought Bruin effectively to bay. Loading leisurely at this distance he approached much nearer, and as a result he had one close shave from a daring charge of the ferocious beast over the hummocky ice; but our Netschilluk Nimrod soon dispatched him and brought his robe triumphantly into camp. He was an immense fellow, weighing undoubtedly over a thousand pounds, and would have been a bad customer at close quarters had not his shoulder been rendered worthless at the first fire. The size of the polar bear varies considerably even with those that may be considered full-grown specimens, and some naturalists class them as the largest of the genus *Ursus*, yet his famous western brother, the grizzly, (*Ursus Horribilis*), will certainly dispute the point closely with him. This one killed by Ikqueesik was pronounced by the Eskimo to be "au-a-yo-ad'-lo," or very large, and had he been weighed I would not have been surprised to see him show 1200 pounds; I certainly would have been surprised had he stopped short of 1000. Captain Lyon, a British Arctic explorer, mentions a polar bear which weighed 1500 pounds and measured eight feet and seven inches "from tip to tip." It is said that Barentz, in his expedition of 1596, killed two polar bears whose skins measured no less than twelve and thirteen feet in length, and which must have represented enormous animals, rivaling even the largest grizzly. They were secured on an island near Spitzbergen. Franz-Josef Land is pre-eminently the paradise of polar bears, the Austrian expedition of 1872-4 which discovered the island encountering and killing them by scores, yet the largest one they mentioned "was eight feet long, and therefore of unusual size." In Parry's Arctic voyage of 1819, his party succeeded in killing a bear which, although measuring eight feet and two inches in length, only weighed 900 pounds. "It will be seen," says a chronicler of that expedition, "that his weight is not at all in proportion to his dimensions, for he was a very large animal, as far as length and height went, but although six inches longer than the bear we killed in this country last summer, he was upward of two hundred pounds lighter."

During the fall of 1878 my hired native hunters, as well as many from the village that had clustered around, for which our tents served as a nucleus, started inland on their annual reindeer hunts to procure