

in more southern waters. When they arrive in spring, they are rolling in fat, and when they leave in the fall they are a bundle of skin and bones. As soon as they arrive on the breeding grounds, each one, according to his physical persuasive power, pre-empta a certain area, and remains there, awaiting the arrival of his spouses. for the seal is polygamous. Many of these adult males or bulls exhibit wonderful strength and desperate courage. Prof. Elliott marked one veteran, "who had fought forty or fifty desperate battles and fought off his assailants, who coveted his position, every time. When the fighting season was over, the veteran was covered with scars and frightfully gashed ; raw, festering and bloody, one eye gouged out, but lording it bravely over his harem of fifteen or twenty females, who were all huddled together on the same spot of his first location and around him." Between the 12th and 14th of June the first of the cow seals arrive at the islands. The arrival of the cows is co-incident with the ending of the period of gestation, for one or two days after arrival the pup is born. The young are nourished by the mother, who frequently goes out to the sea to feed and bathe. The pups do not essay to swim, which they must first learn, like any boy, until they are a month or more old. The head and eyes of the female are exceedingly beautiful ; the large, lustrous, blue-black eyes are humid and soft, with tenderest expression. The covering to the body of the fur-seal is composed of two coats, one having a short, crisp, glistening over-hair ; and the other a close, soft, elastic pelage or fur, which gives the distinctive value to the pelt. When the skin reaches the furrier the hair has been removed and the pelage dyed.

Two-thirds of all the males which are born, and they are equal in number to the females, are never permitted by the remaining third, strongest by natural selection, to land upon the breeding ground, but this great band of "bachelor" seals, as they are aptly termed, is obliged to live apart entirely, sometimes miles away from the rookeries. In this admirably perfect method of nature are these seals, which can be properly killed without injury to the rookeries, selected and held aside, so that they can be taken without disturbing in the slightest degree the entire quiet of the breeding grounds where the stock is perpetuated. Such was, according to Prof. Elliott, the state of the rookeries in 1872-74, but