

From that period I have always thought we had two species of otter. I was informed at the same time that the *Pinaikivawkeek* did not consort with the *Neelkeek* but that the two were at enmity with each other, and fought when they met. It can scarcely be imagined that this very unamiable disposition, and the destructive habit of destroying the beaver, with the fatigue necessarily attendant upon such a pursuit, could be possessed by a mere variety of the *Neelkeek* or common otter, while the same inclinations were not ascribed to every individual of the species. Neither can it be supposed that the young and smaller individuals of a species would follow an occupation requiring apparently a greater amount of intelligence and skill, if not of strength, while the older and stronger members of the same family left it off, or generally declined it. This would be contrary to nature, as displayed in the order of carnivorous animals. It may be also observed that had the two animals been the same, the remark could never be made by Indians that they were obnoxious to each other, and did not commingle or associate together.

Judging from the skull of the *L. destructor*, its greater comparative fulness or roundness of outline, indicating a greater amount of brain anteriorly, and a development of higher instincts,—any one might infer it to be a creature endowed with more sagacity than the common otter; and we find accordingly that, besides the usual fishing occupations, it resorts to war upon the industrious and harmless beaver, and brings into the field a degree of design, contrivance, and perseverance, not belonging apparently to either the *Lutra Canadensis*, or any other of the genus. Not to be tedious, I shall only add, that the information of the Albany and Weenusk Conjuror has been confirmed by many hunters on the shore of Lake Superior, who never saw the Albany river, and who never moved to any great distance from the great lake; and also by communications from a gentleman, who had similar statements from Indians on the shores of Hudson's Bay.

Agassiz says in his very useful work on classification "that "Species in a natural genus should not present any structural "differences, but only such as present the most special relations "of their representatives to the surrounding world, and to each "other. Genera, in one word, are natural groups of a peculiar "kind, and their *special* distinction rests upon the ultimate details "of their structure." I believe there is exhibited in the skull of the