

not only how much remains to be found out, but also how much already alleged and taken for granted, requires corroboration, or even correction. If this be so, one whose opportunities have led him into fields hitherto little frequented, will commensurately feel the gravity of nature's own obstacles which tend to impede the way in seeking to add to the treasury of knowledge, and therefore he ought to be as certain as possible of his data before entering into descriptions. The substance of the following remarks, then, is at best fragmentary and partial, an effort to adhere strictly to what was actually observed, leaving the filling in of details, in such a wide and varied field, to subsequent researches. "It is an old and firm conviction of mine," wrote Darwin, "that the naturalists who accumulate facts and make many partial generalizations are the *real** benefactors of science." And, surely, the true scientific method is to ascertain facts and marshal them, which of course implies incompleteness entailed through the processes of collecting them.

The mammals observed are limited to the four orders of the Carnivora, or the beasts of prey; the Rodentia, or those which gnaw their food with chisel-like incisor teeth; the Ruminantia, or those which chew the cud; and the Cetacea, or those of the whale kind. The tail in all the species observed, excepting those of the family of the Canidæ, or dogs, wolves, and foxes, is short or rudimentary. This is true even of the Ruminants, although those creatures of the North are plagued by dipterous insects—at least the Caribou is. The tail in the Cetaceans is of course broad, so as to act as a propeller. The colour of the iris is generally brown, and this is the case in many of the birds also. I was struck with the similarity of the colour of the iris in the fox and in the hare, and was led to think that some homologous purpose is thereby served to those creatures. Burrowing does not seem to be a common habit, and, when resorted to, has usually to be done in the snow, the rocks affording little facility for that purpose, except in the instance of small rodents.

In appearance the Walrus (*Odobæus rosmarus*) when seen in its habitations, is massive and unwieldy. Great numbers were

* Italics his.