

given in the Standard Dictionary. In Newfoundland, however, I am assured it has always the idea connected with it of a cold wind driving the particles of ice in a way as it were to *shave* ones face.

They have also some peculiar names for the creatures coming under their notice. Thus the *medusae* or sea nettles are called *squid squads*, sometimes *squid squalls*, the echinns or sea urchin *oxeggs*, fresh water clams, *cocks and hens*, and to the westward smelts are known as *ministers*. The black fly is known as the *mosquito* and the musquito as the *nipper*. The sea eagle they call the *grepe*. This seems unquestionably the same as *grebe*, but originally it represented certain kinds of water fowl. Then *stoat* is used for *shoat*, a young pig, and the American brown thrush or robin is called *the black bird*. We may add here that raisins are always known as *figs*, while figs are distinguished as *broad figs*.

But seal hunting is the industry peculiar to the island and in it has arisen a large number of terms, either specially applied or sometimes seemingly produced among themselves, to denote every object and act connected with it. We should observe however that with them a seal is always a *swile*, a sealing vessel or scaler, a *swiler* and seal hunting is *swile hunting*. This is an example, of which there are many others, of words being pronounced so differently as really to seem to be different words. Thus a hoe is a *how*, the fir is *var*, snuffing is *snoffing*, forked is *varket* and never is *naar*, which is equivalent to "not," "naar a bit" being a favorite expression to denote a strong negative.

Then they have a number of words not only to distinguish the species of seals, as *harps*, *hoods* and *dogheads*, but to mark the difference of age and condition. Thus the young or baby-seals till they leave the ice are known as *whitecoats*. When the pelt, that is the skin and fat together, does not weigh more than twenty-five pounds, it is called a *cat*, and a dwarf-seal, a fat little fellow, is called a *jar*.

The most curious use, however, of a word in this connection is that of *bedlammer*. The word originated with a class of vagabonds in the Middle Ages, known at first as "bedlam beggars," so called because when released from Bedlam hospital they were licensed to beg. They are referred to by Shakespeare as pilgrim beggars, but were commonly known as Toms o' Bedlam. They were also called *bedlamites* and *bedlammers*, which came to be generic terms for fools of all classes. The last is used in Newfoundland with two applications: (1) It denotes a seal one year old and half grown, which being immature is of little