

out how the beaver gets to his house, which is generally in shallow water. Then a steel trap is sunk in the water, care being taken to regulate the depth, so that it may not be more than twelve or fourteen inches below the surface; this is accomplished by either rolling in a log, or building in large stones. Immediately over the trap is the bait, made from the *castor*, or medicine-gland of the beaver, suspended from a stick, so as just to clear the water; with a long cord and log of cedar wood as a buoy (to mark the position of the trap when the beaver swims away with it), the trap is complete. The poor little builder, perhaps returning to his home and family, scents the tempting *castor* purposely placed in his road; he cannot reach it as he swims, so he feels about with his hind-legs for something to stand on; this, too, has been craftily placed for him. Putting down his feet to stretch up for the coveted morsel, he finds them suddenly clasped in an iron embrace: there is no hope of escape. The log, revealing his hiding place, is seized by the trapper, and the imprisoned beaver dispatched by a single blow on the head, and the trap set again. A trapper will sometimes spend many weeks camped near a good beaver village. About sixty thousand skins are now brought from the Hudson's Bay Company's territories, but a great many skins are also procured from various places in Europe and the north of Asia. Just to illustrate the difference between the trade in beaver now as compared with what it was, we may mention that in 1743 the Hudson's Bay Company alone sold twenty-six thousand seven hundred and fifty skins, and over one hundred and twenty-seven thousand were imported into Rochelle. In 1788 Canada supplied one hundred and seventy thousand, and in 1808 one hundred and twenty-six thousand, nine hundred and twenty-seven skins.

The principal use made of the fur now is in the manufacture of bonnets in France, and in making cloaks. The long hair is pulled out, and the under fur shaved down close and even by a machine; some of it is still felted into a kind of cloth. The *castor*, too, is, or rather used to be, an article of considerable trade for medicinal purposes; but

in these days of progress it has become nearly obsolete, although it is still purchased from the Indians.

The Musk Rat (*Fiber Zibeticus*) is very like the beaver in many of its habits. A species that I brought from the Osoyoos lakes, east of the Cascades, which proved to be new, now called *Fiber Osoyoosensis*, makes a house precisely like a beaver; others live in holes in muddy banks. The Indians generally spear them through the walls and roofs of their dwellings. Their fur is of very little value, although many hundred thousand skins are annually imported. Large bundles of the tails of the muskrat are constantly exposed for sale in the bazaars at Stamboul as articles for perfuming clothes.

The Lynx, or wild cat (*Lynx canadensis*), is common east and west of the Rocky Mountains. The fur, though soft and prettily marked, is not of much value. It is either trapped in a steel trap or shot in the trees. I need only mention casually (as the systems of taking the animals are pretty much the same) the Otter (*Lutra canadensis*), of which about seventeen thousand skins are often procured, and the wolf (*Lupus griseus*), which supplies fifteen thousand.

The Wolverine, or Glutton (*Gulo luscus*), is a curious beast, like a tiny bear, but the most dire and untiring enemy to the martin trapper, following his steps, and eating the martins after they are caught. It is almost impossible to *cache* (hide) anything that these robbers do not find and destroy; their strength is prodigious, and they do not hesitate to attack a wounded deer. The fur is coarse, but used for muffs and linings. Those from Siberia are deemed the best. About twelve hundred are generally imported. In size the wolverine is rather larger than our English badger; in color dark brown; tails, legs, and under parts black; a light yellowish band extends over the flanks, reaching to the tail. A grizzly patch, almost white in old animals, covers the temples. The head is much like that of the bear; the eyes are remarkably small, as are the ears, which are nearly concealed in the fur. The feet, large and powerful, are armed with sharp, curved claws. The hair is quite as long as that of the black bear, but of coarser staple. In North