

bious animal. His fore-teeth stand obliquely, projecting forward out of his mouth, and are broad, crooked and sharp. His incisors, or side teeth, are firmly set and sharp, and his grinders are very strong. By means of these teeth, he is able to cut down considerable trees, and to break the hardest substances. The ordinary colour of the beaver is brown, which becomes darker in the northern, and lighter in the more southern latitudes. The number of beavers in the North West country, is continually diminishing. The skins of this animal constitute, with the Natives, the principal article of trade; and the price of other things is computed, by comparing them with a beaver skin.

The otter is an amphibious animal, bearing some resemblance to the beaver, and yet in many respects, differing from it. His body is, in every part, less than that of the beaver, though it is nearly as long. His teeth are different, being in shape like those of a dog or wolf. The hair of the otter is not more than half the length of the beaver; and in some parts particularly under the neck, stomach and belly, is more greyish. This animal, when closely pursued, will not only defend himself; but he will attack dogs and even men. His food consists of roots and fish; and his flesh tastes and smells of the latter, and is not very palatable food.