

and returning in May, and again in June to return in September. The breeding season begins in July, and the female has one cub near the end of March, or in the beginning of April, which she suckles on fragments of ice remote from land.

The harp seal is incautious, and has much of the frolicsome disposition of the common seal. This species lives in great herds, that swim apparently under the direction of a leader, who watches over the safety of the whole. They do not frequent the fixed ice, but the floes. This seal has a large quantity of blubber, which yields a larger quantity of oil than is obtained from any other seal.

PHOCA FÆTIDA. (Mull.) *The Fetid Seal.*

The fetid seal, when full grown, is four feet and a half long. The hair does not lie smooth, but is rough and similar to that of a pig. The old animals are very fetid, and their nauseous odor taints their flesh and fat equally.

The head is short and rounded, the snout forming a third of its length. The eyes are small, the iris brown. In other respects it is like the common seal. It frequents the ice near frozen land, and never leaves its haunts when old. It is solitary in its habits, pairs being seldom seen together. It is not a timid animal, and often falls a prey to the eagle, being taken while asleep on the surface. Its fetor does not hinder the Greenlanders and Esquimaux from eating it.

PHOCA URSINA. (L.) *The Ursine Seal.*

This is a large animal, being, when full grown, eight feet long and five in circumference, and weighs about eight hundred pounds. The female is much smaller than the male. The anterior part of the body is thick, the posterior slender, and tapering to the tail.

The ursine seal differs from most other seals in having the anterior limbs entirely at liberty, or not covered by the integument of the body. The wrist, bones of the palm, and digits, are covered with a naked skin. The thumb is the longest of the digits, which decrease in length successively to the little or external one. All of them have a small nail. The posterior extremities are twentytwo inches long, and articulated like