

The dimensions of this specimen were as follows:—Length from nose to root of tail, 6 feet; length of tail, 4 inches; height of shoulder, 3 feet 6 inches; width between the eyes, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; length from point of nose to lower canthus of eye, 9 inches; from point of nose to the ear, 1 foot 2 inches; height of ear, 5 inches.”

The height of a full grown animal of this species is four feet and a half, and the weight of its carcass, without the entrails, 300 pounds. It appears to be an exceedingly shy animal, seldom frequenting the fields, but confining itself to the swamps or marshy plains in the winter, where there is an abundance of moss and small shrubs upon which it feeds. “The caribou,” says a writer in the same work, “is famous for its swiftness, and has various gaits, walking, trotting or galloping alike gracefully and and rapidly. By many people these animals are, in fact, thought to be much fleetier than the moose, and they are said to take extraordinary leaps.

When pursued, the caribou immediately makes for a swamp, and follows the margin, taking at times to the water and again footing it over the firm ground, and sometimes turning towards the nearest mountain, crosses it by another morass. If hard pressed by the hunters, (who now and then follow up the chase for four or five days) the animal ascends to the highest peaks of the mountains for security, and the pursuit becomes very fatiguing and uncertain. Upon one occasion, two men followed several caribou for a whole week, when, completely tired out, they gave up the chase, which was then continued by two other hunters, who at last succeeded in killing a couple of the animals at long shot. Sometimes, however, fresh tracks are found, and the caribou is surprised whilst lying down or browsing, and shot on the spot. When the snow is not deep, and the lakes are covered with ice only, the animal, if closely pursued, makes for one of them and runs over the ice so fast that it is unable to stop if struck with alarm at any object presenting itself in front, and it then suddenly squats down on its haunches and slides along in that ludicrous position until the impetus being exhausted, it rises again and makes off in some other direction. When the caribou takes to the ice the hunter always gives up the chase. Sometimes, when the mouth and throat of a fresh killed caribou are examined, they are found to be filled with a blackish looking mucus, resembling thin mud, but which appears to be only a portion of the partially decomposed black mosses upon which it fed, probably forced into the throat and mouth of the animal in its dying agonies.

“When overtaken in the chase, the caribou stands at bay, and shows fight, and when thus brought to a stand still will not pay much attention to the hunters, so that he can approach and shoot them with ease.”

If we are to believe what is stated of the speed and powers of endurance of the European reindeer, to which the caribou is so closely allied that naturalists were long in doubt as to the propriety of separating it as a distinct species, then it is easy to understand that the hunting of this animal must be a laborious undertaking. Journeys of one hundred and fifty miles in twenty hours are said to be a common performance of the domesticated