

our animal watches large beasts like a robber, or surprises them when asleep, and that after having darted down from a tree like an arrow upon the reindeer or elk he sinks his teeth into its body and gnaws its flesh till it expires, after which he devours it at his ease and swallows both hair and skin.

It is frequently the task of the modern Naturalist to strip the accounts of those more ancient of much that is marvellous, and those who have recently and without prejudice studied the Wolverine or glutton find him a very ordinary animal much resembling in appearance a small brown bear, its length being scarcely three feet and its height not much exceeding one foot. Its head is of moderate size, broad on the hinder part much arched, rounded on all sides; nose obtuse, naked; eyes small; ears short, broad, rounded, and partially hidden by the surrounding fur. The body is long in proportion to the height of the animal, and its tail instead of being long enough to wind round the body is only seven or eight inches in length. The legs are short and stout, and each one of the five toes is armed with a rounded and pretty sharp claw. The feet are broad, and clothed on the under surface with woolly hairs, so that the tracks made on the snow by the animal are large and are said to be not very unlike those of the bear. The fur is also like that of the bear. It is in general dark brown approaching to black. A pale reddish band commences behind the shoulder, and running along the flanks, turns up on the hip, and unites on the rump with similar markings on the opposite side. The nose, eyes and whiskers are black, legs and tail brownish black, and claws dark brown.

As to the habits of the Wolverine, Sir John Richardson says that it feeds chiefly on the carcasses of animals that have been killed by accident. It also devours meadow-mice, marmots and other rodentia, and occasionally destroys disabled quadrupeds of a larger size; it possesses neither the agility nor the strength to destroy deer or other large game, as is stated by the early writers. Richardson saw one chasing an American hare, which was at the same time harassed by the large white owl. The speed of the hare is, however, greater than that of the Wolverine. All writers agree that it follows the footsteps of the trapper in order to prey upon the hare, marten, beaver or other animal that may be caught in them, or to feed upon the bait. It is probable, however, that in such excursions the animal is directed by scenting the bait at a distance, and thus finds its way to the traps. We cannot