

not yet been determined whether it is a distinct species, or merely a variety produced by climate and other local causes. The wolves and domestic dogs of the fur countries, from their similarity to each other, cannot be distinguished at any great distance: the want of strength in the former is the principal difference; while the mixed breed are prized by the *voyageurs* as beasts of burthen, being stronger than the ordinary dog, and more prolific. The common colour is grey, changing to white in the higher latitudes during the winter; yet black and even pied wolves are occasionally met with. For two hours I was surrounded by these animals, and far out of sight of the rest of my party; yet they did not attempt to molest me. Sir John Franklin states, however, that Dr. Richardson "was roused by an indistinct noise behind him, and, on looking round, perceived that nine white wolves had ranged themselves in the form of a crescent, and were advancing, apparently with the intention of driving him into the river; but on his rising up they halted, and when he advanced they made way for his pass-