

Island, some will be ready to say we would not like to go to a country where these ferocious animals are; we might be torn to pieces by them. Well, I can assure you, I never had the pleasure, or rather the alarm, of seeing one of them alive, after all the solitary journies I made through the largest woods upon the Island, with no other instrument of self-defence but a walking staff. But the truth is, there are a few of them yet in the woods, which are seen occasionally by the inhabitants. And now and then in certain solitary places in the woods, some of the black cattle and sheep are falling a prey to them and the wild cat, while the lambs are also occasionally attacked by foxes. But I could never obtain positive evidence that one human being had ever been really killed by the bears upon the Island. I met with several, both Indians and others, who had killed one or more of both the bears and wild cats, and a Highlandman at the head of St. Peter's Bay told me, he had killed 38 bears in 29 years, by shooting them, and by setting traps of wood which the Indians have learned them to construct. He told me he sometimes made them shoot themselves. I saw the Indians dissecting a very large bear at their camp at Murray Harbour, about the first of June last, on which occasion they had caught two of them in wooden traps, and which they esteem excellent eating. I was told that neither bulls nor horses were ever known to be destroyed by them, but several bulls have been known to destroy them in defence of the cows. I believe they are decreasing in numbers greatly, for there is not near the damage done by them now, that is reported to have been done formerly. In one settlement, where I was told they had broke open the byre door, and eaten a beast at the stake,* they

* The circumstance alluded to above, happened at a Mr Campbell's, Montague River, (Three Rivers.) He was awoke out of his sleep one night with the roaring of a young heifer in the byre; he got up, pulled on his trowsers, and ran out to the place from which the cry proceeded. He saw like a black beast lying in the middle of the door; he put his