Technical and Bibliographic Notes/Notes techniques et bibliographiques

The Institute has attempted to obtain the best original copy available for filming. Features of this copy which may be bibliographically unique, which may alter any of the images in the reproduction, or which may significantly change the usual method of filming, are checked below.

- [ ] Coloured covers/ Couverture de couleur
- [ ] Covers damaged/ Couverture endommagée
- [ ] Covers restored and/or laminated/ Couverture restaurée et/ou pelliculée
- [ ] Cover title missing/ Le titre de couverture manque
- [ ] Coloured maps/ Cartes géographiques en couleur
- [ ] Coloured ink (i.e. other than blue or black)/ Encre de couleur (i.e. autre que bleue ou noire)
- [ ] Coloured plates and/or illustrations/ Planches et/ou illustrations en couleur
- [ ] Bound with other material/ Relié avec d'autres documents
- [ ] Tight binding may cause shadows or distortion along interior margin/ La reliure serrée peut causer de l'ombre ou de la distortion le long de la marge intérieure
- [ ] Blank leaves added during restoration may appear within the text. Whenever possible, these have been omitted from filming/ Il se peut que certaines pages blanches ajoutées lors d'une restauration apparaissent dans le texte, mais, lorsque cela était possible, ces pages n'ont pas été filmées.
- [ ] Additional comments:/ Commentaires supplémentaires:

L'Institut a microfilmé le meilleur exemplaire qu'il lui a été possible de se procurer. Les détails de cet exemplaire qui sont peut-être uniques du point de vue bibliographique, qui peuvent modifier une image reproduite, ou qui peuvent exiger une modification dans la méthode normale de filmage sont indiqués ci-dessous.

- [ ] Coloured pages/ Pages de couleur
- [ ] Pages damaged/ Pages endommagées
- [ ] Pages restored and/or laminated/ Pages restaurées et/ou pelliculées
- [x] Pages discoloured, stained or foxed/ Pages décolorées, tachetées ou piquées
- [ ] Pages detached/ Pages détachées
- [x] Showthrough/ Transparence
- [ ] Quality of print varies/ Qualité inégale de l'impression
- [ ] Includes supplementary material/ Comprend du matériel supplémentaire
- [ ] Only edition available/ Seule édition disponible
- [ ] Pages wholly or partially obscured by errata slips, tissues, etc., have been refilmed to ensure the best possible image/ Les pages totalement ou partiellement obscurcies par un feuillet d'errata, une pelure, etc., ont été filmées à nouveau de façon à obtenir la meilleure image possible.

This item is filmed at the reduction ratio checked below/
Ce document est filmé au taux de réduction indiqué ci-dessous.

10X	12X	14X	16X	18X	20X	22X	24X	26X	28X	30X	32X
					✓						

11C65
639
L866

the Roman question, especially, all the assaults of eloquence and sarcasm, all the weight of well-grounded testimony are brought to bear. Among noticeable contributions of this class, I may mention *The Afflictions of the Roman States and the Future of the Court of Rome*, the *Letters of His Holiness and of the Tuscan Bishops, with Notes and Observations by one of their Brethren*, the *Court of Rome and the Gospel*, *Napoleon III. and the Clergy*, etc. *The Clergy and their Morality in relation to the Civil Power*, by the Abbate Fiorenza, is a pamphlet of graver character, directed to the establishment of the writer's proposition that the teaching of the Catholic clergy, as expressed by their best accredited representatives has always been in accordance with true political liberalism. The first-named in the above list, by Gennarelli, consists of contributions by that writer founded upon documents that fell into the hands of the new government after the downfall of the old in the Legations: an appreciation of ecclesiastical rule fully justified by official evidence, logical in severity, and backed by proofs that whatever else its characteristics, *inhumanity* was a distinguishing feature of its procedure in that unfortunate country.

Contemporaneously with the great revolution in Italy, her Literature has been evolving into vitality, and has corresponded to the great realities of the present in a spirit of earnestness that deserves thoughtful attention. It has kept pace with the rapid march of events, by discussing, commenting upon, or recording them in all their aspects and tendencies. It may fall short of expectation in respect of some high requirements; it has not yet conveyed in universally intelligible accents the announcement of fixed purpose, or nationally adopted conviction in the sphere of some of the grandest interests. But what should we expect from any literature more than the reflex of existing temper, impulse, or belief? The deficiency observable in Italian literature may be explained by the very fact that its heart and conscience have been stirred so profoundly, that the questions at issue are of such vast bearings, that the fruits must be waited for, the produce left to mature itself for years yet to come. A certain vagueness and hesitation is perhaps the truest testimony to a state of mind consequent upon such transitional, such momentous conditions of the nation's life. The enthusiastic patriotism that used to find vent in Italian sonnets or canzoni has now its positive and more rational utterance. Next among prominent features of this literary movement is the absolutely startling impetus of the hostility against an ecclesiastical system which, still potent and sincerely accepted as it is by millions on this side of the Alps, no longer corresponds to the developments of civil life or intelligence among the reflective or active-minded. And yet this literature, considered as a whole, cannot be called irreligious; rather indeed is it imbued with an undercurrent of reverence, in the spirit of indignant protestation for the honor of Divine Truth. In imaginative literature we perceive a purer moral than ever announced itself in the *novelle* or *romanzi* of earlier time; in the historic, a wider sympathy for the human; in the aggregate we find sufficient in its attributes to claim a heartfelt welcome for Italian Literature as preëminently that of Hope.

C. T. H.

The Leisure Hour.

AMERICAN FURS:

HOW TRAPPED AND TRADED.

BY J. K. LORD, F.Z.S.

It would be difficult to name any branch of commerce that has tended more to develop man's energy, courage, and patient endurance of every hardship and privation than has the fur trade. To the explorations of sturdy trappers, pioneers, and adventurers of all classes, and from all countries, in pursuit of fur, we may trace the sources from which the knowledge of three fourths of the continent of North America has been derived.

The use of furs, as of other skins, may be said to have existed since the days when man first wore garments; but not until the early part of the sixth century was there any direct trade in furs brought from remote districts. At this early period we find the wealthier Romans used sables from the shores of the Arctic Ocean. In the twelfth century wearing furs had become very general

in England, and we learn that Edward III., in 1337, made an order that none of his subjects should wear fur unless able to command an income of £100 per annum. About the seventeenth century the idea of establishing a settlement for the purpose of procuring the rich furs said to abound on the shores of the frozen seas was suggested by one Grosseliez to the French government, but being coldly received he left France and came to England, and obtained an interview with Prince Rupert. This negotiation ended in the fitting out of a ship, which in 1638 reached the land which has since borne the name of Rupert's Land. The ship returned after a sojourn of three years, with a report so favorable in all its details that several noblemen and gentlemen of wealth, headed by Prince Rupert, formed themselves into a company, and subscribed a capital of £10,-500.

In 1670 a charter was granted by Charles II., giving the new company, calling themselves "The Hudson's Bay Company," the entire possession "of all the lands and territories upon the countries, coasts, and confines of the seas, lakes, bays, rivers, creeks, and sounds, in whatsoever latitude they shall be, that lie between the entrance of the straits called Hudson's Straits." It would be of little interest to trace the gradual rise of this Company, or to relate the terrible jealousy, forays, and deadly feuds that for many years, to the disgrace of civilization, raged betwixt the Hudson's Bay and a rival Company, that subsequently grew into existence, known as the Northwest Company. These feuds happily ended about the year 1838, when the two companies, to use an Indian expression, "buried the hatchet," and became one, still retaining the old title, "The Hudson's Bay Company."

The territories of this Company are truly enormous, extending from the Canadian frontier to the shores of the Pacific and Arctic oceans, including lands that on the one hand own allegiance to Russia, and on the other to the United States. The area of the country under its immediate influence is about 4,500,000 square miles in extent, divided into four departments, fifty-three districts, and one hundred and fifty-two trading posts. This vast extent of hunting country is everywhere sprinkled over with lakes, and in all directions intersected by rivers and lesser streams, abounding with edible fish. East of the Rocky Mountains are vast prairies over which roams the bison, lord of the plains; while west of these mountains the land is densely timbered. The most northerly station, east of the Rocky Mountains, is on the Mackenzie river, within the Arctic circle; so terribly intense is the cold at this post that axes tempered specially can alone be used for splitting and cutting wood, ordinary hatchets breaking as though made of glass. West of the Rockies, the most northerly station is Fort Simpson, situated near the Silka river, the boundary betwixt Russian America and British Columbia.

The system of trading at all the posts of the Company is entirely one of barter. In early days, when first I wandered over the fur countries east of the Rockies, money was unknown; but this medium of exchange has since then gradually become familiar to the Indians, and the all-potent dollar is rapidly asserting its supremacy in savagedom.

The standard of value throughout all the territories of the Company is still, however, the skin of the beaver, by which the price of all other furs is regulated. Any service rendered, or labor executed, by the Indians, is paid for in skins; the beaver skin being the unit of computation. To explain this system more clearly, let us assume that four beavers are equivalent in value to a silver-fox skin, two martins to a beaver, twenty muskrats to a martin, and so on. As an example, let us suppose an Indian wishes to purchase a blanket or a gun from the Hudson's Bay Company: he would have to give, say, three silver foxes, or twenty beaver skins, or two hundred muskrats, or other furs, in accordance with their proper relative positions of worth in the tariff. For a very evident reason, the price paid for furs is not fixed in strict accordance with their intrinsic value; if this were so, all the *valuable* fur-bearing animals would soon become extinct; as no Indian would bother himself to trap a cheap fur while a high-priced one remained uncaught. He may very possibly have to pay five silver-fox skins for blankets (worth about

£3), the value of the skins paid representing £40; still he can, if he chooses, buy the same article by paying for it in muskrat, yellow fox, or other furs of inferior worth. The Company very generally issue to the Indians such goods as they need up to a certain amount, when the summer supplies arrive at the posts —these advances to be paid for at the conclusion of the hunting season. In hiring Indians east of the Cascade Mountains, while occupied in marking the boundary line, our agreement was always to pay them in beaver skins, say, two or three per day, in accordance with the duty required; but this agreement did not mean actual payment in real skins—a matter that to us would have been impossible—but that we were to give the Indian an order on the nearest trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company, to supply him with any goods he might select up to the value of the beaver skins specified on the order.

The trading posts of the Company are strange, quaint-looking places, built according to a general type. A trading fort is invariably a square inclosed by immense trees or pickets, one end sunk deeply in the ground, and placed close together; a platform, about the height of an ordinary man, is carried along the sides of the square, so as to enable any one to peep over without being in danger from arrow or bullet; the entrance is closed by two massive gates, an inner and an outer; and all the houses of the chief traders and *employés*, the trading house, fur room, and stores, are within the square. In many of the posts the trade room is cleverly contrived, so as to prevent a sudden rush of Indians; the approach from outside the pickets being through a long narrow passage, only of sufficient width to admit one Indian at a time, and bent at an acute angle near the window, where the trader stands. This precaution is rendered necessary, inasmuch as were the passage straight they might easily shoot him. At the four angles are bastions, octagonal in shape, pierced with embrasures, to lead the Indians to believe in the existence of cannon, and intended to strike terror in any red-skinned rebel daring to dispute the supremacy of the Company.

The total worth of the furs that have been collected by this Company alone, at a rough estimate, represents a money value equal to £20,000,000 sterling. It will be interesting to give a brief history of the various furs traded by the Hudson's Bay and other companies, how and where caught, together with a statement of the average number of each species annually imported from the Company's territories and other fur-yielding countries.

Foremost in the list is the Hudson's Bay Sable (*Mustela Americana*). The pine martin, or sable of Northwest America, is not esteemed so valuable as the sable from Russia, known to naturalists as *Mustela Zibillina*; but there is no doubt that the two species are in reality one and the same, the difference of temperature, and other local modifying causes, readily accounting for the better quality of the Russian fur. About one hundred and twenty thousand skins are brought on an average into this country every year by the Hudson's Bay Company, and to these we may add quite as many, if not more, from Russia and Tartary. The lighter-colored skins are usually dyed, and frequently sold as Russian sable. Martin trapping requires great skill and experience. The favorite haunts of the little robber are the pine forests, especially where dead or burnt timber abounds. Its food consists of anything it can catch by craft or cunning, young birds and eggs, squirrels, the lesser rodents, marmots, and rabbits. The trap most frequently used is a fall trap (although sometimes steel traps are employed; in other words, the ordinary rat gin). The fall trap is of Indian invention, and a very ingenious contrivance. A half circle is first built of large stones to the height of about three feet; then a heavy tree is laid across the entrance, one end being raised and supported on a contrivance very like the figure-of-four trap, used by boys for catching small birds; a dainty bit of rabbit, or a ruffed grouse skinned, is hung on a projecting stick, built into the back of the semicircle of stones. The little poacher can only get at the bait by creeping under the tree; then seizing it, and finding himself unable to pull it down, he backs out, tugging the string to which the bait is attached along the stick, on which rests the figure of four, supporting the tree. Just as the centre

123915

of his back comes under the fall or tree, he looses the support by tugging the meat off the stick, when down it falls on him, killing him instantly, but doing no injury to the fur. The winter fur is by far the most valuable, and the Indians say the first shower of rain after the snow disappears spoils the martin. The animal is skinned somewhat like a rabbit, the skin being inverted as it is removed, then placed on a flat board, and so dried in the sun. A good martin skin is worth in the trade from two and a half to three dollars; about ten or twelve shillings. Very fine martins come from the western slopes of the Cascade and coast ranges of mountains; the further north, the darker and better are the skins.

The Russian Sable inhabits the forest-clad mountains of Siberia, a desolate, cold, inhospitable region. The animal is hunted during winter, and generally by exiles. There are various methods of taking the sable. Great numbers are shot with small-bore rifles; others are trapped in steel and fall traps, and many taken in nets placed over their places of retreat, into which they are tracked on the snow. Who can picture to himself, without shuddering, the case of the condemned sable-hunter? He leaves, with heavy heart, the last thinly-scattered habitations which border the pathless wilds; a sky of clouds and darkness is above, bleak mountains and gloomy forests before him; the recesses of the forests, the defiles of the mountains must be traversed: these are the haunts of the sable. The cold is below zero, but the fur will prove the finer! Nerved by necessity, and stimulated by the hope of sharing the gains, on he presses. Fatigue and cold exhaust him, a snow storm overtakes him, the bearings or way-marks are lost or forgotten. Provisions fail, and too often he who promised, to his expecting and anxious friends, a speedy return, is seen no more. Such is sable-hunting in Siberia, and such the hapless fate of many an exile, who perishes in the pursuit of what only adds to the luxuries and superfluities of the great.

The Fisher (*Mustela Penanntii*) is very similar to the pine martin in all his habits, but much larger. Why it was named a fisher I could never imagine, as it is not known to catch fish or go in the water, except to wash, or swim a stream. It climbs readily, and lives on birds and rodents. A very fine pair are in the Regent's Park Zoölogical Gardens. It is trapped much in the same way as the martin. The tail is very long and bushy, tapering to a fine brush-like point, and quite black. At one time a large trade was carried on with tails, only the tail being worn by Jewish merchants as an ornament in Poland. About twelve thousand fisher skins are annually imported. I obtained some remarkably fine specimens of the fisher in the pine woods of the Na-hoi-le-pit-ke valley, on the Columbia river. The value, or trade price, in British Columbia, is from two dollars fifty cents to three dollars per skin. The fisher in full winter fur makes a far handsomer muff than the sable.

The fur of the Mink (*Mustela vison*) is vastly inferior to either the fisher or martin, being harsh, short, and glossy. The habits of the animal, too, are entirely different. The mink closely resembles the otter in its mode of life, frequenting streams inland, and rocks, small islands, and sheltered bays on the sea-coast. It swims with great ease and swiftness, captures fish, eats mollusks, crabs, and any marine animal that falls in its way. Should a wounded duck or sea-bird happen to be discovered by this animal, it is at once pounced upon and greedily devoured. On the inland rivers it dives for and catches great numbers of cray-fish, that abound in almost every stream east and west of the Cascades. Along the river banks, the little heaps of cray-fish shells direct the Indian to the whereabouts of the mink, which is generally caught with a steel trap baited with fish. The trade price is about fifty cents, or two shillings, per skin. Very little of the fur is used in England, the greater part being again exported to the Continent. About two hundred and fifty thousand skins are annually imported. I procured some very fine specimens of the mink at Vancouver Island, that are now stuffed and set up in the British Museum.

The Ermine (*Mustela longicauda*) of Northwest America is hardly worth importing. The fur never grows long, or becomes white enough in winter. The Indians use it for ornamental purposes,

and often wear the skin as a charm, or *medicine*, as they term it. In summer the ermine-weasel is reddish brown. The best ermine comes from Siberia, Norway, and Russia. The black of the tail was, in the time of Edward III., forbidden to be worn by any but members of the royal family.

The Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) is widely distributed throughout North and Northwest America. Crafty and artful, to an American proverb, his life is entirely one of brigandage; plundering on every available opportunity, and waging destructive war on any bird, beast, or reptile inferior to himself in strength, courage, or cunning. The fur is not very valuable, being principally used in making carriage rugs, and lining inferior cloaks and coats on the Continent. About five hundred and twenty thousand skins are sent annually from the Hudson's Bay Company's territories. They are generally shot; those that are trapped are taken in steel traps.

The three species of foxes traded by the Hudson's Bay Company are the Red Fox (*Vulpes macrourus*), the Cross Fox (*Var decussatus*), and the Silver Fox (*Var argentatus*). I quite concur with Professor Baird in making the red fox of British Columbia and Oregon a distinct species, and in considering the cross and silver foxes as varieties of the red. I have again and again carefully examined large numbers of fox skins at the different trading posts of the Company, and have invariably found every intermediate tint of color, merging by regular gradations, from the red into the cross, and from the cross into the silver and black, rendering it often a difficult question even for the trader himself to decide which of the varieties a skin really belonged to. The Indians also positively assert that *cubs* of the three varieties are constantly seen in the same litter. The black and silver fox skins are very valuable, a good skin fetching readily from forty to fifty dollars, £10 to £12; the red fox is only worth about as many shillings. About fifty thousand red foxes, forty-five hundred cross, and one thousand silver, are annually imported.

The Silver Fox fur is almost entirely purchased by the Chinese and Russian dealers. The animals are nearly all trapped in fall traps, very similar in construction to those used for the martin.

The famed Beaver (*Castor fiber*), in both structure and habits, is by far the most interesting animal killed and hunted for the sake of its skin. So much was its fur in demand, prior to the introduction of silk and rabbits' fur, in the manufacture of hats, that the poor little rodent had in some districts become nearly exterminated. Descriptions of their *houses* and *dams* have been so frequently given by various writers that it would be waste of space to repeat them here. On the streams in Southern Oregon the beaver is most abundant, and one shallow lake I accidentally came upon was literally filled with beaver-houses; there must have been many hundred habitations, as the lake was quite a mile in width, and round it the trees were felled in all directions, as if the land was being cleared for farming. I do not believe the curiously flattened scaly *tail* is ever used, save as a powerful *oar*, or rather *rudder*, aiding the animal to dive and swim, but particularly in towing heavy sticks in rapid streams or across pools to its dams and houses. Quite as many trees are cut by the beaver's sharp teeth to procure food as to construct dams; the bark of the topmost branches of the *Populus tremuloides*, or aspen, being its favorite diet.

The beaver trapper, be he white man or Indian, must, of necessity, lead a solitary, desolate, and dangerous life. To be alone in the wildest solitudes of unknown wastes demands a courage and endurance of no ordinary kind. The lone trapper knows not the emulation, the wild hurrah and crash of music that cheers the soldier as he marches steadily up to the deadly breach; he cannot feel that powerful incentive to be brave arising from the knowledge that a gallant deed will be handed down with his name in the pages of history; he has no opportunity for display before his fellow-man; alone with nature and his Creator, he is self-dependent, and his indomitable courage can only spring from a firm reliance on his own strength, ever supported by an unseen hand. A beaver is a very difficult animal to trap. The trapper knows at a glance the various marks of the animal, called *signs;* these discovered, the next operation is to find

out how the beaver gets to his house, which is generally in shallow water. Then a steel trap is sunk in the water, care being taken to regulate the depth, so that it may not be more than twelve or fourteen inches below the surface; this is accomplished by either rolling in a log, or building in large stones. Immediately over the trap is the bait, made from the *castor*, or medicine-gland of the beaver, suspended from a stick, so as just to clear the water; with a long cord and log of cedar wood as a buoy (to mark the position of the trap when the beaver swims away with it), the trap is complete. The poor little builder, perhaps returning to his home and family, scents the tempting castor purposely placed in his road; he cannot reach it as he swims, so he feels about with his hind-legs for something to stand on; this, too, has been craftily placed for him. Putting down his feet to stretch up for the coveted morsel, he finds them suddenly clasped in an iron embrace: there is no hope of escape. The log, revealing his hiding place, is seized by the trapper, and the imprisoned beaver dispatched by a single blow on the head, and the trap set again. A trapper will sometimes spend many weeks camped near a good beaver village. About sixty thousand skins are now brought from the Hudson's Bay Company's territories, but a great many skins are also procured from various places in Europe and the north of Asia. Just to illustrate the difference between the trade in beaver now as compared with what it was, we may mention that in 1743 the Hudson's Bay Company alone sold twenty-six thousand seven hundred and fifty skins, and over one hundred and twenty-seven thousand were imported into Rochelle. In 1788 Canada supplied one hundred and seventy thousand, and in 1808 one hundred and twenty-six thousand, nine hundred and twenty-seven skins.

The principal use made of the fur now is in the manufacture of bonnets in France, and in making cloaks. The long hair is pulled out, and the under fur shaved down close and even by a machine; some of it is still felted into a kind of cloth. The castor, too, is, or rather used to be, an article of considerable trade for medicinal purposes; but in these days of progress it has become nearly obsolete, although it is still purchased from the Indians.

The Musk Rat (*Fiber Zibeticus*) is very like the beaver in many of its habits. A species that I brought from the Osoyoos lakes, east of the Cascades, which proved to be new, now called *Fiber Osoyoosensis*, makes a house precisely like a beaver; others live in holes in muddy banks. The Indians generally spear them through the walls and roofs of their dwellings. Their fur is of very little value, although many hundred thousand skins are annually imported. Large bundles of the tails of the muskrat are constantly exposed for sale in the bazaars at Stamboul as articles for perfuming clothes.

The Lynx, or wild cat (*Lynx canadensis*), is common east and west of the Rocky Mountains. The fur, though soft and prettily marked, is not of much value. It is either trapped in a steel trap or shot in the trees. I need only mention casually (as the systems of taking the animals are pretty much the same) the Otter (*Lutra canadensis*), of which about seventeen thousand skins are often procured, and the wolf (*Lupus griseus*), which supplies fifteen thousand.

The Wolverine, or Glutton (*Gulo luscus*), is a curious beast, like a tiny bear, but the most dire and untiring enemy to the martin trapper, following his steps, and eating the martins after they are caught. It is almost impossible to *cache* (hide) anything that these robbers do not find and destroy; their strength is prodigious, and they do not hesitate to attack a wounded deer. The fur is coarse, but used for muffs and linings. Those from Siberia are deemed the best. About twelve hundred are generally imported. In size the wolverine is rather larger than our English badger; in color dark brown; tails, legs, and under parts black; a light yellowish band extends over the flanks, reaching to the tail. A grizzly patch, almost white in old animals, covers the temples. The head is much like that of the bear; the eyes are remarkably small, as are the ears, which are nearly concealed in the fur. The feet, large and powerful, are armed with sharp, curved claws. The hair is quite as long as that of the black bear, but of coarser staple. In North

America it is almost entirely confined to boreal regions; its farthest southern range being the valley of the Salt Lake in Utah territory. The glutton is voracious and bloodthirsty, but fortunately its size by no means equals its ferocity; there hardly lives a more cunning, crafty animal, preying on beavers, muskrats, and squirrels. By tracking them or lurking hid among the lichen and moss-covered branches of the pine-trees, it pounces upon its prey and speedily kills it. The sharp incisor teeth, six in each jaw, together with the formidable claws, enable it to overcome animals even superior to itself in size and strength. It appears a connecting link betwixt the bears and weasels.

The Skunk (*Mephitis Americanus*), so renowned for the terrible stench it emits when interfered with, is very much more handsome than useful. So potent is the smell of the secretion it has the power of squirting many yards, that I have frequently buried articles of clothing and steel traps for weeks, and then the stench has been as bad as ever. The Indians generally shoot the skunk, and always skin it under water. About a thousand skins are usually collected.

Bears, black, brown, and grizzly, are always in demand, and used for innumerable purposes. The number killed annually is not easily obtained, but, at a rough average, may be estimated at about nine thousand. The greater number are killed in the winter, during their period of hibernation.

The fur of the Sea Otter (*Enhydra Marina*) is by far the most valuable traded, and is very difficult to obtain. The animal is generally caught in nets, or speared by the coast Indians in the sea; a good skin is worth £40, trade price. The sea otter ranges from Alaska to the Californian coast in the North Pacific. It appears to be an intermediate link between the true seal and the otter; but very little is known about its habits, or mode of reproduction. Nearly all the sea-otter fur goes to China.

There is also an immense trade in Rabbit fur. Added to the many thousand skins that annually come from the Hudson's Bay territories, 1,300,000 are sold every year in the markets of London, the skins of which are used in the fur trade.

In South America, living in the valleys along the slopes of the Andes, is a curious little animal (*Chinchilla Lanigera*) half hare, half rat, the fur of which is known as Chinchilla. This fur was much valued and extensively used by the older inhabitants of Peru and Chili, being manufactured into a fine kind of cloth, and then made into articles of clothing. Many thousand skins annually find their way into our markets, and are consumed in the manufacture of muffs, tippets, and lining for cloaks. The animal is entirely a vegetable feeder, and of most harmless and inoffensive habits. A pair may be seen in the Regent's Park Gardens.

Another South American fur in great request is that of the Coypu (*Myopotamus Bonariensis*), also called Metrid, from the Spanish for "otter," a name derived from the similitude the fur bears to that animal. Nearly all the skins are obtained from Rio de la Plata. About 1,125,212 skins were imported in one year; latterly the supply has been less, although it is still very considerable. The long hair is plucked out, as in the treatment of beaver, and, when dressed, the skin much resembles that of the beaver both in color and texture, and is used for similar purposes.

All the fur skins previously mentioned are collected during the fall and winter months at the different trading posts; and, as the system adopted at the various posts is pretty much the same, a brief sketch of the routine at Fort Colville, on the Columbia river, will suffice for all.

As the furs are brought by the Indians they are traded by the person in charge of the trade-shop. If an Indian were to bring a hundred skins of different sorts, or all alike, he would trade off every skin separately, and insist on payment for each skin as he sold it; hence it often occupies several days to barter a batch of skins; and it is a curious and interesting sight to watch a party of Indians selecting from the stores articles they require, as they dispose of skin after skin. An Indian trader needs to possess more than average patience. The skins, as purchased, are thrown behind, and then carried to the fur room, and piled in heaps, that are constantly turned and aired. In the spring, as soon as the snow is gone, generally in April, the

123915

whole force, about four whites, the permanent staff (the rest composed of hired Indians), begin to pack all the skins in bales of from eighty pounds to one hundred pounds in weight. The outer covering is buffalo skin; loops are made to each package, so as to sling them over the pack-saddles; the pack-saddles are repaired, and raw-hide strips cut to fasten the bales on to the horses. The Company's horses, about one hundred in number, that have been wintered in some sheltered valley, under the care of the Indians, are now brought to the Fort. This is called fitting out the brigade. Their destination is Fort Hope, situated at the head of navigation on the Frazer, there to meet the steamer bringing the yearly supplies. This is the annual grand event in the chief traders' and *employés'* lives, and is looked forward to as a schoolboy anticipates his holidays. All being ready, the bales of fur are crossed over the Columbia in *bateaux* (flat-bottomed boats), and the horses swim a distance of four hundred yards. Safely across, they are packed and started. The trip to and from Fort Hope occupies from two and a half to three months. On arriving at the Fort the furs are handed over to the steamer, and the various goods to supply the trade at Fort Colville, until a similar exchange next year, are handed over to the chief trader, who generally goes in charge of the brigade. I was present at Fort Hope in early days, at a meeting of the brigades from Thompson's river, Camiloops, Fort Colville, and elsewhere, and it was truly a quaint and singular sight. The wild look, long unkempt hair, sunburnt faces, and leather costumes of the traders, were only exceeded by the still wilder appearance and absence of almost any clothing among their Indian attendants. The scene while the brigades remained was one continuous orgie; still no harm came of it, and obedience was always readily observed towards the traders when disputes, and sometimes blows, demanded their interference. When the brigades depart for their several destinations, the steamer leaves for Victoria, where the furs are all sorted and repacked, being pressed into bales by an enormous lever; and rum and tobacco are placed betwixt the layers of skins to keep out insects and the larvæ of moths. They are shipped on board the "Princess Royal," that annually brings out the stores from England to Vancouver Island, and are eventually sold at public auction in London.

Such is a brief outline of the fur trade as carried on by the Hudson's Bay and other American companies.

Chambers's Journal.

THE MYSTERY OF SLEEP.

Twelve hundred millions of dreams make a net-work of wild fancies nightly about our planet. To go, if it were possible, through this world of sleep would be a stranger process than that of exploring the whole waking world; for in sleep every living being is a poet, from the baby that clings in its dreams to the breasts of goddesses, to the centenarian who, with staff and spectacles, hobbles about paradise at the heels of seraphs. Sleeping and waking are the two great phenomena of our existence. What is done and thought in the every-day working world, where the ordinary business of life is carried on, no living creature has ever fully revealed to another. There are reticences in the confessions of the most frank, things which cannot, and therefore which never will be spoken—thoughts which transcend the limits of language—hopes which the power of no fairy could satisfy—fears which even Lucifer himself would fail to exaggerate. If this portion of our life, which is at least subjected to our own observation, cannot be faithfully and fully described, still less can that other portion which defies even our own scrutiny, converts us into mere spectators of ourselves, sets free our actions from the control of our will, and transforms us into so many passive spokes in the great wheel of destiny. Whatever may be the laws by which it is regulated, sleep presents the counterpart of the waking world — distorted, mutilated, thrown into irremediable confusion by the force of the imagination.

How sleep comes over him, every man may observe, if he will be at the pains —and it requires pains—since the drowsy state which precedes the complete ab-