

that, another robe placed over all, and the bed was ready.

Although I was very tired and glad to lie down, my rest was remarkable chiefly for its restlessness. Few nights have seemed longer to me than did this, and I was heartily glad when morning came and the occupants of the lodge began to move. The older squaws were up first; but the men soon followed, and with them I went outside. A number of horses were picketed below the village. Taking two, each tied a lariat around the lower jaw of his animal, and, mounting bareback, they were soon out of sight.

During their absence, I made my way into the salmon-houses. Poles were stretched across, and to these were fastened a vast number of salmon. The process of curing is very simple. Each fish when caught is split open, the entrails taken out, a short stick inserted at the widest part to keep it open, and then it is put on the poles with thousands of others and allowed to partially dry. They are then put in the large houses before mentioned, a slow fire built under them, and they are slowly smoked until thoroughly cured.

In less than half-an-hour I heard loud hallooes and trampling outside, and going out, found my night's hosts coming back driving a large band of horses before them, among which I could see some of my own. All were driven into a huge corral, and then we went into breakfast, which meal was much the same in kind and quality as the supper had been.

Having finished, I handed the two squaws, who had done the work, a half-dollar each. Going to the corral, the Indians immediately got inside, and with their lariats caught my horses one after the other with great rapidity.

When all were collected outside, the horse I had ridden the day before was brought up, with the saddle, bridle, and blankets. These I put on to one of my other horses, and then turned to settle with my Indian friends. A plug of tobacco and a small coin to each seemed to satisfy them; and throwing myself into the saddle, I was soon making my way up the Wawawa, and, once upon level ground, made rapid time home.



ADVENTURE WITH A SEAL.

My man, one day while we were waiting in our ambuscade for the seals, gave me an account of a curious adventure he had with one a few years back.

He was lying at daybreak ensconced close to the water's edge, waiting in vain for a shot at some grey geese that frequented the place at the time, when he saw a prodigiously large seal floating quietly along with the tide, not thirty yards from shore. Donald did not disturb the animal, but went home early

in the day, and having cast some bullets for his gun and made other preparations, retired to rest. The next morning he was again at the shore, well-concealed, and expecting to see the seal pass with the flowing tide; nor was he disappointed. About the same period of the rise of the tide, the monster appeared again. Donald cocked his gun, and crouched down behind his ambuscade of sea-weed and shingle, ready for the animal's head to appear within shot. This soon happened, but instead of swimming on with the tide, the seal came straight to the shore, not above ten yards from where his mortal enemy

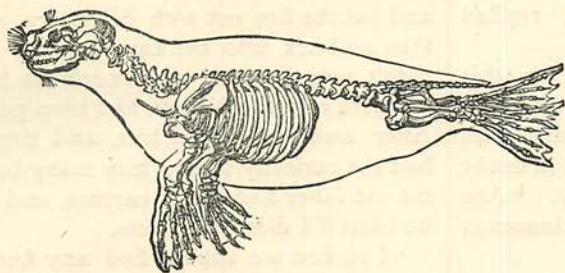
was lying concealed. The water was deep to the very edge, and the great unwieldy beast clambered up the steep beach, and was very soon high and dry, a few yards from the muzzle of Donald's gun, which was immediately pointed at him, but from the position in which the seal was lying he could not get a shot at the head, the only part where a wound would prove immediately fatal.

Donald waited for some time, in hopes that the animal would turn or lift his head, but at last losing patience, he gave a low whistle, which had the immediate effect of making the animal lift its head to listen. The gun was immediately discharged, and the ball passed through the seal's neck, close to the head. Up

object being to keep the seal in the same place till the tide had receded to some distance, and then to dispatch him how he best could. Many a wistful glance he cast at his gun, which he had so rashly thrown down without reloading; the said gun being, as he said, "But a bit trifling single-barrelled thing lent him by a shoemaker lad, who whiles took a shot along the shore"—in other words, who poached more hares than he had made shoes.

After they had remained in this uncomfortable position for a long time, till Donald's hand become perfectly cramped and stiff, the seal suddenly seemed to recover himself, and turning round to see what was holding him, looked the man full in the face, with a bewildered

air of astonishment; then seeing what kind of enemy he had to deal with, he gave a tremendous shake, casting Donald off like a "bit of rag," as he expressed it, and leaving him prostrate in the pool of blood that had come out of the bullet-hole, moved slowly into the water, and quietly went down to the bottom. Donald, in utter



Skeleton of the Seal.

ran Donald, and flinging down his gun, seized one of the immense fins or flippers of the beast, which he could scarcely span with both hands. The seal was bleeding like a pig at the throat, and quite stunned at the same time, but though it did not struggle, it showed a kind of inclination to move towards the water, which obliged Donald to stick his heels into the ground, and to lean back, holding on with all his strength to prevent the escape of the enormous beast. "Deed, sir," said Donald, "if you believe me, he was as big as any Hieland stirk in the parish."

Well, there the two remained for above an hour—motionless, but always straining against each other, Donald's

disgust and wretchedness at losing his prize, walked straight home, and went to bed to sleep off his chagrin and disappointment.

The next morning, however, on considering over the matter, he came to the conclusion that the seal must be dead, and would probably, as the tide ebbed, be grounded on one of the adjacent sandbanks; so he returned to the bay at low water, and the first thing he saw was his seal lying dead on a sandbank, and looking like a cobble keel uppermost.

And a perfect argosy did it turn out, producing more pints of oil and a larger skin than ever seal produced before or since.