

movements of these animals are regulated almost solely by the pastures: when a fire has spread over the prairies, it is succeeded by a fine growth of tender grass, which they are sure to visit. How the Bison discovers that this has taken place seems not easily accounted for; perhaps stragglers from the great herds, when food grows scarce, may be instrumental to this.

The Musk Ox, a ruminating animal between the ox and sheep,\* has the same habit, extending its migratory movements as far as Melville, and other islands of the Polar Sea, where it arrives about the middle of May, and going southward towards the end of September, where it has been seen as low as lat. 67° N., which, as Dr. Richardson states, approaches the northern limit of the Bison: its food, like that of the Rein-deer, called in North America the Caribou, is grass in the summer and lichens in the winter. Its hair is very long, and, as well as that of the Bison, which has been manufactured both in England and America into cloth, might be woven into useful articles. This animal inhabits strictly the country of the Esquimaux, and may be regarded as the gift of a kind Providence to that people, who call it *Oomingmak*, and not only eat its flesh but also the contents of its stomach, as well as those of the Rein-deer, which they call *Norrooks*, which, consisting of lichens and other vegetable substances, as Dr. Richardson remarks, are more easily digested by the human stomach when they are mixed with the salivary and gastric juices of a ruminating animal.

The wild Rein-deer in North America, in the summer, as the excellent man and author lately mentioned states, seek the coast of the Arctic seas: it is singular that the females, driven from the woods by the musquitos, migrate thither before the males, generally in the month of May (some say

\* *Ovibos moschatus*.