

not only as a means of protection from the effects of a low temperature, and on account of the impossibility of procuring their usual means of subsistence; but since alternate rest and action are necessary to most animals, so a longer period of sleep may be required in some cases, by such cessation of action, to keep the machine from wearing out too soon. Excess of heat, we know, produces the same effect as excess of cold—it disposes to sleep.\* The tenrec,† a Madagascar animal, and the jerboa, fall into a kind of summer lethargy from that cause, which lasts some months.‡

From the numerous instances of remarkable instincts exhibited by the animals of this Order, which might be selected, I must confine myself to one or two of the most singular. The hare is only noticed for its extreme timidity and watchfulness, and the rabbit for the burrows which it excavates for its own habitation, and as a nest for its young; but there is an animal related to them, the *rat-hare*,§ which is gifted by its Creator with a very singular instinct, on account of which it ought rather to be called the *hay-maker*, since man may or might have learned that part of the business of the agriculturist, which consists in providing a store of winter provender for his cattle, from this industrious animal. Professor Pallas was the first who described the quadruped exercising this remarkable function, and gave an account of it. The Tungusians, who inhabit the country beyond the lake of Baikal, call it Pika, which has been adopted as its Trivial name.

These animals make their abode between the rocks, and during the summer employ themselves in making hay for a winter store. Inhabiting the most northern districts of

\* N. D. D'H. N. xxxi. 387—390.

† Setiger.

‡ N. D. D'H. N. xxxiii. 53.

§ Lagomys.