

we went on board our boats, and landed to the right and left of them ; but we had no sooner set foot on shore, than they all plunged into the water, and dived to the bottom, therefore the most we were able to accomplish was the wounding of a few. Before these animals were so greatly persecuted, they advanced a good way upon the land, so that when it was high tide, they were at a great distance from the sea ; and at low water being at a still greater, they were easily attacked. The hunters would then land, and march up in their front to cut off their retreat to the sea, and which they permitted with indifference ; when thus assailed, each hunter generally killed one before they could regain the water ; and after they had killed several, they made a kind of barrier of their dead bodies, leaving some of the men in ambush to slay those that remained ; and in this manner three or four hundred were often killed. The prodigious quantity of bones spread over the shores, sufficiently prove how numerous these animals were in former times. When wounded they become extremely furious. They sometimes seize the lances, and break them in pieces with their teeth ; or tear them out of the hands of their enemies, and at last, full of rage, put their head betwixt their paws,
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