

land, they would plunge into the sea to seek for subsistence ?

Colour, size, and method of living, being therefore insufficient, there remains only those essential characters which may be derived from their figure. Now, all that travellers have said of the sea-bear is simply, that his head, body, and hair, are longer than in our bears, and his head much harder. If these differences be real and striking, they would suffice to constitute a different species : but I am doubtful whether Martin examined them with accuracy, and whether the others, who copied from him, have not exaggerated. “ These white bears (says he) are shaped quite otherwise than those in our country ; they have a long head like that of a dog, and the neck is also long ; they bark almost like dogs that are hoarse ; they are not so clumsy, and more nimble than our bears ; they are nearly of the same size ; their hair is long, and softer than wool. It is said, that common bears have a very tender head, but it is quite contrary with the white bear, for though we gave one several blows over the head, he was not in the least stunned, although they were sufficient to have knocked down an ox.*” We may remark from this description, first, that the author does not speak of these bears

* Martin's Voyage to Spitzbergen.