

bears as being larger than ours, and that, consequently we ought to suspect the testimony of those who have affirmed, that the sea-bears were thirteen feet long. Secondly, that the hair being as soft as wool does not constitute a specific character, since an animal's going frequently in the water is a sufficient cause for the hair becoming softer, and even more bushy, as is seen by the land and water beaver : those that live upon land, rather than in the water, having a rougher and thinner hair ; and what makes me suspect that the other differences are not real, nor even so apparent as Martin speaks of, is that Dithmar Blefklein, in his description of Iceland, speaks of these white bears, and asserts having seen one of them killed in Greenland, which reared itself on his hind feet like other bears ; but in this recital, he does not say a word which indicates that the white Greenland bear is not entirely like ours. Besides, when these animals find prey upon land, they do not seek for food in the sea : they devour rein-deer, and any other beast they can seize ; they even attack men, and dig up dead bodies. But when almost famished, as they often find themselves in those desert and barren lands, they are obliged to frequent the water, in quest of seals, young walruses, and small whales.

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