

volcanic sand, some greyish brown forms were made out, lying amongst the grass just above the beach. A rush was made to the spot, but they were found to be only four Sea Elephants, reclining beside a small stream which runs down here from a little lake on a small plateau above, into the sea.

The Elephants, when stirred up, raised their heads and put on the savage expression usual with them when disturbed, which is effected by contracting the facial muscles about the nose, so as to throw it into a series of very prominent transverse folds. They opened their mouths, showed their teeth and uttered a roar, consisting of a series of quickly succeeding deep guttural explosions. They bit savagely at a stick, and twisted it out of our hands, but made no attempt to go to sea, making on the contrary into the stream, and up it inland, moving by the regular flop-flop motion of the body, like that of the common British seal, but more clumsily performed.

Whilst every one was either looking at these Elephants, or beating the ground for ducks, I looked round for other seals, and on a shot being fired, I saw the head of an animal raised high above the grass on the flat close to the beach, and about a hundred yards off. I knew at first glance that it was a Fur Seal, and made for it in all haste. The seal, or Sea Bear, was lying in a sort of form in the grass. It contrasted most strongly in its appearance and gait with the Sea Elephants we had just left.

The *Otariidæ*, or seals with external ears, differ from all other seals in that, in progression on land, they turn their hinder limbs or flippers forwards, and rest on the backs of them, and raising the body from the ground with the fore limbs, shuffle along with a sort of awkward walking gait, by the alternate use of the hind limbs. All other seals keep their hind limbs stretched straight out behind when on land as when in the water, and these limbs are therefore of no aid in moving on land, which is accomplished entirely by undulating movements of the body. The *Otariidæ* are in fact connecting links between the true seals and such beasts as the Sea Otter; their limbs still retain some of their old land functions.

The Sea Bear, besides a thick coating of long hair, has the familiar thicker layer of silky fur beneath, which renders its skin so valuable. The Sea Bears are nimble on land as compared with the helpless Sea Elephants, and can climb up on to rocky ledges, and even spring some little distance.

The seal I had found was an old male, covered with greyish-brown shaggy hair, and with a short greyish mane about the neck. He moved his head up and down uneasily when dis-