

more like beef, or muscles of land animals generally, not black, and the meat was found very good to eat by some of our crew. Mr. Brown (loc. cit.) speaks of a green slime found by him in the stomachs of the northern Bladder-nose (the northern representative of the Sea-Elephant). He ascribes it to seaweed adhering to Mollusca (*Mya truncata*) eaten by the seal. It is, however, probably only bile pigment. Peron found cuttlefish beaks and *Fucus* in the Sea-Elephants' stomachs. The walrus, like the Bladder-nose, feeds on Mollusca. In a walrus, dissected by the second German North Polar Expedition, the bodies of from 500 to 600 (*Mya truncata*) were found in the stomach, with only one single small piece of shell, the animal evidently rejecting the shells with great care. Stones are found in all seals' stomachs, apparently just as in those of penguins.

There seems little fear of the Sea-Elephant dying out, notwithstanding that every one that can be got at is killed and boiled down by the sealers. I saw myself, at Kerguelen's Land, eighteen Elephants, and one at Marion Island. On the weather-side of the island is a beach, where are thousands of Sea-Elephants. These can be got at from land, but shallow water and a heavy surf prevents the approach of a boat. Hence, if the animals be killed and their blubber boiled down, the casks cannot be got off to a ship, nor can they be transported over land.

The beach is called Bonfire Beach, because some English sealers made a lot of oil here, headed it up in casks, and then found they could make no use of it. So they piled the casks up and set fire to them, in the hopes of driving some of the Elephants to more convenient quarters. The numbers of seals at Kerguelen in ancient times must have been enormous. Their vast old empty rookeries are still marked by trough-like hollows in the ground, where the seals used to lie.

We rolled the dead Sea-Elephant down to the water, and got him afloat with some difficulty, then towed the three animals off to the ship with great labour, by rowing against the wind, through the thick beds of kelp (*Macrocystis pirifera*). Whilst we were at work on the beach, crowds of birds began to assemble, especially the Giant Petrel or "Breakbones" (*Ossifraga gigantea*), the "Nelly" or "Stinker" of sealers. This bird in its habits is most remarkably like the vulture.

It soars all day along the coast on the look-out for food. No sooner is an animal killed, than numbers appear as if by magic, and the birds are evidently well acquainted with the usual proceedings of sealers—who kill the Sea-Elephant, take off the skin and blubber, and leave the carcass. They settled down here all round in groups, at a short distance, a dozen or