

becoming browner, grayer, and blacker; and with a thousand different variegations of velvety shades, it presents a grayish background covered with an admirable variety of figures. There are seals of various kinds, all with the same features. I think you have already had an ample description of them with *the* [a little] picture that I once sent to Monsieur Begon,—that generous and constant friend of Our Society, as you know,—who, during the twelve years while he was Intendant in Canada, a worthy heir to his late father's virtues, and in concert with his charitable Spouse, did as much honor to the king by his rare disinterestedness, by his munificence, by his alms, as he did good to the missionaries; and they will ever glory in giving him a good share in the reward of their apostolic labors, in remembrance of his kindness, his zeal, and his piety.

The female seals carry their young 10 months. The names of the moons of September and June, among the people of the coast, prove this; for all our savage astrologers, who count entirely by moons, have derived the various names of the months solely from the various actions of the land or aquatic animals to which they are accustomed. These mothers, like ewes, possess admirable instinct for finding and distinguishing their young, when these are carried far out on ice-floes by the winds or by the tide. They seldom have more than one at a birth, but it is certain that they never have more than two. The Seal's *meat* [flesh] is exceedingly black, coarse, and heavy. It is probably the animal best supplied with blood; but the latter is black, thick, and so warm that it smokes even in extremely cold weather; and it can be smelled 15 or 16 hours after the death