

The BLACK WOLF.

I Describe this animal only as a supplement to the article *Wolf*; for both, I am persuaded, belong to the same species. In the history of the wolf*, it was remarked, that, in the north of Europe, there are some wolves which are white, and the others black, and that the black kind are the largest. The wolf represented in the Plate was brought from Canada. It was totally black, but smaller than our wolf: Its ears were somewhat larger, more erect, and at a greater distance from each other. The eyes were likewise a little smaller, and appeared to be more distant from one another, than in the common wolf. These differences, in my opinion, are too inconsiderable to constitute a distinct species. The greatest difference is that of the size. But, as I have oftener than once remarked, all the animals common to the northern parts of Europe and America differ in size; and the black wolf of Canada, which is smaller than those of Europe, only tends to confirm the general fact. Besides, as he had been taken when very young, and ever afterwards confined with a chain, constraint alone was perhaps sufficient to prevent

* See above, p. 207.

Plate LXVII.



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him from acquiring his full growth. The common wolf is also smaller and less numerous in Canada than in Europe, and the savages esteem it for its skin *. The black wolf, the lynx, and the fox, are very numerous in North America; and yet the black fox is very rare, and his skin is much more beautiful than that of the black wolf, which makes but a very coarse fur.

I shall only add, that this black wolf resembled the common wolf, both in figure and dispositions; for he became rapacious only with age, and, like the wolf, he was ferocious without courage.

* Voyage de Saggard Theodat, p. 307.

