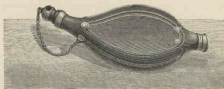


the great auk, the largest of its genus. Once, this curious bird abounded everywhere around the northernmost Atlantic shores, from Newfoundland to Russian Lapland. It was found in large numbers at Funk Island, in the west, where millions fell beneath the blows of sticks, which reckless, ruthless hunters wielded only too successfully. An almost wingless bird, for the flaps which took the place of wings were useful only in the water, it could seek no safety, and so was everywhere exterminated, especially as it laid but a single egg, and therefore multiplied but slowly at the best. It lingered on these lonely peaks, but even they subsided somewhat in 1830, and reduced its foothold. In 1844 or 1848, it disappeared entirely; in 1888 a single egg was sold in London for £225, and a reward of £500 for a living specimen has failed to find a claimant.



AN ICELANDIC SNUFF-BOX.