PHASCOLOMYS WOMBAT, Per. et Les.

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Wombat.

HEAD, OF THE SIZE OF LIFE.

I wish it to be understood that, an interval of eighteen years having passed away between the commencement and termination of the present work, there may be some instances in which opinions expressed in years gone by now require modification. When I published the reduced figures of this animal, I remarked that it was uncertain whether there was more than one species of the genus *Phascolomys*. I now, in 1863, feel confident that there are three, if not four, quite distinct Wombats—one inhabiting Tasmania, or Van Diemen's Land, and certainly two, if not three, the opposite portion of the Australian continent.

The life-sized portrait given on the opposite Plate was taken from a Van Diemen's Land animal. It will be seen that it is very dark in colour—a feature common, I believe, to most of the specimens in that island; I have, however, heard of lighter-coloured examples being occasionally seen, but none have come under my own observation. It will be observed that, independently of the difference of colour, it is a small animal when compared with P. latifrons. I would call the attention of Professor M'Coy and others who have opportunities of studying the Wombats in their native country to the importance of investigating their history, since it is to them that the mammalogists of Europe must look for accurate information on the subject: and this should be done speedily; for, like the Badger in England, these large and singular Marsupials will soon become scarce.

My figure was taken from an individual which lived for many years in the menagerie of the Zoological Society of London.