eir dentition

penicillata,

omy of each,

real affinity
like a serial
well placed
ustralia and
rather than
and shrubs,
ound, while

eding—the us, Phalanes of New to turn to are strictly her of the erhaps its me hollow nals of the ourite with and its fur veniles of ill-box; as halangistæ ver on the the south. Australia, fairy-like nd in Van

he extra-

n has just

example

ordinary Sarcophilus ursinus of Van Diemen's Land bears precisely the same degree of relationship that the Koala does to the Phalangers. Like the Thylacinus, the Sarcophilus is confined to Van Diemen's Land. And I would ask, why are these strange and comparatively large animals now restricted to so limited an area? for it can scarcely be supposed that they have not, at some time or other, inhabited the continent of Australia also. Had not Tasmania as well as the mainland been peopled for a long time by the human race, it might have been supposed that their extirpation from the continent had been effected by these children of nature. Whatever the cause may have been, it cannot now be ascertained, and we must be content to treat of the creatures that still exist. Of the true Dasyures, four very distinct species are dispersed over Australia from Van Diemen's Land to the shores of Torres' Straits. Tasmania is frequented by two (Dasyurus maculatus and D. viverrinus), the southern parts of the mainland by the same two species with the addition of a third (D. Geoffroyi), while the D. hallucatus inhabits the north. The animals of this genus are very viverrine both in their appearance and in their sanguinary disposition, and are probably the true representatives in Australia of that group of quadrupeds. The term 'sanguinary' is rightly applied to some of these animals, yet there is not one which a child might not conquer. The boldest of them are more troublesome than dangerous, and a robbery of the hen-roost is the utmost of the depredations their nature prompts them to commit.

I now come to the most bloodthirsty of the Australian mammals—the Wolf of the Marsupials—the *Thylacinus* of Tasmania's forest-clad country—the only member of its Order which gives trouble to the shepherd or uneasiness to the stockholder. Van Diemen's Land is the true and only home of this somewhat formidable beast, which occasionally deals out destruction among the flocks of the settler, to which it evinces a decided preference over the Brush Kangaroos, its more ancient food. To man, however, it is not an object of alarm; for the shepherd, aided by his dog, and stick in hand, does not for a moment hesitate about attacking and killing it. The large life-sized head and the reduced figures given in the body of the work well represent the *Thylacinus*, and all that is known of its habits will be found in the accompanying letter-press.

Until lately, only one species of *Phascolomys* or Wombat was clearly defined; but we now know that there are three, if not four, very distinct kinds; and in all probability others may yet be discovered, and prove that this form has a much more extended range than is at present supposed. The *P. Wombat* is still abundant in Van Diemen's Land and on some of the islands in Bass's Straits; and two or three species burrow in the plains of the southern countries of Australia generally. These huge, heavy, and short-legged animals, revelling in a state of obesity, feed most harmlessly on roots and other vegetable substances; they are the Rodents of their own Order, and the representatives of the Capybaras of South America. With this group I terminate the first volume; the next is devoted to the great family of the *Macropodidæ* or Kangaroos. This, the most important of all the Marsupial groups, both as to diversity of form and the number of species, is so widely and so universally dispersed over the Australian continent and its islands, that its members may be said to exist in every part of those countries. They are found in great abundance in the southern and comparatively cold island of Tasmania, while three species, at least, tenant that little-explored country, New Guinea, and some of the adjacent islands. Varied as the physical condition of Australia really is, forms of Kangaroos are there to be found peculiarly adapted for each of these conditions. The open grassy plains, sometimes verdant, at others parched up and sterile, offer an asylum to several of