

K—, at that moment we heard two reports from a gun, then all was silent. We waited a few minutes longer, when Bob again spoke. He made the circuit of the island several times and then once more all was quiet. K— and I sat and watched the sharks pursuing the mullet. I counted seven sharks from five to ten feet long, all within a hundred yards of us; or we watched the interesting movements of a large Bald Eagle and an Osprey. The latter had captured a mullet, when the Eagle, which had waited patiently on a large mangrove near by for this event, immediately swooped down towards the Osprey, which uttering screams of despair, endeavored to rise above the Eagle. This, the last named bird tried to prevent. I never saw anything more beautiful than the flight of those two birds. The Osprey would rise quickly, then drop, but the Eagle was always close behind, and throwing itself down with a half somersault movement, would try to seize hold of the fish. When this had gone on for some time, a second Eagle appeared on the scene and took up the pursuit, upon which the first withdrew from the chase and returned to his perch. The Osprey now evidently despaired of escaping with its prey as the second Eagle which appeared to be a female, and was probably the mate of the other, pursued it so closely, it was forced to drop the fish, when the Eagle pausing for a moment in the air, went down with a rush and caught the fish before it fell in the water. In watching the Eagles we had almost forgotten the Deer, but Bob had not, for we could hear him approaching quite rapidly. We also heard C— and S— shoot once or twice. In a few minutes a deer jumped into the water from out the mangroves to be quickly followed by another, and close at their heels was Bob. On they came swimming rapidly towards us, nothing but their heads being above water. When they came within good range I gave the first the contents of my gun, turning it over, while K— fired at the second only wounding it however, and though we gave it another charge of buckshot, it swam around the end of the bar and escaped to Pine Island. We got the dog into the boat and going over tracked it for some distance into a mangrove swamp, but as the tide was rising, Bob lost the trail and we had to return without it much to our disappointment. Returning to the bar we took the Deer we had secured to the boats where we cut it up. As the sun was now getting down towards the horizon, the various kinds of birds began to seek their roosts or rookery,

as it is called. I stood there and saw flock after flock of Ibises, Pelicans Herons, Egrets, Spanish Curlews, Cormorants, etc. pass by, while the rookery was alive with them. High over all sailed the graceful man of war Hawks describing circle after circle with a scarcely perceptible motion of the wing. Having had something to eat, C— and I started for home, the others in the schooner going up the harbor in search of Flamingoes. We had a pleasant sail home and altogether enjoyed our hunt very much. I may mention that it was a "Coos" Bob had treed the first time, and our friends had to discharge their guns to frighten the Deer off the island, as they were not at all afraid of the dog. C— and S— could not get a shot at them as the mangroves were so dense.

Yours &c.,

R—.

Punta Russa, Florida.

A GENERAL DELUGE.

BY G. W. BROWN, M.D., ROCKFORD, ILL.

(Continued.)

But they neglect to tell of those illimitable ages, which if enumerated, no one could comprehend, probably not less than six hundred million years, during which every particle of matter, whether dust, or clay, salt, sand, pebble, boulder or rock, mineral or vegetable, found on the earth, or deep below its surface, of which the various geological formations are composed, whether stratified or otherwise, overlying the primary rock, more than twenty miles in depth, and in which the fossil remains of by-gone ages are entombed, have been wrested and torn from the elementary rock, worn down by rolling upon each other, and by the action of winds and waves and falling waters, has subsequently been deposited in the beds of oceans, to again harden into rock, giving us the sandstone and limestone formations, the coals, shales, clays and all other rocks and earths, other than the quartz—the parent of them all.

The mind is overwhelmed as it contemplates the eternity of years which have preceded us, as the eternity which lies beyond! Truly it may well be said: "We stand midway between two eternities!"

Puny man may seek to abridge the years, and shorten the geological ages; but the startling fact is ever before him that finite mind is incapable of fathoming infinity. He must become conscious that *change*, not *destruction*,