

and noticed that the pelicans had deserted this grassy island entirely, and were scattered, in diminished numbers, on other islands which were not occupied by them when he made his former trips. On inquiring into the cause of this change, he learned from prominent citizens, that two or three enterprising (?) men had conceived the idea of making their fortunes from pelican-oil, and had erected 'trying-out' shanties on the mainland. They went to the island in question in large boats, and carried off cargoes of young pelicans in all stages of growth, and boiled them up for their oil. The only satisfaction he could get from the history of this experiment was, that the men could not sell the oil, and had nothing but their nefarious labor for their pains. Think of the enormous sacrifice of life for a foolish experiment! This heartless slaughter is hardly equalled in cruelty by the so-called sport of the union troops during the war against secession, who, while idly lying in transports off the passes along the coast, amused themselves by fastening a fish to a plank which was so weighted as to be quite submerged; they would then watch the pelicans dive for the fish, while bets were freely interchanged as to the probability of the bird getting a broken neck, with the odds decidedly in favor of the death of the pelican. Instances without number might be given to show that man, unchecked by law, will ruthlessly destroy the very things most useful to him if preserved and protected.

"The same havoc prevails all along the coast lines; and many localities might be cited where the destruction is equally sweeping, as on the Pacific coast and at frequent points on the Atlantic coast from Florida to Labrador,—wherever, in fact, the birds occur in sufficient numbers to render such wholesale plundering practicable. The marsh-breeding rails are at some localities subject to similar prosecution. At one locality on Long Island, it is reported, a 'bay-man,' who keeps a house of entertainment for sportsmen during 'the season,' supplies his table for weeks at a time with the eggs of the rails that breed numerously in this vicinity,—in strange conflict, too, with his own interests, since, by destroying the eggs of rails, he 'kills