

side fine flats for agricultural purposes are seen. All these flats are well timbered with black poplar, cotton-wood, birch and spruce. We have made about thirty miles to-day. During most of the time a flock of wild geese has kept ahead of our boats. Two of their number lie on the bottom of my boat, but the sound of our gun and the loss of their comrades does not give them sense enough to take to the woods. These geese feed on a short mossy grass which grows on the muddy shore of the river. During the last two or three days I have been charmed by the singing of many small birds, and for the last two days we have constantly heard the cooing of the mourning-dove. Several bald eagles have been seen, two species of owls, and a numerous variety of small birds. During our night camps we have frequently heard the barking of the coyotes or prairie wolves; one passed us on the shore of the river this morning. He was evidently looking for a breakfast of goose. On the shores of this stream we have seen the tracks of a grizzly bear, many tracks of deer and small rodents. Several beaver dams have been passed during the day, and one fine fellow slid into the water as we approached his dam. The river afforded us a good supply of white-fish, "gold eyes," the only species we have caught so far. Some evenings the river appears to be crowded with them; twenty fine specimens were caught by one man in an hour. Although we have expected to meet with rattle snakes—as I have in similar lands of the Northwest—we have fortunately escaped so far. The geological formation we have been passing over for a few days is known as the Edmonton sub-division of the Laramie, but we are now in another division of the Cretaceous formation, and are fairly in the "Bad Lands."

We have passed through, in many respects, a charming country. High cut and scarped banks of yellowish weathering sandstones and other deposits which have yielded many interesting fossils and other objects in natural history. We have passed through valleys from six to eight hundred feet deep which in places slope gradually down from the prairie land to fine alluvial flats where a few years ago great herds of buffalo rested after their journey across the plains. Many of the buffalo tracks seen on the sloping sides of the banks and down the sides of the great coulées