

some dark objects far ahead. Turning my glass on them I saw, that one was an Eagle, feeding on what proved to be a stale fish, while a Black Vulture patiently waited four or five feet away in the hope that his superior would leave him some pickings. On our approach, both flew, but the Vulture soon returned and finished the feast when we had passed by. Eagles were abundant—to our eyes. Accustomed to consider the sight of an eagle as a rarity it was a new experience to be able to sit on the verandah by the Atlantic coast and have an Eagle almost always in sight, while sometimes two or three were visible at once. We were favoured with one or two exhibitions of the celebrated contest between the Eagle and the Osprey, for a fish just caught by the latter, but the persecuted one escaped each time, somewhat to our regret, though perhaps we should not have favoured the thief as against the industrious Osprey.

In addition to the large birds already mentioned, one can often see from his doorway Herons, Loons, Marsh Hawks, Terns, Gulls and Brown Pelicans. On Tampa Bay, which was reached on the morning of February 26th, the last were in great abundance and extremely entertaining. Our first glimpse of them was from the train as we ran out nearly half a mile on a long dock to meet the boat. Two Pelicans, utterly fearless, came up flying parallel with the train, four or five feet above the water, and only twenty yards away; gradually passing our window one of them suddenly sighted a fish, put his head down and tail up, and went in head first. The fish was near the surface, however, so he sat up at once and gulped it down in full view. This seemed to be their regular method of fishing and from the deck of the steamer whence one could scan the bay with a glass for miles, in every direction Pelicans could be seen, some resting and some flying; but it was never needful to watch long before seeing one splash in, and then sit on the water while he devoured his catch. As the train left the boat at the other side of the bay, it ran parallel with a dismantled dock, many of the posts of which still remained; most of these posts were crowned with a resting Pelican, and though only twenty-five or thirty yards from the train, the birds paid no attention whatever to anything but the business in hand, which was—loafing.