

increased supply of food brought within reach of the fish multiplied them to that degree that at the head of the pond, where in the spring they crowded together in the brook which supplied it, they (trout) were taken by the hands at pleasure, and swine caught them without difficulty. A single sweep of a small scoop net would bring up half a bushel; carts were filled with them as fast as if picked up on dry land. The increase in size of the trout was as remarkable as the multiplication of their numbers.

We thus have indicated: Diminution of mossy woods; diminution of insect-life, upon which the young prey almost entirely and adult fish largely feed; diminution of fish. Could a more complete circumstantial chain of evidence be required?

Thus the mosses have an importance in supporting that prolificacy of life in the streams which exist in the far North; and the same pests which torment the Indian serve him in one remove as food; the same pests which trouble the frontiersman stock the streams with abundant life to serve him as food, and to attract the angler who employs him as a guide. As the mosses lose their supremacy the black fly disappears, the mosquito diminishes in number, and our streams dwindle in size, and even lose their flow in seasons of drought; and their capacity for supporting trout-life is sadly diminished. In overcoming the wilderness man is necessitated, through the infinite correlations of nature, to destroy the natural sources of food, and through art to sustain himself, less precariously, it is true, but with greater toil, from the land. He promotes vicissitudes of climate, and changed conditions which work to him injury, in order to realize the immediate gains which he desires; but is prone to overlook the causes of his acts, as nature acts through littles, which require thought to connect with their effects; and not the least of her littles are the humble mosses which exist so abundantly where coolness and moisture are to be found.

POISONED WATER IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.

[From the Sunland Tribune, Tampa, July 20, 1882.]

We learn from Capt. William Jackson, of the steamer "Lizzie Henderson," that on his trip from Cedar Key, Tuesday, he encountered a streak of poisoned water, covered with all varieties of dead fish, of more than a mile in extent, off Indian Pass, between Clear Water and Egmont Light. The captain says that a very offensive smell arose from it, and that a good many bottom fish, such as eels, were floating dead on the surface. We opine that this fact upsets the theory of some as to this poisoned water being fresh water from overflow on the mainland, impregnated with poisoned vegetable matter, as there are no streams of any size flowing into the Gulf near where these fish were found.