

p3

relic of the far-famed buffalo of the great west will be the exhumed fossil which shall become the reward of scientific toil and research to future generations. When a sufficiency for the absolute want of the lodge and the prairie alone demanded its destruction, its increase was coequal with the necessities of the red man; but when the cupidity of the whites forged the iron arrow point, and the passion of the Indian was stimulated to draw the bow, myriads of buffalo were recklessly sacrificed for the gain of the one and the pleasure of the other, until at length the entire race has dwindled into comparative nothingness. Whereas formerly, in its migrations, it wandered in vast herds around and about the home of the hunter, now, ever harassed and pursued by a relentless foe, it ranges in small and frightened bands in the distant valley and on the far off plain, many weary days' travel from the haunts of its persecutor. Yet even here it is followed and ruthlessly slaughtered that its furred robe may demand its price from the trader. Were these inducements for its speedy extermination withdrawn - this price upon its scalp no longer offered - the buffalo would again increase till it filled the valley and the plain, and the red man once more become proudly independent, as his fathers were before him.