

prove fatal to many thousands of the feathered creation : in support of this assertion I annex some extracts from various sources. Under the heading "Severity of the Weather" we read in 'Land and Water' for January 26, 1867.

"We receive from various parts of the country accounts of the effects of the recent cold upon all kinds of game. A correspondent of the 'Inverness Courier' says that in Strathnairn, in common with other parts of the country, not a sprig of heather is visible anywhere ; and there can be no doubt that if the snow and frost continue any length of time the destruction among all kinds of game will be beyond all precedent. Already Muirfowl are flocking in thousands to the low-lying grounds ; and on Saturday last we noticed the birch-wood around Craggie literally swarming with them. A farmer in Strathnairn told us that one day lately, as he entered his stable, the entire area of his courtyard was covered as 'thick as they could stand' with grouse picking up any thing they could get among the dung-heaps ; and similar 'gatherings' could be told by many other farmers."

Again, in the same journal, for August 3, 1867, Mr. Henry Lee, writing of the "destruction of small birds by rain," says :—

"My friend Dr. Millar, of Bethnal House, Bethnal Green, writes me as follows :—' Good evidence of the severity of the rain during Thursday night (July 25th) has been afforded here in the destruction of nearly all the sparrows which congregate in our trees. My under-gardener picked up one hundred and twenty-four on the following morning ; and in sweeping up the fallen leaves of to-day the dead birds are being found in considerable numbers. We estimate that more than two hundred were killed.' "

Mr. E. H. Rodd, writing to me from Penzance under the date of January 8, 1867, says, "I foresaw that there was hard weather somewhere, although the thermometer never showed a greater amount of frost than one degree, which was the lowest reading here ; 60 miles to the eastward the reading was on Wednesday nine degrees above zero, and on Thursday only five : so much for our climate. The heavy weather to the eastward has driven millions of Linnets, Starlings, Larks, Redwings, Fieldfares, Peewits, and Golden Plovers to this district." As I was at the time on a visit to Lord Falmouth at Tregothnan, most of the facts mentioned by Mr. Rodd came under my own observation ; and I may add that the destruction of these birds was immense ; I myself saw lying dead on the frozen snow hundreds of Starlings, Song-Thrushes, Missel-Thrushes, Redwings and Fieldfares, but none of the Common Blackbird, and noticed that several of the weakly birds were attacked and eaten by the Rooks, which, themselves in an exhausted state, flocked round the house, and at times even approached the drawing-room windows.

Violent and heavy gales also frequently lend their aid towards the destruction of bird-life, as evidenced by