

they flap their swift but apparently lazy way up the winding river to some favorite sand-bar, where they will pass the night, until the first grey streak of dawn warns them to depart to the wheat-field, their favorite feeding place. See! there comes a flock of fifty or more, just visible over the tops of the cottonwoods that line the river bank; now one drops suddenly from the flock, and then I hear, reverberating from bluff and crag, the bur-rung of a heavy gun.

A little farther on, as we approach Manhattan, a pack of over thirty pinnated grouse, or prairie chickens, as they are known here, fly up at the noise of the train and skim away a couple of hundred yards, when they alight again in the long grass. Myriads of quail are also to be seen, and I make up my mind that this is the "El Dorado" of the gunner, the sportsman's paradise.

We now stop a moment at Manhattan, situated at the confluence of the Kaw and Blue rivers. It is the county seat of Riley County, and has a population of about 1,500. This town was first settled in 1854, by a colony from Ohio, all the members of which were well educated, and nearly all members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, thus giving the place at its start an intellectual and religious character which it has since sustained. They are said to have migrated from Cincinnati in a small steamer which they purchased for the purpose. They steamed down the Ohio, up the Mississippi, up the Missouri, and then up the Kansas river to the mouth of the Big Blue. That was