

THE PRESENT CONDITION OF CANADIAN CONCHOLOGY.

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I am afraid that the title of my paper will hardly be justified by the paper itself, for to write fully and accurately on the present state of Conchological science in our Dominion would require a greater knowledge of the subject than I can lay claim to, and would involve a much more exhaustive research into the writings of others than it has been possible for me to make; and, moreover, the time which I understand is allotted for this paper, viz., 15 minutes, is hardly sufficient for a very elaborate treatment of any subject.

What I shall attempt this evening, therefore, will simply be to give you, as shortly as possible, a summary of what has been published up to the present time with reference to Canadian shells, and then to point out, as best I can, what still remains to be done, and the particular way in which we, as a society of Field-Naturalists, and as individual students, may help to advance this important and interesting science.

As the Dominion of Canada extends from ocean to ocean, there are at least two distinct *marine* Faunas to be studied. There are also the very numerous *land* and *freshwater* mollusca, some confined to our eastern provinces, some to the western, while others range through the length and breadth of our territories.

No naturalist, except our fellow member the accomplished Zoologist to the Geological Survey of Canada, (Mr. Whiteaves), seems to have given special study to the subject of Canadian mollusca as a whole, and so for convenience sake I will in this paper divide my remarks into 3 parts, and will take

- (1.) The marine mollusca of the Atlantic Coasts.
- (2.) Those of the Pacific Coast.
- (3.) The land and freshwater shells of the Dominion.

Of necessity I must omit all reference to that very important part of conchology which treats of our fossil shells, and, in order to keep my paper within proper limits as to length, I will reserve bibliographical details for an appendix, in which I will try to enumerate all the most important papers that have appeared bearing upon our subject.