

## CONCHOLOGICAL NOTES.

The fresh water pearl mussel, *Margaritana margaritifera*, was recently collected by one of my sons in the Ste. Croix River near St. Stephen, New Brunswick. The shells are small in comparison with specimens from the St. Lawrence Valley, and none contained pearls. Larger, and especially contorted, shells, from rapid water would no doubt produce, as such shell do in other countries, the concretions which are sometimes so beautiful and highly prized. In Saxony a profitable fishery of this mussel has been carried on as a state enterprise for hundreds of years. Shells presenting the characters known to indicate the true pearl-bearers are carefully opened with a wooden wedge, searched and if found barren returned uninjured to the streams, from which they are again taken in a year or two.

A shell of the same genus, not previously reported from Ontario, was recently found in the Winnipeg River at Kenora, below the falls. It is the flat pearl shell, *Margaritana complanata*, abundant throughout the Mississippi basin, and extending northward into Manitoba.

The rare *Planorbis corpulentus*, originally described in 1830 by Thomas Say, from the Lake of the Woods and Rainy Lake, and the still rarer *Lymnæa binneyi*, Tryon, were found near Fort Frances. Tryon's shell has unfortunately shared the fate to which his *Planorbis binneyi* was so long subjected. It was thought to be a form of *Lymnæa emarginata*, as *Pl. binneyi* was thought to be either a form of *trivolvus* or Say's *Pl. corpulentus*. *L. binneyi* is a beautiful, large and distinct species, of which I hope soon to see a plate in the NATURALIST. *Pl. binneyi* is the very large *Planorbis* which occurs in the Rideau just west of Billing's Bridge, especially on the north shore, above the rapids. I have found it at several other points in the same river; in the Rideau Canal, at the Exhibition Grounds, in Meach Lake—one specimen only—and in Giroux Lake, near Cobalt. In certain localities in the Rideau Canal and River it is associated with *Pl. trivolvus*, but it does not seem to occur in the Ottawa, where *Pl. trivolvus* is in every bay a common shell.

The numerous specimens of *Pl. corpulentus* which Say collected were lost\* and the shell which he figures, Plate 15, Fig. 9, was procured from Dr. Bigsby. My shells were collected near Kettle Falls, at the east end of Rainy Lake. Many are larger than those measured by Say. He rightly describes it as "closely allied to *Pl. trivolvus* but much less rounded on the sides of the whorls. The carinæ are more prominent, the upper side

\*Appendix to Narrative of Long's Expedition, London, 1825, page 10.