

used for manure, though I cannot find that they are ever taken specially for this purpose. In England, however, the case is different. In Vol. II. of Sect. V., p. 622, of *Fishery Industries of the United States* (a splendid publication of the United States Government) is a quotation which states: "Mussels and star-fish (five-fingers) have long been an established manure in the neighborhood of Faversham, Kent. They are procured by dredging. The mussels sell at 16s. sterling per wagon, and the five-fingers at 21s." Forbes (*History of British Starfishes*, p. 89,) writes: "A gardener told me that he would desire no richer manure than starfishes for his garden." They are said to be esteemed in France as a manure for grape-vines. If they are as valuable as this in Europe, our farmers should given them a trial. We know of places in Charlotte County where a wagon could be filled at a single low tide.

On the other hand, it is said by Mr. Ingersoll (*Oyster Industry*, U. S. 10th Census, p. 230) that the several attempts at oyster-culture in the region of Passamaquoddy Bay have failed on account of the rapacity of the hordes of great starfishes in the vicinity. We doubt very much whether oyster culture could be successful there, even if no starfishes were present, the conditions of temperature in summer being unfavorable to it. On our north shore, the starfishes are thought to do very little damage to the oyster-beds. (*Bulletin No. VIII*, p. 61).

It is not unlikely that the individuals of this species are poisonous, not indeed when taken into the hand, as many persons believe, but when taken internally or into the blood through a break in the skin. Indeed the latter appears to be proven, as is shown by a short article in the *Bulletin U. S. Fish Commission*, VII., 1887, p. 34. It is entitled, "Fatal injury inflicted by a starfish;" and describes the case of a fisherman whose hand, pierced between two fingers by a spine of a starfish he was removing from his hook, festered and swelled; blood poisoning ensued and the man died. It has been asserted also that starfishes from stagnant water are poisonous. (*Zoological Record*, XXIII., Mollusca, p. 45.)

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