

currency. He sometimes penetrated the country to a distance of forty and fifty leagues from the coast. The "hearts" of the shells were, of course, the columellæ. In much more recent times white traders have carried on this trade with the interior tribes, with considerable profit to themselves. Kohl, speaking of the Ojibways, on Lake Superior, says: "If the traders brought a large handsome periwinkle and held it to the Indians' ears, the latter were astonished, and said they could hear the sea beating in it, and would pay for such a miraculous shell, peltry to the value of forty or fifty dollars. There were also varieties of shells which they held in special repute: thus there was a long shell of the size of a finger, which in the Indian trade was worth more than its weight in silver."¹

CONCLUSION.

In the foregoing the writer has endeavoured to treat of everything in the line of shell, not even excepting the apparently insignificant objects, for in such a study as archæology we must recognize the enormous importance of small things. As Holmes says, "The slightest modification of these relics by the hand of man attracts our attention, and from this infant stage of the art until the highest and most elaborate forms are reached they have the deepest interest to the student of human progress."²

This detailed treatment also had another purpose—namely, to bring to those searchers in the field the importance of preserving everything they find. Explorations are too often conducted in a perfunctory manner, and often by inexperienced collectors, who are more on the lookout for rarities than the commoner objects, and thus a great many interesting facts, which might be deduced from such finds, are lost to science. Especially is this true of land and fresh-water shells, which seem to be ignored by most collectors.

We have also endeavoured to present numerous extracts from the early writers and explorers on this continent; which, although quite familiar to professional archæologists, are nevertheless not accessible to a large number of readers of these reports—especially those not in touch with our larger metropolitan libraries.

It only remains to express our acknowledgments to Hon. F. R. Litchford, K.C., for kindly identifying most of the *Unios* and oceanic shells herein mentioned, and also to Dr. W. M. Beauchamp, Dr. A. I. Kroeber and Professor Holmes for information furnished. Our thanks are also due to Miss Elizabeth J. Letson, Ph. D., of Buffalo, for identifying *Olivella oryza* mentioned on p. 67.

¹ J. G. Kohl: *Kitchi Gami* (London, 1860), p. 135.

² "Art in Shell," p. 188.