

Similar accumulations of the shells of a species of *Ampullacera*, largely eaten by the New Zealanders, have been observed, along with various marine and other debris, including relics of native art, on deserted sites along the New Zealand shores, although they have not hitherto attracted more than a passing notice. But a greater interest has been excited by extensive deposits of marine shells on different points of the North American coasts, accompanied with evidence of artificial accumulation, not likely to escape the attention of those who in this New World watch with so keen an eye for the slightest traces of an ante-Columbian history. The abundant and large sized edible mollusca of the North American sea-coasts could not fail to attract the notice of an improvident and savage people, dependent on the precarious products of the chase. Large banks of fossil shells occur in many localities, where the changes in the relative levels of sea and land have left these at considerable elevations, and far removed from the modern beach. On such a bed of shells, of the *Gnathodon*—formerly a favorite food of the Indians—the city of Mobile is built; and amid these natural accumulations of older centuries, occasional indications of the former presence of the American aborigines have been met with on the site of the modern city. But the following narrative, by Sir Charles Lyell, in his second tour in the United States, furnishes an interesting illustration of primitive American traces of ancient culinary tastes and habits, analagous to those of Europe already referred to. Describing his journey through a part of Georgia, and his explorations of the lagoons of the Altamaha, Sir Charles remarks: “We landed on the north-east end of St. Simon’s island, at Cannon’s Point, where we were gratified by the sight of a curious monument of the Indians, the largest mound of shells left by the aborigines in any one of the sea islands. Here are no less than ten acres of ground, elevated in some places ten feet, and on an average over the whole area, five feet above the general level, composed throughout that depth of myriads of cast away oyster shells, with some muscles, and here and there a mediola and helix. They who have seen the Monte Testaceo, near Rome, know what great results may proceed from insignificant causes, when the cumulative power of time has been at work, so that a hill may be formed out of the broken pottery rejected by the population of a large city. To them it will appear unnecessary to infer, as some antiquaries have done, from the magnitude of these Indian mounds, that they must have been thrown