fishermen. They are both useful for the same pur[illegible] — bait and food. Forbes and Hanley tell us that it is eaten [illegible]th in Britain and North America. It is more common in England than *Mya arenaria*, but the reverse is certainly the case with us. It is an important article of food to the Cod, being found in their stomachs in great numbers, especially on the Newfoundland Banks.

25. **Solen ensis** Linnæus.

Var. **Americana** Gould.
Ensatella Americana Verrill.

Razor-shell, Razor-fish, Long Clam, Knife-handle.

Mic-mac, Sasabegwit, pl. Sasabegwidul.

[*Solen*, the ancient name; *ensis*, a kind of sword, a scimitar.]

DISTRIBUTION. (*a*) *General;*—Low-water mark to twenty fathoms. Florida to Labrador.

(*b*) *In Acadia;*—(in N. B.) Grand Manan, at low water, in sand, rare, *Stimpson*. Eastport, *Gould*. Bay of Fundy, *Verrill*. Passamaquoddy Bay, *Ganong*. Shediac, *Whiteaves*. (In N. S.) Sandy shores, whole coast, *Jones*. St. Mary's Bay, *Verkrüzen*. (In P. E. I.) Common in Northumberland Straits, *Dawson*. Probably to be found everywhere on the shores of Acadia where there is sand and clear water, though nowhere very abundant.

HABITS. We have upon our shores no Mollusc so strikingly distinct from all others as this. Its parallel slightly curving sides and squarely truncated ends are found in no other of our shells, and they give it a shape which fully justifies the names of "Razor-shell" and "Knife-handle," by which it is commonly known. It grows to a length of about six inches, though eight inches is not unknown. The young animal is covered with a shining greenish-yellow epidermis, which partly disappears in old shells, leaving the latter a dull chalky white. At one end (the posterior) project slightly two short fringed tubes — united below their tips. At the other (anterior) end projects the powerful "foot" by which the animal is enabled to burrow so rapidly in the sand. These burrows are found only near extreme low-water mark. They are two to three feet deep, and so rapidly can the animals travel down them that