

Lescarbot's "Histoire de la Nouvelle France," was published first, appearing in 1609.* Champlain mentions the occurrence at the present Weymouth Harbor, St. Mary's Bay, Nova Scotia, of "many Shell-fish, such as Mussels, Cockles and Sea-snails," which he observed in his exploration in 1604. At St. Croix, now Dochet, Island in the St. Croix River, he found Cockles, Mussels, and Sea-snails, and in another passage he incidentally tells us what the Cockle is. Speaking of the Indians, he says, "when they do not hunt, they live on a shell-fish called the cockle," thus showing that he meant the Clam. The Clam, as a food-mollusc, is unknown in Europe, its place being in part taken by the *Cardium* or true Cockle, for which Champlain naturally mistook it. By Sea-snails he probably means the large Whelks, *Buccinum undatum* and *Lunatia heros*. His only other reference to Mollusca, is in his description of Bras D'or Lake, Cape Breton, in which he says,—“there are many islands filled with a great deal of game, and Shell-fish of several kinds, among others of Oysters which are not of good flavor.” In the 1632 edition of his works, Champlain repeats these notes but does not add any new ones. They derive their interest from the fact that they are the very earliest references to our Mollusca known to us.

*But Newfoundland can claim some earlier ones. In "A letter written to M. Richard Hakluyt of the middle Temple, containing a report of the true state and commodities of Newfoundland, by M. Anthonie Parkhurst Gentleman, 1578," given by Hakluyt, Vol. III., pp. 170-174, it is said; "As touching the kindes of Fish . . . there are . . . Oysters, and Muskies, in which I have found pearles aboue 40 in one Muskie, and generally all haue some, great or small. I heard of a Portugall that found one woorth 300 duckets: There are also other kindes of shel-fish, as limpets, cockles, wilkes, lobsters, and crabs: also a fish like a Smelt which commeth on shore [a marginal note says 'called by the Spaniards Anchouas, and by the Portugals Capellinas'], and another that hath the like propertie, called a Squid." And again,—“I tolde you once I doe remember how in my trauaile into Africa and America, I found trees that bare Oisters, which was strange to you, till I tolde you that their boughes hung in the water, on which both Oisters and Muskies did sticke fast, as their propertie is, to stakes and timber.” No Oysters occur in Newfoundland, but as the writer refers more than once to Cape Breton, he probably includes what he saw there with what he saw in Newfoundland. Another writer in the same volume, p. 184, describing Sir Humphrey Gilbert's voyage to Newfoundland in 1583, says that Oysters do occur there;—"Oysters hauing pearls but not orient in colour: I tooke it by reason they were not gathered in season." He must confound some other mollusc with the Oyster. A little farther on, the same writer says:—"Lakes or pooles of fresh water, both on the tops of mountaines and in the vallies. In which are said to be muskies not vnlike to haue pearle."