

them, and congenial spirits from the border towns still delight to return at times to the ways of their Clam-loving predecessors. On some favored spot on the shores of that splendid river they assemble by appointment; a great fire is built and by it many stones are heated and made very hot. The embers are then raked aside and upon the stones is placed a layer of wet seaweed, on which a layer of Clams is laid. Then comes another layer of seaweed and another of Clams, and so on, the top of the whole being a cushion of seaweed of extra thickness. Over the whole mass is perhaps a piece of canvas thrown, and in such an oven are the Clams slowly steamed to the proper degree of deliciousness. A constant concomitant and the most pleasing feature of these banquets is the invariable good-nature and good-fellowship which prevails.

The great heaps of shells on the Charlotte County coast, made as we know by the Indians, show of how much importance this species was to them. It doubtless formed the bulk of their food during the summer, when large game was out of condition, and possibly, as Mr. Matthew has shown, to some extent in winter also. The heaps are sometimes two or more feet deep, and cover several acres. It was probably used quite extensively by them in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island also, but as yet the shell-heaps of those Provinces have received but little attention and we hardly know anything of their number, extent or contents.

Clams as well as Oysters are sometimes found, in which a considerable portion of the edible part is of a green or bluish-green color. This has been repeatedly shown by chemists to be non-metallic and perfectly harmless, though some think they have a coppery taste. The color is due to the nature of the food, being produced when they feed upon certain diatoms or minute plants (chiefly *Navicula ostrearia*, var. *fusiformis*). Experiments show that the green color can be artificially produced by feeding them upon these diatoms, and that it will disappear in a few days when they are changed to other diet. The green Clams may be eaten with perfect confidence.