



# BIVALVE MOLLUSKS

OF THE

## COAL FORMATION OF NOVA SCOTIA.

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The abundant occurrence of shells of bivalve mollusks in the beds associated with coal has long attracted the attention of collectors on both sides of the Atlantic, and various opinions have been entertained as to the affinities of these animals, the nature of their habitat, whether freshwater or marine, and the manner in which they became associated with the coal and its accompanying beds. They occur in extreme abundance in some of the beds of bituminous and carbonaceous shale and in bituminous limestones, and more sparingly in argillaceous and arenaceous shales, throughout the coal-fields of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, and naturally excited the interest of the writer in his earliest explorations of these beds. It is to be observed also that they not infrequently occur plentifully in the roof-shales of beds of coal.

They were noticed in one of my earliest papers on the coal formation of Nova Scotia in the Journal of the Geo-