

It is particularly appropriate that papers of this character should be presented to such a society as ours. The highest function of a local Society of Natural History must be admitted to be the patronage and encouragement of local Natural History in its practical and educational, as well as scientific aspects. In this it has a claim for support and for sympathy upon government and people, which greater pretensions would not warrant.

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The most valuable to man by far, of all the groups of Invertebrates, is that of the Mollusca. In all ages, in all parts of the world, savage and civilized men have utilized its members. The ancient refuse heaps of Europe show how old is the use of Molluscs as food; ethnologists have shown how wide-spread and old has been the use of shells for ornament, for money and for utensils of war and the home; and in more modern times, there have been found various other uses dependent upon the more numerous wants of advancing civilization. Unlike some other groups of animals, then, the Mollusca have been much observed by practical as well as scientific men; as in the useful plants, so among these, the useful forms are known to everybody.

Remembering these facts, we are not surprised to find, in works dealing with the exploration and early history of these provinces, that the edible Molluscs were the first Invertebrates to be noticed, excepting possibly some of the annoying Insects.

Jacques Cartier, the first explorer of the coast of Acadia who paid any attention to the animals and plants of the places he visited, does not mention any Invertebrates. It is not until we come to the works of Champlain and Lescarbot that we find references to the subject. Champlain's work, "*Les Voyages du Sieur de Champlain*," (Paris, 1613), records the earliest observations on the Mollusca of this region, but