

sel beds." Let us visit one, as it is a good place to see shells. Amid the slimy ooze of the river bottom the great accumulation of shells forms a solid pavement over which you may drive a team with perfect safety. Shells of oysters in myriads are here, paving the firm sea causeway with their rough calcareous valves. Some few live ones are in the edge of the water with shells slightly agape, showing the silky fringe of their mantles. Quahogs lie buried in numbers just under the surface, and all along the mud-flats they swarm in multitudes. The pure white valves of the *Petricola*, the delicate *Commingia tellinoides*, the curious *Crepidula fornicata* that fastens its boat-shaped valve to other shells, sometimes a number of individuals piling on top of one another, forming a beehive like structure, are all here in profusion. And there, among a pile of common northern shells, lies the carved spire of *Buccinum cinereum*. Among the sea-weeds we find the beautiful polished shells of *Tellina tenera* and *T. polita*, the last of rare size and beauty. As the returning tide swells its crystal margin by us, *Nassa obsoleta* expands its pearly foot and upborne by this delicate float, quietly voyages to a distant station.

We go to the sandy beach where the last tide has left white windrows of minute shells on the deep red strand. Among numbers of others, we notice the lovely polished and shaded spire of *Columbella lunata* and the snowy volute of *Utriculus cuniculatus*. We visit a salt marsh and we find the beautiful *Modiola plicatula* lining the deep cut marsh run with thousands of pearly valves. On the surface of the marsh, under stray bunches of fucus we find *Melampus tridentatus* whose distribution extends to the shores of Texas.

This assemblage of shells is of a southern type, not belonging to the Maritime Provinces justly but having its proper habitat about Cape Cod and southward. At present there is no geographical connection between this outlying colony and the original southern stock, and it becomes an interesting question to determine how these shells came to be located in the southern basin of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

It has been suggested that the former greater elevation of the Atlantic coast would shallow its waters and raise their temperature so that the New England mollusca might extend themselves northward into the Gulf. But as the depressed temperature of the waters of the Atlantic coast is caused by the constant flow of the Labrador Current upon its shores, it does not appear to us that an