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SHELLS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

We have picked up among the snores and streams and damp wild woods of Prince Edward Island eighty species of Mollusca. Shell collecting was not a special business of ours, but when on the rocky shore or pursuing the tangled border of a stream, a new shell was hailed as a fresh jewel from nature's store-house, adding something to our acquaintance with her boundless treasures.

The southern shores of the Island are the best collecting ground. The shallow waters of the Straits of Northumberland, land-locked and separated from the colder body of the Gulf, become elevated in temperature in summer so as to be an exceedingly favorable habitat for the Mollusca; and the centre of these straits is the best locality. There I have found the rarer shells most abundant and best developed. You may travel for days along the grey dunes and pebbled coves of the north shore without finding a single shell other than the common northern species. Even the sheltered bays and harbors of this side of the Island have fewer shells than are everywhere found on the southern coast.

Prince Edward Island is the head quarters of the oyster in the Maritime Provinces. There may be about 5000 acres of oyster beds scattered through our rivers and bays. Most of them yield but few oysters now from the reckless modes practised in gathering them. Many are dead beds, sunk under deep water, or covered with sediment, owing to the subsidence of the land.

It is evening ebb, and the silver skirts of the river are withdrawn from the muddy flats to roll in a shining ribbon down the narrow channel. Among these weed-covered flats we see bare patches where the dark *laminaria* refuses to grow. These are the "mus-

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