

ON THE
LAND AND FRESH-WATER MOLLUSCA
OF
LOWER CANADA.

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PART I.—GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS.

Various papers of interest have appeared in the *Canadian Naturalist*, on the distribution of the land and fresh-water mollusca in Lower Canada. We are indebted to Messrs. Billings, Bell, and D'Urban, for nearly all the information we possess on this subject. Within the last two years new labourers have entered the field, and the result has been some addition to our knowledge of the geographical range of these creatures in Lower Canada.

My friend, Mr. R. J. Fowler has collected assiduously and successfully in the vicinity of Montreal, and in the Eastern Townships. In the summer of 1861 I paid special attention to the inland mollusca of the neighbourhood of Quebec, and collected in several places in the St. Lawrence valley, from Rivière du Loup to Montreal. Last winter I endeavoured to call the attention of the members of the Natural History Society to a short consideration of this subject. On looking over this brief sketch (*vide Canadian Naturalist*, vol. 6, page 452) I find two or three errors have crept in, caused by my want of access to the proper authorities on the subject in Quebec. In the present paper I hope to be able to rectify these mistakes. I propose, partly from original enquiry, and partly availing myself of the labours of others, to collect together in one paper, all that we know of the geographical distribution of the inland mollusca of Lower Canada, up to the present date. I shall also indulge in some general speculations which the subject naturally suggests to my own mind.

Let us first consider the most obvious geographical affinities of