

These are taken chiefly in Queens and Halifax Counties. No doubt the rapid diminution in quantity since 1885 is due to the greatly increased use of the Squid [which see] since that time. It is shelled and salted for long voyages, but carried alive to the fishing grounds when the latter are near home. Willis tells us that "It is said to be an irresistible bait to both haddock and codfish." Mr. J. H. Duvar states in his Report for 1880, and subsequently has informed the writer, that they were formerly much used in Prince Edward Island for mackerel bait and were gathered by the Acadian French who sold them to the fishermen for fourteen to fifteen cents per quart, shelled. Their use is now almost superseded by that of chopped herring. It is used in Gaspé and Quebec even more extensively than in Acadia.

As an article of human food, it is much more used in the United States than with us. North of Cape Cod it is the common Clam of the markets; south of New York it is replaced by the Quahog, *Venus mercenaria*; while between those places, both are found in about equal quantities. The very best come from Guilford, Conn., and sell for about three dollars per hundred. At this place a few of extraordinary size are found at lowest tides, the shells being six or eight inches long, and the animal of good flavor. These sell for about one dollar and twenty-five cents per dozen, the price for ordinary sizes being from ninety cents to two dollars per bushel, wholesale. The latter retail in the markets for from fifty to seventy-five cents per peck, according to size. In New Haven they are sold only in winter, and considered out of season in summer, though in New York they are sold throughout the year. A system of cultivation has been tried with good results. The total annual value to the United States of this species, including the large quantities collected for bait on the New England coast, is, according to the census of 1880, about \$330,500. \$562,376 according to another report. It has, however, been estimated by Mr. Earll, of the U. S. Fish Commission, in a speech made at the London Fisheries Exhibition of 1883, to be as high as \$600,000 annually. These figures do not include those taken on