

# MARYLAND.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH.

Maryland, situated between the parallels of  $37^{\circ} 53'$  and  $39^{\circ} 44'$  north latitude, and the meridians of  $75^{\circ} 04'$  and  $79^{\circ} 33'$  west longitude (the exact western boundary being yet undetermined,) is one of the upper tiers of Southern States. Its boundaries are: Mason and Dixon's line on the north; the State of Delaware and the Atlantic Ocean on the east; on the south, a line drawn westward from the ocean to the western bank of the Potomac river, thence following the western bank of that river to its source; and on the west, a line drawn due north from this source to Mason and Dixon's line. Its gross area is 12,210 square miles, of which 9,860 square miles are land surface; the included portion of the Chesapeake bay, 1,203 square miles; Assateague bay on the Atlantic coast, 93 square miles; with 1,054 square miles of smaller estuaries and rivers.

The Chesapeake bay ascends to within a few miles of its northern boundary, dividing the State into the Eastern and Western Shores.

The rivers, excluding mere estuaries of the bay, are the Potomac, Patuxent, Patapsco, Gunpowder, Susquehanna, Elk, Sassafras, Chester, Choptank, Nanticoke, Wicomico and Pocomoke, all emptying into the Chesapeake bay. Besides these, the coast-line of the bay is deeply indented with a multitude of creeks, coves and other estuaries, penetrating the land in all directions, usually bearing the names of rivers, and often navigable to some distance by vessels of light draft. Perhaps nowhere else in the world is there a coast-line proportionately so extensive, or any country offering such facilities for water transportation as tide-water Maryland. Along the ocean frontier runs a narrow reef of sand, inclosing and sheltering Synepuxent and Assateague bays, and giving inland navigation along the whole Atlantic coast of the State.

Maryland is divided into twenty-three counties, of which Garrett, Allegany, Washington, Frederick, Carroll, Baltimore, Harford and Cecil form the north tier; Howard, Montgomery, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's lie on the west; and Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester on the east side of the bay. Of these twenty-three, seven do not lie on navigable waters.