

SURVEYS OF BALTIMORE AND VICINITY.

In the early years of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey a topographic survey of Baltimore and vicinity, incidental to that of the state of Maryland, became a subject of interest. A letter of Professor Hassler, the first Superintendent of the Coast Survey, date of January 7, 1834, to the Secretary of the Treasury, remarks: "It is proper for me to get more information upon the views of the survey of a map of the state of Maryland upon which Professor Ducatel had corresponded with me last summer." He writes under date of January 9: "In the course of last summer, Professor D. informed me that he and Mr. Alexander had been appointed by the Legislature of Maryland to make a topographical map of the state and its junction with the Coast Survey."

In April, 1834, Professor Hassler, in another letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, writes: "Upon your favor of the 9th, relative to the junction of the survey of Maryland with the Coast Survey, authorizing me to make the proper arrangement to put the measure into execution, I shall make the appropriate agreement with Messrs. Ducatel and Alexander, combine with them and then give you details upon the plans agreed upon mutually."

Three months later Mr. Hassler reports to the Secretary the indefinite postponement of the proposed work, the Maryland committee not being ready to perform its part.

A period of ten years then elapses before any steps were taken for surveys in Baltimore or the Patapsco river.

Professor Hassler had in the meantime been succeeded by Professor A. D. Bache.

December 23, 1844, in report of Professor Bache, mention is made of the beginning of the secondary triangulation in the Patapsco river under the direction of Assistant F. H. Gerdes. The triangulation in the near vicinity of Baltimore was done by Assistant Ferguson, who determined the positions "Rosanne," five miles from the centre of the city, near the old Frederick road, and "Finley," several miles farther in a northeasterly direction.¹ These points were important factors in

¹ Washington Monument was also determined during the same period.