

the table in chapter III. It lies principally on the west side of the Monocacy, but that river cuts through its northern limits as shown on the map.

It is an unusually pure lime-stone, and when in former years the manufacture of Chloride of Lime was carried on in Baltimore, the best lime that could be procured for that purpose was from this formation.

It varies in color from blue to dove color, and having a very fine grain and also a close, compact texture it takes a beautiful polish and may be ranked among the finest marbles of its class in the State. The beautiful shades in the lighter or dove-colored varieties are similar to the celebrated Italian marbles of that class, and we should no longer have occasion to import marbles of that kind if those of Frederick county were properly developed.

I have before me a specimen from the quarries of William Richardson, near Buckeystown, which is more beautiful than any of the Italian of that kind I have ever seen. Samples of it were exhibited at the State Agricultural Fair, at Frederick, in October last.

The blue shades in this marble are of vegetable origin, and therefore permanent, whilst those colors resulting from the presence of metallic oxydes are liable to change upon exposure out of doors.

In the vicinity of Mount St. Mary's College, at the foot of the Catoclin Mountain, there is a similar lime-stone, and also another resembling the beautiful *verde antique* marble. There is a marble variegated with light and dark shades of red near the line of the Turnpike from Frederick to Hagerstown, about three miles west of Frederick. I have not yet had an opportunity to make a full examination of these three last, and must therefore defer further notice of them for the present. I must add, however, that the Tennessee variegated reddish marbles which are exported to the Atlantic cities and so largely used in the Capitol and other public buildings in Washington, are far from being equal in beauty to that of Frederick county.

Another marble exists in very large quantity on the western side of the Monocacy Valley and was noticed with the other lime-stones. It is widely known, because of its having been used for the large columns in the Old Representative Hall at Washington. It has received various names, including that of Calico Rock, Potomac Marble, &c.

In its characters it is something between a conglomerate and a breccia and has been much admired. There are difficulties in dressing it, which increase materially its cost, and it is only useful in columns or other large and thick pieces.

Its structure was described in chapter III, and I may now add that some of its pebbles or masses are not strongly cemented together and are liable to be loosened whilst being dressed.

There is no lime-stone or marble in Catoclin mountain, but its porphyries and amygdaloids are deserving of the attention that I propose hereafter to bestow upon them. Some of them will receive a beautiful polish but their hardness renders the process expensive. This can, however, be overcome by appropriate machining.

Crossing the North mountain we reach the great lime stone valley in which Hagerstown lies, and which has already been described.

Along the eastern edge of this we find a beautiful White Marble which ranges southward from near Boonsboro', and resembles the first or most eastern range in Frederick county. Some of it has a pure white color and a texture equally fine with that of best Italian statuary marble. It is, in my opinion, only necessary to penetrate to a proper depth in order to procure marble for statuary and architectural purposes that will give us no reason for importing the material from Tuscany.

The main body of the lime-stone of this valley has a fine grain and is free from grains of quartz and other impurities that interfere with the polish. Much of it, therefore, takes a fine polish without difficulty. The public taste, at this time, does not bring those blue lime-stones prominently into use. Some of them, however, have a very dark color and are required when Black marbles are wanted.