

REPORT

OF THE

Committee on Internal Improvement.

The committee on internal improvement, to whom was referred the communication from the Executive of the instant, accompanied by a report from the engineers appointed in pursuance of two resolutions, passed at the last session of the Legislature, to collect the necessary information and furnish a plan and drawing for a complete map of the State of Maryland," and also "to make the necessary geological researches, and report upon the expediency and probable cost of a geological survey of the state," have given to that communication and report the attentive consideration which the importance of the subject, and the highly interesting nature of the service performed, seemed to deserve; and respectfully beg leave to report to the house, that there is no subject within the legitimate range of the duties of this committee more deserving the favourable consideration of the Legislature, or which promises to be productive of a greater amount of public good at comparatively trifling cost, than the objects contemplated by the adoption of the resolutions above alluded to.

The geological researches already made by the able and intelligent gentleman charged with that branch of the duty, though necessarily limited and hasty for want of time, furnish ample and most gratifying assurance that there is a vast amount of mineral riches distributed in every quarter of the state, capable of being rendered eminently promotive of the wealth and prosperity of the state generally, and of advancing particularly the interest of agriculture, commerce and manufactures, to an indefinite extent. The soil of great part of our state, particularly that portion of it spoken of by the engineers, in their report, as belonging to the tertiary order of geological formations, and comprising within its limits very nearly the whole of the Eastern Shore, and all that part of the Western Shore, which is situated upon tide water, has become worn and much exhausted by a long course of injudicious cultivation. The inhabitants