

objects of the advertisement being to furnish to the citizens of Maryland residing in those sections of the state not embraced within the immediate provisions of the bill, an opportunity of having their inquiries, on matters connected with the proposed survey, satisfied with as little delay as possible; and thus more extensively to realize the benefits contemplated by the bill.

This measure, which has already elicited numerous applications, has had the good effect of bringing to light many of the resources of the state hitherto unknown, which would otherwise have remained so for an unnecessarily longer time. These will be indicated in their proper place.

In the absence of a correct map of the lower counties on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake bay, without which no accurate designation of the geological constitution of that section of country could be made, it was deemed more advisable to confine the researches to such portions of this southern division of the state, as were known to present a subject of important investigation, and one susceptible moreover of immediate and extensive application. These researches have, therefore, related, 1st. to the ascertainment of the southern limits of the shell marl deposits available for agricultural purposes; the principal locations of these deposits between the Choptank and Chester rivers; the nature of the material contained in them, and the mode of extracting the marl, together with its use and application:

2d. To an examination of the different soils occurring within the tract of country already alluded to, namely, between the Choptank and Chester; with a view of discovering their facilities of improvement and by what means.

Finally, endeavor was made to find out every mineral characteristic or resource of the country of any presumable importance.

The result of these researches will now be detailed under the respective heads that have just been assigned to them.

*SECT. I.—Southern limits of the shell marl deposite on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, available for agricultural purposes.*

There is reason to believe, as stated in a previous report, that this shell marl deposite underlies the whole of the country between the Delaware and Chesapeake bays, even to its extreme limits; but, as was also previously observed, it evidently inclines