

on the Chesapeake side, from the summit level of the peninsula to the water's edge. The dip of the formation is at an angle of about 5° from north-east to south-west. The inclination is not, however conformable to, though in the same direction with that of the country; a circumstance which it is important to attend to, as a neglect of it might cause fallacious expectations to be entertained of the discovery of marl in situations at its north-east extremity where it lies too deep, for profitable extraction; and, on the other hand, might dissuade from a justifiable research in situations at its south-west extremity, where though lying low and the country flat, it still may be found at a small distance only below the surface of the soil. It is likewise necessary to bear in mind what has already been said on a former occasion, that the surface of the marl deposite undulates; so that, it not unfrequently happens that the opposite banks of an inlet, present to view the summits of two waves of marl, so to speak, the trough of which constitutes the bed of the creek.

Observations so far made seem to indicate that south of the Choptank, in Dorchester county—in the lower portions of the county—the marl in general lies too low to be advantageously extracted. It has been reached in the sinking of wells; but the only place where any indications of it present themselves above tide, is on the Choptank, west of Cambridge—at a spot called Sandy Hill. The material alluded to is covered by a stratum of sand from fifteen to twenty feet, contains impressions of scallop, clam, and other shells, and was observed in the high banks of the river, from the spot just named to beyond Castle-Haven. Subjected to analysis it was found to consist of carbonate of lime 23, silica 58, alumine 13, and a small proportion of iron. This is no doubt a continuation of the shell marl desoposite of Talbot county; and as no other indications of marl have been observed south of the Choptank, in Dorchester county, it may probably be assigned as the limit of that deposite in this direction. It is not pretended however, to exclude by this assignation the upper parts of said county which have not yet been examined.

SECT. II.—*Principal location of the shell marl deposites between the Choptank and Chester rivers.*

These deposites are in Caroline, Queen Ann's and Talbot counties, and will be most conveniently indicated under the head of each county.