

(*Perna Maxilla.*) These broad, thick shells, closely compacted together in the deposits, exfoliate, and crumble into almost an impalpable powder, by the least exposure to the air. They thus yield readily and abundantly, their calcareous particles to the soil.

Finally, on Back Wye, where abundance, goodness of quality, and a judicious application on the part of those who are so fortunate as to possess the material, have co-operated, the most extensive benefits have already been realized. Nos. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 of the table, indicate the chemical analyses, fossil constituents and localities of the marl in this section of the country. Nos. 21 and 22 indicate the constituents of two samples of shell-marl from Chew's island, taken from the estate of William Paca, Esq.

*Talbot County.*—Nearly the whole of this county is underlaid by marl; but it presents itself under a variety of circumstances of unequal facilities for extraction, and is, as elsewhere, of very variable qualities.

On the Talbot side of the Tuckahoe branch of the Choptank, it occurs in the high banks of the river from six to ten feet below the surface; but is exposed to view in the ravines that make down to the river. As every where else, it is undulating on the surface, occurring in a distinct stratum, from three to five feet in thickness, the inferior level of which, is six feet above high water mark; it is frequently covered by a crust of indurated marl mixed with sand, evidently caused by the action of the waters, which filtering through the loose soil above, on reaching the marl bed, have facilitated its decomposition, removing a portion of its calcareous constituents and depositing in their stead, silicious particles. The most remarkable deposit of this kind, is about three miles south of Hillsborough, on the farm of Thomas O. Martin, Esq.; a more interesting one, in every respect, can scarcely be pointed out in any other part of the county. In this place, the banks are elevated from thirty to forty feet above the river, and the deep ravines that descend to it, greatly facilitate the extraction of the material at all seasons of the year. This place may be mentioned as the only spot at which the bottom of the marl deposit is known to have been reached; unfortunately, the excavation was not sufficiently extensive to allow a satisfactory examination of its substratum; it appeared to consist in a stiff blue clay. The analysis of the marl from this locality, is given at No. 23 of the table.