

they can scarcely grow, some not all. Many of the fruits are of varieties that I have not seen elsewhere, (no two specimens being alike,) and are of surpassing beauty, resembling more the finished production of an accomplished artist than fruit grown without particular care or attention in a common orchard. At an entertainment given some time since at Washington, attended by the elite of the metropolis, several baskets of apples were left untouched, the guests mistaking them for wax work, or porcelain, or enamel; and when the Hon. Daniel Webster, the sage of Marshfield, made some remarks on the rare beauty of the workmanship, he was incredulous on being told by the gentleman who had presented them to the hostess, that they were genuine apples, and was only convinced by touching and eating them. Yet this fruit was grown with no more than ordinary care, in a common orchard in St. Mary's county.

The forests and fields too abound with many excellent wild fruits—such as grapes, chesnuts, walnuts, hickory nuts (several varieties of each,) persimmons, from which an excellent domestic beer is made, and from the burnt seed of which is made a drink, a good substitute for coffee, (much better than many sold in the shops at present); blackberries, cranberries, whortleberries, and many others too numerous to mention.

Many of the forest trees, especially the oak, hickory, and beech by their abundant mast, furnish a most excellent and fattening food for hogs, and good pork is frequently thus obtained without the aid of any pen-fattening.

The forest and fields also abound with game—such as pheasants, partridges, snipe, woodcock, wild pigeons, rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, opossum, deer, and for sport the red and grey fox.

The mild climate and abundance of food enables all of these animals to multiply in great abundance: Great as is the supply of game meat or wild food from the land, it is far exceeded by that of the waters, which, as I have shown, are very evenly distributed through this whole section. Amongst birds we have almost innumerable quantities of wild geese, swan, wild ducks of the finest varieties and most delicious flavor. Ortolans is a delightful repast for convalescent or gourmand, and under the water the supply of wholesome nutritious food and luxuries is greater by far than that from the other two combined, great as it is, and far exceeds that found anywhere else of which we have personal knowledge or written record. First.

The shad and herring fisheries in the Susquehannah, Potomac, and other tributaries to the Chesapeake exceed in quantity as they do in excellence all the rest of the United States. Besides these staple fisheries we have rock fish, sturgeon, mullet, taylor, trout, sunfish, croakers, and very