

the microscopic shells of myriads of animalculae of the rarest beauty of form and color. It is used as a polishing material for metals, and if proper attention and skill be directed to it will prove a most valuable product.

#### SOIL AND FACES OF THIS COUNTRY.

With regard to no part of the United States is there so much of error and misconception in relation to the face of the country and surface as to the Tide-water Section of Maryland.

Published official documents have, in a great measure given rise to false notions on this subject, and as it has heretofore been out of the general line of travel no opportunity for correcting these in the mind of the public has existed.

The census reports have, in a great measure endorsed and diffused the false notions on this subject, partly from their not being carefully examined and very much from their want of correctness.

The census report of 1860 divides the United States into seven grand, natural divisions. The first of these it denominates as "Lowlands along the Atlantic coast, comprising a general breadth of two counties along the Atlantic from Delaware to Georgia." This is described as a sandy plain of uniform level a thousand miles along the coast, extending from fifty to one hundred miles inland, where "the sea and shore meet for the most part in a mingled series of bays, estuaries and small islands, rising just above tide."

Now this description is no more true of Tide-water Maryland than it is of any other section of the United States. I have shown by the figures how the conclusions as to health is wrong in regard to this section, and I will prove in the same manner how erroneous the foregoing statement is in relation to the face of the country. The Western division of this section is as I have already stated a peninsula lying between the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River.

This peninsula is divided into two unequal parts by the Patuxent river, on the East of which and between it and the Chesapeake bay, lie the counties of Anne Arundel and Calvert; on the West, are the counties of Prince George, Charles and St. Mary's. In each of these sub-divisions there is a dividing ridge, or back bone, (nearly parallel to their main water courses running through their whole extent,) which separates the head of the streams of the former that flow into the Patuxent from those that flow into the bay and its tributaries.

This ridge is from 150 feet at its lowest, to about 350 feet at its highest point; when it is recollected that this peninsula does not exceed twenty-five miles in its widest part, and that this is so divided by streams, and that a fall of only two or three feet per mile is sufficient to insure a free running