

chemical transformations and reactions by which this has been done, would be out of place in a work of this kind.

These soils are justly celebrated for their *great* fertility and productiveness—for the ease with which they can be cultivated, for the great diversity of the main staples which can be grown on them—viz., tobacco, wheat, indian corn, rye, oats, and clover, as well as fruits and vegetables in very great perfection. They require but little extraneous manure but Plaster of Paris, and with this, the manure resources of the farm and good tillage, produce from thirty to forty bushels of wheat, ten to twenty barrels of Indian corn, equal to fifty or one hundred bushels, and eight hundred to twelve hundred pounds of tobacco per acre in the usual rotations.

From its abundant production of grass and excellent climate, of course live stock of all kinds can be, and is raised on them in the highest degree of perfection and at very cheap rates. It is an alluvial soil formed by the degradation of those rocks which form the richest soils, and in which all the nutrient particles already exist in a form capable of ready assimilation by plants. Its physical character and mechanical texture is that which is found in the very best clay loams, in the surface is gently rolling, nowhere presenting any serious obstacles to cultivation. They are located very conveniently to navigable waters, have a healthy atmosphere, and possess all the social advantages conferred by a well educated, well-bred, courteous and moral population. The price at which this land can be purchased at present is from thirty to one hundred dollars, and with the best improvements at one hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre,—a price which was cheap when gold bore no premium and produce was from fifty to one hundred per cent. lower than at present. How cheap these lands now are at their present prices, those interested may judge from the facts which I have given above, and which can most readily be verified. I have visited, and in many cases have specially examined the finest lands in the United States, such as those of the Cumberland and Shenandoah Vallies in Virginia and Pennsylvania, the Genesee Lands in New York, the famous Blue Grass Lands in Kentucky, and many of the much boasted prairie lands of the West. But few of these equal none exceed the lands under consideration in their prime essentials of fertility, whilst in local advantages, climate and variety of production, the adaptativeness to our great staples with the cheap and easy raising of live stock, fruit and vegetables, they all are very inferior to them.

All that a genial climate and a most fertile soil very easy of cultivation can produce can be reared here in the greatest perfection, and then cheaply transported a short distance to the great commercial emporiums of the country.