

country retires from the railroad south, the clay becomes heavier and more sticky, alternating with a large proportion of light, gravelly soil. These lands have all the ready advantages of constant communication with Washington, the time of which occupies from less than at one hour at the farthest point (the Laurel Factory), to fifteen minutes to the nearest one, at Bladensburg—whilst in a little more than one hour Annapolis and Baltimore may be reached. The most prominent features of this country are well-rounded hills and gentle undulations, affording handsome positions for dwellings. On the Patuxent there is a narrow belt of light, sandy soil, which, farther back into the country, changes into a light gravelly loam,—more fertile and productive than the land directly on the stream. On the Patuxent river, and in the neighborhood of the county seat of Upper Marlboro, and occupying a large portion of the central and eastern sections of the county, there exists in great perfection the clayey soils which I have before described as “Forest of P. G. Soils, or the Green Sand Soils,” and what I have said of their cheapness and fertility and excellence, need not be here repeated. They stretch back from the Patuxent river to the interior of the county, and thus lie either directly on or but a short distance from steamboat navigation on the one side, or within from eight to ten miles of Washington City, (by no means too far for a country residence) on the other. Being, as a general thing, somewhat lighter in texture than the South and West river soils, they produce the finest quality of tobacco in great abundance. The productiveness, health, convenience to market and the ease with which these soils can be cultivated, leaves nothing additional to be said in their favor. The country bordering on the Potomac lies high, dry and rolling, having beautiful locations for dwellings, with lovely water and inland views. The soils are less strong than those just mentioned, but are sold at a lower rate, and have the advantages of the cheap and speedy water carriage of the Potomac river, together with the advantages of the Potomac herding and shad fisheries. On Hanson’s branch, and other streams emptying into the Potomac, the soils are also very productive, of easy cultivation, and cheaply improved. The physical character of this soil is of the best quality, and admirably adapted to the cultivation of the finest fruits and choicest vegetable productions. This has been long demonstrated by the gentlemen resident here, who, notwithstanding the calls of the usual arduous duties of farming life, have found time to produce, in the greatest perfection, all the fruits, flowers and vegetables of this latitude, the average product of their gardens and orchards being fully equal to the exhibits of the Northern Pomological and Horticultural Societies, and in many kinds of fruits and vegetables far surpassing them.