

This section comprises the same varieties of soil, improved to an equal extent as the best of the famous wheat lands of Pennsylvania and New York, with all the advantages of a milder climate and far greater convenience to market. The Cumberland valley being identical except in locality, with the Hagerstown valley. It is a region acknowledged by common consent to be of the "greatest salubrity," with the best class of soils for the production of all the staple crops and vegetables, abounding in almost unlimited water-power, with numerous quarries of granite, marble, limestone, roofing-slate, soapstone, and other building materials of the best quality; with large deposits of iron ore, with some good mines of copper and asbestos, and with chrome mines which to an almost total extent supply all that is required in commerce.

The water-power has been improved by numerous cotton factories, saw mills, flour mills, furnaces and forges, and almost every description of manufactories, which give profitable employment to a vast amount of capital and a large number of working population. Its contiguity to tide-water gives it great advantage in the enjoyment of its luxuries and free access to the commerce of the world, and its artificial means of transportation, already very extensive, are being rapidly added to, by the construction of new turnpikes and Railroads.

From its geographical position, the quantity of negro labor was not so abundant as in the section already described, and as a consequence, the causes which produce the necessity for the sale of lands do not here so widely exist, but there is still in many places, indeed in all, excellent opportunities for safe and profitable investment in its lands, for they have by no means attained to a price which their natural advantages would justify. Lands here of the same degree of fertility as in Pennsylvania, New York and the Western States, and with greatly superior natural advantages, can be purchased at rates from thirty to seventy-five per cent. below those in these States.

The population are industrious, intelligent, and possess in a great degree all the virtues of the "Old Maryland Stock."

*Soils.*—These are of great variety as to productiveness and vary greatly in price, from ten to two hundred dollars per acre according to improvements and location.

Formed as they are originally from the same kind of rocks as are the soils of the corresponding region east of the mountains in Pennsylvania and New York, they have the great advantage of being subjected to a much less rigorous climate than exists in these States, and are thereby far more valuable, as a longer period of time for profitable labor is obtained and a less domestic consumption of material is required, than where there is a prolonged winter. They are all easily and cheaply