

the Potomac river by which it is separated from Virginia, with a part of Montgomery county for its southern boundary, Carroll county for its eastern and the summit of the Blue Ridge Mountain and the eastern line of Washington county for its western boundary.

It embraces many varieties of excellent soils, most of which has been improved to a high degree by the natural manure resources of the country and is well cultivated. The soils comprise the best varieties of the clay limestone soils, mica slate soils, the roofing slate soils, the red lands and several other varieties; each of these have peculiar excellence and adaptation to particular crops, but all of them produce large yields of wheat, rye, oats, Indian corn and the cultivated grasses, and as a consequence fine qualities of the best cattle, sheep, horses and other domestic animals. Many farmers pay particular attention to the raising of live stock, and have been rewarded with great success. The herds of cattle particularly, and sheep being equal to any in the adjoining States, and raised with much less expense than in those north us.

The face of the country is undulating, with gently swelling hills, rising in the western portion to a beautiful spur of the Blue Ridge, known as the Catoclin Mountain, not rugged, barren and forbidding in its aspect, but covered to the summit with well cultivated farms or dense forests of valuable timber. The South Mountain or Blue Ridge, with the same general features expressed in a greater degree, forms the western border of the county, and is specially noted for the beauty of its scenery and the purity of its atmosphere. Between the Catoclin and the Blue Ridge or South Mountain, lies the beautiful Middletown Valley, one of the most lovely and at the same time best cultivated and most productive of any found in the whole country. Its farm buildings and dwelling houses are of the first order for comfort and convenience, its water of the purest fountains from the mountains, its roads good, and it has for transportation to market the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, running through its southern border, giving it the advantages of quick and cheap communication with the markets of the country through Baltimore, Georgetown and Washington. This combination of advantages should satisfy the most exacting; certainly it cannot be equalled anywhere out of our State in the whole Union. Harbough's Valley, as the northern extremity of this Valley is called, is a portion of the county enclosed between the same mountains as the Middletown Valley, is also famous for its beauty of scenery, its health and productive soil; it lies more retired from the public highways than the Middletown Valley, but from the works of improvement now in progress, will leave hereafter greatly increased transportation facilities.