

very worst feature of his ground. The prairie lands, it is true, have no forrests to hew down, they are entirely without wood, and what is still worse, often without water. The land purchased is distant from the larger towns, and consequently devoid of all the conveniences of life. With wood to purchase and haul a great distance, to build his dwellings and barn, his fencing and supply his fuel, the settler finds not only his first great trouble, but very important expense. His crops of wheat or corn, or whatever he may plant, when harvested, are subject to the same blighting influences of distance from market, so that the transportation eats up a very large share of the profit, if, indeed, as has been the case frequently, he does not have to burn up his corn for fuel, owing to the scarcity of wood.

Under favorable circumstances his corn crop, for instance, will yield about fifty bushels to the acre, and the very highest rate it will command in the Western market, is fifty cents per bushel, yielding him the sum of \$25 per acre. He will be fortunate if his receipts for this, or any other crop he may raise, will average him this amount.

These are some of the hardships of his home in the far west, incident to all new countries. That the land is rich and fertile, no one can deny, and in time these disabilities will be overcome by an increase of population. But it is the present we are considering, and present these disagreeable truths, not for the purpose of discouraging the emigrant, but to cause him to pause in his unthinking flight to the west, long enough to ask himself, why he hastens to a section of the country, where every hardship has to be encountered, when there are hundreds of thousands of acres that can be obtained at a cheaper price in the State where his foot first presses the soil of the country, and where not only the necessities, but the luxuries of life exist in great profusion, and can be procured with one-half the toil he will have to expend should he proceed to the interior.

The State of Maryland offers unsurpassed facilities for agricultural enterprise. The Chesapeake Bay, with its almost countless tributaries in one section, and railways and canals in others, provide means of ready and cheap transportation to market of everything that is produced by the farmer. The transportation rates, especially by water, are extremely moderate. The soil and climate are favorable to the production of everything, the earth will bring forth, and owing to the variety of these latter essentials, there is nothing of value grown in the United States, that has not its representative in Maryland. Here, then, are the great essentials, soil, climate and ready access to market, which, combined with a great abundance of the best lumber for building purposes, with living springs in countless numbers, leave nothing to be desired except the mere fact of possession, and this can be ob-