

## INTRODUCTION.

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The events of the past few years have materially changed throughout our whole country the former happy condition of things. In addition to the general causes of disturbance, there has been in Maryland the special one of a sudden change in the condition of a large portion of her laboring population, and the abstraction of much of it forever, from the cultivation of its soil. These two causes, conjoined, either separately being sufficient to render necessary the change of ownership in a large portion of the land, will necessarily compel a great change in its occupancy in our State. Much of it will seek, much of it will be forced into, a market, and much more will be sought for when its merits become known, and its intrinsic value duly appreciated. There will consequently be very many who desire accurate information in order that they may make proper investments in the future homes of themselves and posterity.

To afford all the aid in my power to the former, to enable the latter judiciously, and on the basis of correct and tolerably precise general information to make choice of their future dwelling places, is the purpose of the present work.

For ten consecutive years I served the State of Maryland in the official capacity of State Agricultural Chemist, a part of my duty being during that time to visit every section of the State, and to analyze and examine its various soils, and to analyze its limestones, minerals and other sources of agricultural improvement that might be accessible to the citizens of the State. During this time there was abundant opportunity, which I improved to the best of my humble ability, to become acquainted with its agricultural advantages, not only in reference to the quality of its soil, but the climactic peculiarities of each section, its hygeinic conditions, (general conditions as to health) its convenience of transportation to market, the crops best adapted to it, and in fine, all the conditions that influence the value of property, or determine the choice of those who seek to locate themselves on land as a permanent home, or to buy it for the purpose of a safe, profitable and permanent investment.

Since I ceased to perform these duties officially, my atten-