

by frost in the Fall. That on large bodies of salt water and on a reddish or dark soil being entirely uninjured, whilst only a few miles distant, that away from the water on a light soil will be *totally killed*. The winters in this section are short, open and mild, and the inhabitants consider themselves fortunate in having enough of cold weather to obtain a plentiful supply of ice for the summer, and if proper attention be given to the ice ponds this can almost always be done. The summers are long and pleasant, giving abundant time for the full culture and development of all kinds of grain, vegetables, fruits and flowers. Many of the former of excellent quality are indigenous to the country and can be found on almost every farm—such as many delicious varieties of grapes, blackberries, whortleberries, sarvice berries, black-haws, walnut, many excellent varieties of hickory nuts and many other kinds, which come to maturity much earlier in Spring here, and last much later in the Autumn, than in the States north or west of us. This is shown by the fact that strawberries, peaches, cherries, apricots, &c., are fully ten days earlier at Annapolis than Baltimore, other things being equal, and whilst the harbor of Baltimore, one of the coldest borders of this region, is now, while I write, closed to vessels by the ice, that of Annapolis, only thirty-one miles distant, is free and open, and lower down the larger harbors are never closed. Innumerable wild fowl—such as swan, geese and ducks—spend their winters in the waters of this section, escaping thus the dreary cold of the winters of the Eastern and Northwest States. Here, too, many song birds of beautiful plumage spend their summers, raising their brood of young in the shadows of our forests, thus avoiding the more excessive heat of their Southern summer homes. These migratory birds, admirable judges by unerring instinct of a genial climate, make their appearance much earlier in Maryland in the Spring than in the States on our borders, and remain much later in the Fall, and the number and variety is also much greater. This fact, with the early bloom of flowers and fruits, are living thermometric witnesses of the mildness and beneficence of tide-water climate far exceeding in value the inferences drawn from mercurial or colored Alcoholic solutions.

#### GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION OF THE TIDE WATER SECTION, AND ITS CONNECTIONS WITH THE GREAT MARTS OF COMMERCE.

This section of Maryland is divided by the Chesapeake Bay into two parts, that known as the Eastern Shore and that part of the State on the Western Shore comprising parts of Harford and Baltimore counties before laid down, and the five most southern counties west of the Bay, with the exception of the narrow strip between Baltimore and Havre de