

found, have been improved permanently and principally by the use of the means there indicated. This has been done without outlay of capital to but a small extent; in very many cases by means of the shell marl on the farms, with the addition of sea grass, and the ordinary sources of farm yard manure; during the progress of this improvement, the owners of the soil have had the unequalled satisfaction of seeing each succeeding year productive of increasing crops, and every field yielding annually a higher tribute to the labor bestowed on it, every day in fact, an *increase* of interest on an *increased* capital, and all this not the chance result of speculation, but the natural reward of honest labor and industry. Much of this land has improved within the last decade prior to 1860, from one to five hundred per cent. in value, and during this period has paid annually good interest on this increased value. This increased value has not been due to the sudden springing up of large cities or the opening of railroads or the discovery of mines, but derived from the correct application of the natural means of improvement existing in and on the soil, with the correlative advantages of health, climate and advantages of geographical location, these latter no amount of capital being adequate to supply where they do not naturally exist, and no where do they exist to the degree that they do in our State, and no where in it more than here.

The above facts have been verified, proven to me, and can be to any one who will take the trouble of examining them by personal investigation, and the testimony of numerous gentlemen of the first standing for integrity and agricultural skill in the State; they are indeed what everybody knows.

I have given the above description as it was published fifteen years since, how correct that description is, was attested at the time. There was also given directions as to the proper mode of cultivation and manuring and the result predicted.

The prediction has become fulfilled, fulfilled to the letter and spirit, and in many instances have exceeded what I then said of the prospective results. I underestimated the capacity of these soils, in no instance did I overrate them.

To those who care to appeal to specific facts and figures, dollars and cents, I state the fact communicated by letter from a very prominent gentleman of Maryland.

That the nett profits of two hundred and fifty acres of land, taxes, interest on capital, cost of manures and labor, and incidental expenses of every kind being deducted, amounted in five years to fifty-one dollars and forty-five cents (\$51.45) per acre; the land costing ten dollars per acre when purchased. The profits on many plantations have been greater than on this, particularly on fruit plantations.

It is but fair to state that the above land was worth in the market fifty dollars per acre at the end of the five years.