

The price of these lands vary from five to ten dollars as to their unimproved condition and locality, as a general rule they are cheaper as we proceed down the bay, and sell for a much less price in Dorchester, Somerset and Worcester, in the order named than they do in Talbot, Queen Anne's and Kent counties. There are large quantities of this variety of soil more or less improved in this section, and its price varies from twenty to one hundred dollars per acre, according to degree of improvement and locality. Most of it lies directly on navigable water (the Chesapeake bay or its tributaries) and thus first rate facilities are afforded for the obtaining manures and the transmission of farm products to market by speedy, cheap and easy routes. No more force being required than is necessary properly to work the various crops to be grown on it. These soils produce the finest quality of wheat, both as to color and weight, which usually brings the highest prices in our markets. With proper working and manuring, wheat, indian corn, oats, grasses, fruits and vegetables, thrive remarkably well and are good compensating crops.

#### THE RED AND YELLOW CLAY SOILS.

By the above term I include all of those soils having for their bases red and yellow clay; the surface soil being various as to its physical character, composed of sand of various degrees of fineness and more or less light in color, dependent on the quantity of vegetable matter in it, and the quantity of peroxide of iron, mixed with the soils. The surface soils extending to the depth of four or five inches, varies in the above features from the causes assigned; but the sub-soil or base of soils is remarkably uniform, being composed of red or yellow clay of the kind that bricks are made of, and of different degrees of strength.

The color of the clay differs as we proceed Southward, being more red in Cecil and Kent, than it is generally found in the Southern counties, where it gradually assumes a lighter color, approaching to a fawn color in Worcester and Somerset counties, the strength and color of the clay equally decline as we proceed Southerly in this section.

#### *Deficiencies of the above Soils.*

The surface soils overlying the clay are deficient as to texture and nutrient substances. Their mechanical or physical texture is not good, and they are, moreover, generally deficient in the nutrient substances, owing to improper cultivation and neglect, they have become poor soils.

#### *Mode of Rational Improvement.*

Very happily this can be effected in a manner at once cheap and expeditious, the sub-soils contain all that is necessary to