

section flowers, fruit, vegetables of every kind grown in this latitude flourishes in the greatest degree of perfection. Their cultivation has, and is now giving more certain and greater returns for labor and capital than any other tillage in any other part of the United States. With a varied soil, most excellent for the growth of fruits, flowers and vegetables, (articles most needed in a large city,) by means of railroad and water communication—they may be placed in the city markets before the dew is off their leaves. The district known as the Fork of the Patuxent, has within six miles of its most distant point, either the Annapolis and Elk Ridge railroad, or the Baltimore and Washington railroad. The remaining part of this county is furnished with most liberal water communication by South river, Rhode river, West river and the Chesapeake bay on the one side, abounding in landings, with bold, deep water, and the Patuxent river on the other, having the same advantages. No part of this section of the country being more than six miles from the finest water communication, much of it having this blessing at the borders of many of the farms.

But transportation is not the only advantage derived from these waters. They abound in the greatest variety of the finest fish, oysters and wild fowl, at all seasons of the year. Not only this, but they abound in seagrass, one of the quickest and best manures for crops, and the shells of the oyster furnishes lime of the *kind* best adapted to many of the soils lying directly on the navigable waters.

The face of the country is gently rolling, with slight hills, the shores of the bay and rivers which I have mentioned are of clear, bright sand, in some places with high commanding bluffs, with bold, deep water at their very base. No marshes of any extent are found, those small ones which do exist can all be easily drained and are very fertile. No stagnant pools or lakes are anywhere to be found in it.

*Varieties of Soil.* *First*—That of the kind that I have described as being on the Baltimore and Washington railroad, partly bordering on it.

*Second*—*Light sandy soils.* These for the most part, prevail on the Magothy peninsula, in the Piney wood district, in the Forks of the Patuxent and on the banks of the Patuxent. It must be said here that these soils are very early, and from them the best and finest fruit and vegetables reach the Baltimore and Northern markets.

Although the general character of these soils are light and loose, yet in many parts of Anne Arundel county there is an outcrop of good red clay, and of any required tenacity and stiffness can be found specially adapted to the vegetables flourishing best in this kind of soil. I have heretofore said that the great desideratum of a soil is in its proper mechani-