

In this section of the county are some very good shell marls, containing a sufficiency of lime (air slaked) to render their application valuable to the adjacent lands, though they are not so good as those found in other parts of the State. The refuse of the fisheries afford a very cheap and powerful domestic manure, whilst the contiguity of Washington and Alexandria furnish ample resources for all the foreign concentrated manures which the wants of the soil require.

The *ridge or table lands* in the highest parts of the county, in which the waters that flow into the Patuxent and Potomac respectively take their rise, is of a compact texture generally, though many parts of it are of the class of sandy loams. They are principally covered with a growth of white and black oak, have not been subject to much improvement, and can be purchased at a very cheap rate when their local advantages are considered. Good husbandry will in a very short time make them very fertile and productive in all of the crops known in this section; they are easily worked, and can be materially improved by proper drainage and cultivation alone.

These lands extending from the long old fields to the southern border of the county, chiefly situated in its middle portions, can be bought in large contiguous tracts, and thus offer advantages to land companies and corporations, which purchaser on speculation not found in lands of superior quality. They at present, are for sale at prices varying from five to twenty-five dollars per acre, and at the highest figure are safe and valuable investments, better by far than anything than can be obtained in western or north-western lands.

The capacity of this county for the rearing in the highest degree of perfection, all the higher grades of our domestic animals fully attests the value of its soil and climate. In it some of the best blooded horses in the country have been raised, whose performances on the turf have for years, and now are challenging the admiration of the best judges. Excellence in horse racing, requiring as it does, bottom and speed, with perfect development of bone and muscle, and these dependant on nutrition and climate, is one of the best evidences of superior climate and soil, without these its attainments is impossible. In cattle too, the herds of some of the public spirited planters and farmers of this county, have borne away prizes from the best, in other sections of the country, not only in one but many instances, at places far distant from each other, and by the opinions of various judges specially noted for knowledge in all that concerns the excellencies of stock raising. There is some iron ore in the northern part of the county, and large deposits of tripoli in the neighborhood of Nottingham. This, composed mainly of mi-