

possessing the same general character and excellence which distinguish them in other sections already described. The central parts of the county are made of a light, sandy clay loam, known here as "Forest Lands," admirably adapted to the growth of cereals, tobacco, fruit and vegetables. Their texture is of the best class, and they all can be very easily and cheaply developed to the highest degree of perfection. Towards the lower part of the county the white oak soils stretch across it, and are here found of most excellent quality. Fruit of all kinds and vegetables of every description flourish in this county to a very high degree of perfection. Soil and climate alike favor their early ripening and most extensive development. The markets of the northern cities can be furnished with these from this county from a fortnight to a month earlier than from the gardens and market farms around them, and of a flavor and quality unattainable by the growth of the States north of us. The resources for improvement are oyster shells, lime; Indian shell banks, shell and green sand marls of good quality, and abundance of seaweed on the water lines. These, with the refuse of the fisheries on the shores, furnish cheap and certain means of quick and permanent improvement. The scenery on the river, bay and Potomac is of the most beautiful description, and nature has been so lavish in her gifts that nothing is left for art but to fill up her magnificent outlines.

The transportation of this county is of the best and cheapest kind, (inland tide-water navigation) to Baltimore, Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria. First class steamers to each of these places ply from the various landings on the rivers and bay, almost daily, whilst at more numerous points daily vessels are ready to meet all demands of import and export in the cheapest manner. The Chesapeake and Delaware canal opens a fine market for all the early vegetables and fruit products at Philadelphia, New York and the Northern cities. Besides the Patuxent river and the Chesapeake bay, which are its eastern boundaries, there are several arms or bays from the Potomac river, its southern and western boundary, which enters in bold, deep sheets, several miles, (eight to sixteen) into the interior of the country, these are the Wicomico river, St. Clement's bay, Breton's bay, on which is Leonardtown, the county town, and St. Mary's river, all beautiful land-locked sheets of water, with sufficient depth to float the largest vessels and abounding in all treasures of the Chesapeake.

The fisheries on the river and bay are very extensive, and furnish large quantities of shad and herring, besides all of the best varieties of table fish, caught with seine, hook and line or weir—abound here in due season, which with the