

peake bay. It is about twenty-eight miles long, from east to west, and about ten miles broad, from north to south.

The soils are of the usual varieties found on the peninsula, but is mainly composed of the white oak, red clay, and, in some places, of sandy soils. The capacity of each of these varieties for quick and permanent improvement has been very thoroughly proven, as in no county in the State has greater progress been made in agricultural improvement than in this. Much of this has been accomplished by the use of the domestic manures, as oyster shell lime, shell and green sand marl. These, applied with a knowledge and skill scarcely equalled anywhere, and nowhere excelled in the country, by a numerous class of well educated farmers and fruit growers, have placed this county in the front rank (if not the very first) of those excelling in agricultural improvement. With these, and these alone, the productions of crops have been doubled on many farms in a single year, whilst the permanent value of the land has been increased an hundred per cent.

The land produces grass and wheat, Indian corn, and all the staple crops, and is especially celebrated for its fruit productions—particularly of peaches. The soil on the Sassafras and many parts of the Chester river is a light sandy loam, in many places highly colored with per oxyde of iron, and of the nature best adapted to fruits—which are one of the most valuable productions of the county. During the season many steamers are devoted daily to its transportation.

There are many valuable deposits of marl in this county, both of shell marl and of the green sand variety, with occasional combinations of the two, with the addition of notable quantities of sulphate of lime (gypsum, or plaster of Paris.) These have, in numerous instances, demonstrated their value as cheap, quick and permanent fertilizers.

Its waters abound in fish of the finest qualities, with immense flocks of wild duck, geese, swan, &c., and immense oyster beds. These not only supply the resident population, but give active and valuable employment to a large number of persons who take them for exportation.

The face of the county is gently rolling, and naturally for the most part well drained. This county has all the climatic, hygienic, and social advantages in an eminent degree which distinguish the State.

A reference to the geographical boundaries of the county will show its admirable advantages for transportation. On its northern border is the Sassafras river, an arm of the bay, navigable for steamboats for its whole length. On the west is the Chesapeake bay, giving direct communication across its waters to Baltimore, and by means of the Tide-water canal to Philadelphia and the northern cities. On its