

by the Choptank, which separates it from Talbot county, and by Caroline county, on the south and west by the Chesapeake Bay, and on the east by the Nanticoke River which separates it from Somerset county. It contains about three hundred and eighty-six thousand acres. Its soil in the northern part, and on the Choptank is to a great extent composed of sandy loams, some with and some without a red or yellow clay sub-soil. The soil in the western and lower sections is of a first quality white oak soil, in some places highly improved, and everywhere capable of being made equal to any of this variety elsewhere.

The spirit of improvement has not been as general here as in some of the counties north of it, yet many of its citizens stand in the front rank as skilful agriculturists and stock raisers, and excel in the cultivation of vegetables, fruits and flowers, many gardens being embellished with almost every variety of these latter in due season.

The crops are the several staple crops with quite a large production of fruits and vegetables for export; the soil and climate with abundant facilities for transportation, all tend greatly to favor their cultivation,—the former by aiding the quality and quantity, and the latter by giving remunerative profits.

The lands on the Choptank are light and well drained,—those on the bay and southern sections of the county are more flat and level, but are likewise capable of thorough drainage.

On the Choptank are many fine dwellings and highly-improved farms, in other sections of the county more attention has been directed to the quick and abundant returns from the oyster traffic and the development of the other treasures of the Bay than to the improvement of the soil, and as a consequence, its productiveness is but slightly developed. The soil itself is, however, fully as capable of easy and certain improvement as the same variety elsewhere, and has in it an immense amount of undeveloped wealth for its future purchasers and cultivators. Nothing but proper attention to well-ascertained means of fertilization is required to make this as fine a farming and grazing country as any on the shore, and in some places this has been fully shown by actual operations.

Much of it is yet in primitive forests of the best quality of white oak for ship-building, all of it is well timbered for ordinary domestic purposes, and is well watered; the health of the county is good, its facilities for transportation of the first class, and the average price of its lands very cheap, thus giving every advantage to purchasers and future settlers.

The facilities for improvement are oyster shell lime, sea grass, Indian shell-banks and in some sections of the county