

That portion of the county lying on the Catoctin Mountain on the west, and Parr's Ridge on the east, is by far its largest portion, and here we find the largest portion of well cultivated fertile soil. Great attention has been paid to the improvement of the land and the development of all the means of agricultural improvement with very successful results.—The farms are well cultivated, and the farm buildings, fencing, &c., show the results of careful, intelligent management. The mineral resources, particularly those for agricultural improvement, are very fine and widely diffused. Limestone of all the varieties adapted to the improvement of the different classes of soils, anywhere met with, exist here, and have not only been used very extensively in the county with great benefit, but large quantities have been sold to other portions of the State. We have in this county not only pure and magnesian limestone, but also other varieties containing notable quantities of talc and mica slate, by which the fertilizing value of the lime is greatly increased. Some of the limestone is remarkable for being almost *chemically* pure, exceeding in its purity any other limestone which ever have been examined, which include most of those existing in our country. Besides the limestone several varieties of beautiful marble is found in the county, one variety of which the "Breccia or Calico Marble" has furnished the material from which the columns in the old Hall of the House of Representatives at Washington were made. It, for durability and beauty, holds a very high rank. There are also many quarries of fine roofing slate, with mines of iron ore, manganese (Peroxide) and copper, with abundance of very fine quality of brick-clay for building.

The county is well wooded and is well watered by Catoctin creek in the west, and the Monocacy river in the middle portion, which runs through the whole county, from the Pennsylvania line to the Potomac; these with their tributaries and the Potomac river affords a very large quantity of water-power which has been improved by large and flourishing flour mills and manufactories of different kinds.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad passes entirely through this county from east to west (within a short distance of the county town, Frederick City, which is connected with it by a short branch road,) and gives speedy and direct communication with Baltimore and Washington. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal passes through its whole southern border to tide-water at Georgetown. The Western Maryland Railroad now in course of construction, will pass through the northern part of the county near to Emmitsburg.

Besides these facilities already existing, a Railroad—a branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad—is being constructed from near the Point of Rocks, through the southern