

## *The Mountain or Alleghany Division of Maryland.*

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### ALLEGHANY COUNTY.

This is the most western and embraces by far the largest area of the counties of Maryland. It is bounded on the north by Mason's and Dixon's Line, which separates it from Pennsylvania, on the south by the Potomac River, which divides it from Virginia, on the east by Washington county, and on the west by Virginia. Its greatest width is about 43 miles, its greatest breadth about 30 miles. The Potomac River forms its whole southern boundary, and is here barely navigable in high water for flat bottomed boats.

*Surface of the Country.*—The face of the country is very much broken by numerous ridges of the Alleghany mountains, which surround it, formerly very productive in Indian corn, oats and grass. One of the most striking and curious features of this county is the "Glades," large, level, flat, swampy bodies of land between the highest ridges of the Alleghanies. This part of the country is sometimes for miles as level and flat as any of the marshes bordering on tide-water, and covered with a luxurious growth of natural grass, without the existence of timber or trees of any sort. These are famous pastures for large flocks of cattle, which are driven from the neighboring counties of Virginia to be pastured in the summer months. There were doubtless at one time lakes, and have become filled up gradually by washings from the surrounding hills, and by the decay of plants and trees, which grew upon them.—The soil is to the depth of many feet, contains a large proportion of vegetable matter, and from this cause is dark, light and chaffy, resembling very much the Black Gum Swamp soils of the lower counties of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The Little Savage mountain, a ridge of the Alleghanies, divides the eastern, which flow into the Potomac, from the western waters, that go to the Ohio River. The summit of the mountains is from 1500 to 2700 feet above tide-water, and though the temperature in summer is pleasant, the seasons are backward and the winters are of long duration and great severity. The crops most generally grown