

state is 12,210 square miles, of which 9860 square miles are land surface; the included portions of Chesapeake Bay, 1203 square miles; Chincoteague Bay on the Atlantic coast, 93 square miles, and 1054 square miles of smaller estuaries and rivers.

Maryland is divided into twenty-three counties, of which Garrett, Allegany and Washington form the mountainous region known as Western Maryland; Frederick, Carroll, Baltimore, Harford, Cecil, Howard and Montgomery the Piedmont area, which is also referred to under the name of Northern-Central Maryland; Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's, commonly called Southern Maryland; and Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester, known as Eastern Maryland. Of these twenty-three counties there are but seven that do not lie upon navigable waters.

The physical features of a country to no inconsiderable degree determine the pursuits of its inhabitants, and these indirectly affect their social, political and financial welfare. The residents of mountainous districts have their peculiar occupations, while those of the low lands find their employment in other ways. In regions bordering the sea or inland bodies of water still other means of livelihood are sought by the people. The character of the soil and its adaptability to particular crops become also important factors, while the underlying rocks, not only by their influence upon the conditions of life already described, but also by their inherent wealth in mineral resources, still further influence the well-being of the community. It becomes important, therefore, to know something of the physical features of a country, or a state, if one would understand its past history or indicate the lines of future prosperity.

When we come to examine the physical features of the state of Maryland we find the greatest diversity in surface configuration and mineral contents. From its eastern to its western borders may be found a succession of districts suitable from their physical surroundings for the most diverse employments. Maryland possesses portions of all the characteristic divisions of the eastern United States, and there is no state in the country which has a greater variety in its natural surroundings.