

it formerly held. It turns again by a long sweep to the southeast and flows in that direction to the Chesapeake Bay. The local drainage of the western division possesses the characteristics which have already been described for the eastern section, in that the streams throughout Southern Maryland flow chiefly to the westward. For example, the watershed of the country lying between the Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent river is situated but a slight distance from the shores of the former, so that most of the natural drainage of Calvert county reaches the Patuxent river. A still more striking exhibition of this is seen in St. Mary's, Charles and Prince George's counties, where the streams nearly all flow to the Potomac river, the watershed of the region approaching very close to the valley of the Patuxent. The same peculiarity in the drainage is found to the southward in Virginia and the Carolinas.

THE PIEDMONT PLATEAU.

The Piedmont Plateau borders the Coastal Plain upon the west and extends to the base of the Catoctin Mountain. It includes approximately 2500 square miles, or somewhat over one-quarter of the land area of the state. It is about 65 miles in width in the northern portion of the region, but gradually narrows toward the south until it becomes somewhat less than 40 miles broad. It includes all, or the greater part, of Montgomery, Howard, Baltimore, Harford, Carroll and Frederick counties. The region is broken by low undulating hills which gradually increase in elevation from its eastern margin until they culminate near the central portion of the area in Parr's Ridge. This ridge divides the district into an eastern and a western division, the latter gradually sloping into the Frederick Valley. The major drainage of the area shows but little relation to the underlying rocks, but gives evidence of having been superimposed through a cover of sedimentary materials which may have been the westward extension of the present Coastal Plain, although more recent adjustments to the underlying rocks have taken place.

The *eastern division* of the Piedmont Plateau has, on account of its varied crystalline rocks and their complicated structure, a highly