

while all the flint, feldspar, kaolin and mica in the state must be sought for in this horizon. These older or pre-Paleozoic rocks again appear in the centre of the Blue Ridge, where they form the Middletown valley, and here they yield traces of copper, antimony and iron.

The Paleozoic strata which stretch from the Frederick valley westward across the state, furnish much good sandstone and limestone, two horizons of valuable cement rock, and at the top carry what is left by man and the eroding agencies of nature of the wonderful Cumberland Coal basin, with its 14-foot vein of solid coal. This same basin contains also deposits of fire-clay and iron.

As we trace the sequence of formations through the more recently formed portions of the state (post-Paleozoic strata of the map), we find them not devoid of mineral deposits of economic value. The variegated limestone breccia, known as "Potomac marble," and the best brown sandstone for building purposes found in Maryland, both belong to the oldest of these post-Paleozoic strata—the Triassic belt of the Frederick valley and southern Montgomery county. The series of still unconsolidated beds which represents the lapse of time from the upper Jurassic or lower Cretaceous period to the present, and which composes all of eastern and southern Maryland, besides furnishing valuable lands for various agricultural interests, contains our principal supply of brick, potter's and tile clay; of sand, marl and diatomaceous earth; and much of our best iron ore.

These several economic products will be considered briefly in the following pages.

SPECIAL DESCRIPTIONS.

THE BUILDING AND DECORATIVE STONES.

The building and decorative stones of Maryland are widely distributed throughout the central and western portions of the state, and consist of many different varieties which by their diversity in color, hardness and structural peculiarities are adapted for nearly all architectural and decorative purposes. Among the more important may be mentioned the granite, gneiss, marble, limestone, slate, sandstone and serpentine.