

THE GRANITE AND GNEISS.—The gneiss, which has been fully described already, is the oldest of the Maryland rocks and covers a wide area in Cecil, Harford, Baltimore, Howard, and Montgomery counties. Through this ancient gneiss complex the granite was intruded at a later date. The gneiss differs from the granite only in having a more or less pronounced parallel and banded structure so that it is not always possible to distinguish sharply between them, especially as true granites have such a structure secondarily developed in them by pressure.

The regions in Maryland where the granite and gneiss are most extensively worked are at Port Deposit in Cecil county, in the vicinity of Baltimore, at Woodstock in Baltimore county, and at Ellicott City and Guilford in Howard county. Other areas in Howard and Montgomery counties and in the District of Columbia contain some good stone, but it is quarried only for local use.

In the extensive quarries of granite along the northern bank of the Susquehanna river near Port Deposit, Cecil county, the rock is a gray biotite granite-gneiss with dark colored constituents arranged in parallel directions so as to closely resemble a gneiss. The first serious working of the granite at this locality was in the years 1816-17, and the business has much increased in later years. The Port Deposit rock has afforded materials for the construction of Fortress Monroe, Forts Carroll and McHenry, the navy yard and dry dock at Portsmouth, Virginia; the Naval Academy at Annapolis; and many of the principal bridges of Baltimore and Philadelphia, besides a great many other structures both of a public and a private character.

Much granite has been quarried in the southwestern corner of Baltimore county near Woodstock, where a stone remarkably homogeneous in grain and color has been obtained. Operations were commenced in this area about the year 1832-33, when the large granite boulders of the vicinity attracted the attention of practical quarrymen. Since that time extensive quarries have been opened in this area, the two most important known under the name of the "Waltersville" and the "Fox Rock." The rock obtained from this area has been extensively employed in the construction of public buildings,