

glaucouitic. The proportion of shells is often very great, so that the Miocene marls are commonly known under the term of "shell marls." They occur abundantly in Queen Anne's, Talbot, Calvert and St. Mary's counties, but have never been used so largely as the green-sand marls which lie to the north of them.

#### THE IRON ORES.

The iron industry in Maryland was developed early in colonial days and continued until a recent date to be one of the most important factors in the prosperity of the state. Numerous references are found in the earlier records to the iron ores, and early in the 18th century we find considerable activity in the manufacture of iron. The Principio Company, one of the most important commercial enterprises in the early days of Maryland, was organized in 1722 and began the erection of a furnace in Cecil county near the mouth of Principio creek. In 1761 the Governor and Council of Maryland reported to the Commissioners of the Board of Trade and Plantations in England that there were eighteen furnaces and ten forges in the state which made 2500 tons of pig iron per year. During the Revolutionary War the furnaces and forges of the Principio Company supplied bar iron and cannon balls to the Continental Army. The Principio Company during the war of 1812 produced cannon, cannon balls and hardware, and guns as large as 32 pounders were made for the government. Many furnaces were built in other sections of the state during the 18th and early portion of the present century, but nearly all of them have been abandoned. Among the most important of these furnaces is the Catoctin furnace in Frederick county, which was built in 1774 and furnished guns and projectiles to the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. In more recent years several modern furnaces have been constructed near Baltimore, of which by far the largest is that at Sparrow's Point, built by the Maryland Steel Company, which, however, only employs ore obtained from sources outside of the state.

The only furnaces now manufacturing Maryland iron to any extent are the Muirkirk furnace in Prince George's county and the Stickney