

During his first voyage, following the eastern shore of the Chesapeake into the southern limits of the state, Captain Smith describes the land as low and bordered with marshes; then crossing to the western shore of the bay he compared the country to that which he had left in the following words:

“ Finding this Easterne shore, shallow broken Isles, and for the mostpart without fresh water, we passed by the straits of *Limbo*¹ for the Westerne shore; so broad is the bay here, we could scarce perceiue the great high cliffs on the other side: by them we Anchored that night and called them *Riccards Cliftes*.² 30 leagues we sayled more Northwards not finding any inhabitants, leaving all the Eastern shore, lowe Islandes, but ouergrowne with wood, as all the Coast beyond them so farre as wee could see; the Westerne shore by which we sayled we found all along well watered, but very mountainous and barren, the vallies very fertill, but extreame thicke of small wood so well as trees, and much frequented with wolues, Beares, Deere, and other wild beasts. We passed many shallow creekes, but the first we found Navigable for a ship, we called *Bolus*,³ for that the clay in many places vnder the cliffs by the high water marke, did grow vp in red and white knots as gum out of trees; and in some places so participated together as though they were all of one nature, excepting the coulour, the rest of the earth on both sides being hard sandy grauell, which made vs thinke it *bole-armoniack* and *terre sigillata*.”

Returning thence southward, the Potomac river was entered, the high bluffs of which are compared with those which were observed on the bay shore.

Upon the second voyage which took place later in the summer of the same year the head of the Chesapeake Bay was visited and many of the physical characteristics of the region were observed.

Very little further knowledge was gained in regard to the physical features of Maryland until the arrival of the first permanent settlers in 1634; before their departure Lord Baltimore⁴ in his instructions told them to look out for proper places for making salt and saltpeter and to search for iron and for other ores. In his narrative of the voyage written during that year by Father White⁵ to his religious superiors at Rome many interesting facts regarding the physiography of southern Maryland may be found. Father White's description of

¹ Now called Hooper's Straits.

³ Now called the Patapsco river.

² Now called Calvert Cliffs.

⁴ Calvert Papers, I, p. 140.

⁵ *Relatio Itineris in Marylandiam*, 1634.