

the lower valley of the Potomac and the shores of St. Mary's county possesses much of interest to the student of early travel.

Perhaps the most important publication regarding the physical features of Maryland that appeared in early colonial days is "A Relation of Maryland," which was published in 1635. In this most interesting pamphlet a description of the climate and physiography of those sections of Maryland which had been explored up to that time is given. The narrative states that—

"The Countrey is generally plaine and even, and yet hath some pritty small hills and risings; It's full of Rivers and Creekes and hath store of Springs and small Brookes:"

"The Mineralls have not yet beene much searched after, yet there is discovered Iron Oare; and Earth fitt to make Allum, *Terra lemnia*, and a red soile like Bolearmonicke, with sundry other sorts of Mineralls, which wee have not yet beene able to make any tryall of.

"The soile generally is very rich, like that which is about *Cheesewecke* neere *London*, where it is worth 20. shillings an Acre yeerely to Tillage in the Common-fields, and very many places, you shall have two foote of blacke rich mould, wherein you shall scarce find a stone, it is like a sifted Garden-mould, and is so rich that if it be not first planted with *Indian* corne, *Tobacco*, *Hempe*, or some such thing that may take off the ranknesse thereof, it will not be fit for any *English* graine; and under that, there is found good loame, whereof wee have made as good bricke as any in *England*; there is great store of Marish ground also, that with good husbandry, will make as rich Medow, as any in the world: There is store of Marle, both blue, and white, and in many places, excellent clay for pots, and tyles; and to conclude, there is nothing that can be reasonably expected in a place lying in the latitude which this doth, but you shall either find it here to grow naturally: or Industry, and good husbandry will produce it."

Another interesting work of this period is an atlas published in 1635 by Johannem and Wilhelm Bleau, in which the authors indicate the northeast-southwest trend of the mountains and the gorges which the rivers cut through them. There is also a description of the prominent rivers flowing to the Chesapeake. It is evident, however, that the information is largely based upon Captain John Smith's account of his explorations, which have been already described.

With the increase in number of colonists and the gradual settlement of the country, wider knowledge was gained regarding the physical features of Maryland; new industries were opened up and the older ones still further extended, so that before the close of the