

seventeenth century Maryland became one of the most progressive of the colonies in the development of her natural resources.

Brickmaking was undoubtedly an important industry throughout this period, and much corroborative evidence has been found in the early records regarding this subject. In the Maryland Archives for 1637 and 1638 it is reported that a brickmaker sat in the Assembly, and a letter from S. Cornwalley's<sup>1</sup> to Lord Baltimore the latter year states that he is building a house with cellar and chimneys of brick. In 1652 there is a record of an agreement<sup>2</sup> of a brickmaker to make thirty-six thousand "Good Sound well Burn'd Bricks" in consideration of three hundred acres of land on the Patuxent river.

These and other references show that brickmaking was a common industry in early colonial days, and that the popular belief that bricks were brought to America in large numbers for ordinary building purposes is not well founded. A study of the ancient records and bills of lading fails to afford a single authentic case of the importation of brick, and it seems highly probable that the use of the term "English brick" refers rather to the prevailing shape of the brick than to the locality from which it came. Accounts show that many of the early churches<sup>3</sup> of Maryland were constructed of this material as well as the more pretentious residences.

The iron ore deposits of the Coastal Plain were also developed during this period. In 1648 mention was made of the fact that pig iron was worth £12 per ton, and that the facilities with which iron could be mined and the cheapness at which fuel could be obtained on the numerous watercourses enabled those engaged in its manufacture to earn high wages. This fact doubtless attracted many to the shores of the Patapsco, stimulated speculation in lands and exerted some influence upon the location of the future city of Baltimore. In 1681 an act was passed imposing a duty on the export of iron.

The most important of the early maps of Maryland was made during the decade succeeding 1660 for Lord Baltimore by Augustin

<sup>1</sup> Calvert Papers, I, p. 174.

<sup>2</sup> Md. Archives, Provincial Court, 1649-1657, p. 267.

<sup>3</sup> Helen West Ridgely, "The Old Brick Churches of Maryland." New York, 1894.