

chandise of various kinds are transported to Baltimore from the interior of Pennsylvania and New York. The Potomac offers a medium of communication with Virginia and North Carolina, and the Choptank, Elk, Pocomoke and several other rivers, serve to convey many valuable commodities from the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and afford a market in that section of the state for the manufactures and imports of Baltimore. For further information on this subject we refer the reader to chapter ix.

Besides the water communication just spoken of, the trade of Baltimore carried on with the back country by means of railroads and turn-pikes, is very considerable. In our present division, we mention this fact only to show the advantages of our location in this respect; as our City thereby becomes the mart of a large and wealthy district, which the progress of internal improvement continues to make more and more extensive. See chapter ix.

On the whole, the geographical situation of Baltimore combines every requisite to health and prosperity, and we are happy to add that there exists among her citizens a spirit of enterprize and patriotism sufficient to develop and improve the benefits she has received from the hand of nature.

Chapter II.—History.

The early history of Baltimore presents rather an unpromising aspect, when we consider the unexampled growth and the rapid increase in commerce and manufactures for which the subsequent annals of this city are particularly remarkable. For nearly one hundred years after the formation of the county, the progress of improvement was exceedingly slow, and there were few indications of that prosperity which, at no distant period, was to elevate Baltimore into the first rank of American cities.

The county of Baltimore was formed in the year 1659, and just seventy years after, the legislature passed an act for erecting a town, to be called Baltimore Town, on the north side of Patapsco river; for which purpose sixty acres of land were designated and accordingly laid out into the same number of lots. From this time to 1758 the place continued, to be a very inconsiderable village, and as late as 1792 the population was only 13,503. The war of the revolution, during its continuance, doubtless had a malign effect on the growth of the town, as we find that after that great struggle was over, it began to make rapid advances towards prosperity. Much of this effect may also be ascribed to the removal of the old government and the establishment of a new one. Baltimore became the county town in 1798, previously to which time the courts had been held at Joppa, a small village then lying about twenty-five miles from

