

Our countrymen would be apt to consider this picture of improvement as only applicable to the new states of the Union. Already Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the eastern states are looked upon, and spoken of as *ancient dominions* in regard to the other states. But the portrait is true when reviewed from Europe. What vast resources, what fields for cultivation still remain untouched in Maryland? May we not hope that the spirit of improvement, now "abroad in the land," will not only tend to develop, but also insure the improvement of these resources.

CHAPTER III.

POLITICAL CHARACTER.

Maryland was a British Colony, and under Proprietary government, until the commencement of the revolution: Lord Baltimore, and his heirs to whom the territory was granted by the King of England, was considered the sole proprietor of the country, and the Governor thereof. He created officers, and made all civil appointments; of him, all the Landholders derived their original titles.

The geography we have quoted above, gives the following rapid outline of the transition