

they were regarded and treated as intruders—suspicious characters to be watched. But those times have passed, and now whoever comes bringing either capital or labor, to build his home among us, receives *a most cordial welcome*. We do not know the term “social toleration” which has sometimes been used in this connection, but our people accord consideration and welcome to all who come to cast their lot with them and be of them.

The farmers of Maryland have never been believers in the doctrine that “ten acres” was “enough,” but, on the contrary, have been disposed, however large their farms or “plantations,” to add to them all the land that joined them, so that, in parts of the State the lands are held in larger bodies than can be profitably conducted, and the owners have no reluctance to dispose of parts of them; and tracts suitable for desirable farms can readily be bought at reasonable prices. Already considerable quantities have changed hands, probably not less than a hundred thousand acres within the last four months, and indications are not wanting, that with the opening spring, the demand for lands for actual settlers will be far larger than ever before.

The State has an area of about 9,500 square miles of land, while the Chesapeake Bay covers more than 4,000 more; and these last are a most important element in the resources of the State, for they are productive of food beyond much of the cultivated land upon our continent, and at the same time they afford unrivaled facilities of transportation for the thousands of acres of market gardens which deck the shores of this bay, and its numerous and prolific estuaries. So frequent are these estuaries and navigable arms of the bay, that there are large counties bordering on the bay no point of which is more than four miles from a good “landing.” This enables the inhabitants of those counties, whenever disposed, to raise for the markets of Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia and New York, all the more delicate fruits and vegetables—such as are ruined by any considerable amount of land carriage. Two hundred miles of this bay from the place of consumption of these products is practically less remote from the market than ten miles by ordinary roads. This great advantage is shared by all of the shore counties of the bay, and those which are penetrated by its arms, for though the actual *sea coast* of Maryland is but little over thirty miles, the tide water margin is over 400 miles and if the islands be included over 500 miles. The largest vessels which float ascend the bay, past St. Mary’s, Calvert and Anne Arundel counties to Annapolis—and the Potomac river past St. Mary’s, Charles and Prince Georges’ counties to Washington. Smaller craft, ranging up to about 250 tons, ascend the rivers according to their respective capacities and the requirements of the peo-