

ple; the Choptank and its tributaries for 40 miles, the Nanticoke to the Delaware line, the Patuxent for about 75 miles, and not less than fifty others are navigable to a greater or less extent.

The bay is so nearly land-locked, the outlet between Capes Charles and Henry being but fifteen miles wide, that navigation is neither difficult nor dangerous, and it has long been customary for persons having bay residences or farms to have their yacht, punga or schooner for pleasure or for the transportation of their products. These with the aid of their farm hands they can load at their own doors, navigate to the best markets in the country, and return with manures or supplies for their farms, family or neighborhood.

An almost universal adjunct of every shore farm also is its oyster beds, from which at almost any hour in the year may be taken an unlimited supply of the most delicious bivalves which the world produces. Fish in abundance and of excellent quality are also caught at all points for home consumption. Nor is all the richness of this bay drawn from beneath its waters. The numerous flocks of wild ducks, which frequent its surface and breed in its islands and marshes not less than the abundance and flavor of its oysters, its terrapins and crabs, have given a fame to the bay as wide as the country. Its canvass back ducks are the pride of the New York restaurants, and the hermetically sealed fruits and oysters of Baltimore alone, annually amount to \$5,000,000. Nor is this to be estimated as the capacity of the Chesapeake, but rather as a measure of the size of the market.

It would be unfair to leave this subject without mention of the beauty of the Chesapeake. A sail upon its waters is never tiresome. Its half built forts, its quaint white lighthouses on the shore, interspersed with iron ones rising from the midst of the waves, the continual whirling and plunging of the huge flocks of wild ducks which never desert its waters, the constantly varying outline of its jagged shores, dotted by dark lines of forest with here and there a handsome homestead; the flitting white sailed schooners, the clusters of oyster boats, the hurried dash of the miniature steamers, all these joined to the balmy airs that love to linger on the Chesapeake, combine to make it one of the most beautiful bodies of water in the world.

Geographically, Maryland is divided into three sections, two of which, parted by the Chesapeake, are similar in formation, while the third is marked by the ledge of primitive rocks which runs from the left bank of the Potomac, in Montgomery county, N. E. to the Susquehanna river.

The soil of the plain, or tide-water district, as it is called embraces nearly one-half of the territory of the State.