

This great region (for it stretches through Delaware and along the coast of New Jersey, and is supposed to have formed the bed of an ancient ocean) is composed of strata of the tertiary formation—proven by the fossils found in its cliffs and banks. The chalk or cretaceous formation, similarly indicated in New Jersey and Carolina, probably underlying more recent deposits—throughout the extent of Maryland.

In this tertiary formation Maryland is rich in deposits of wealth for the farmer; beds of marl, of shell lime, of eocene or green sand being distributed throughout its entire extent.

The surface of this tide-water district is level, save in the northern part, and but slightly elevated above the sea, and its soils are above the average in their adaptation to agriculture.

The forest growths are mostly, oaks of various kinds, hickory, chestnut, walnut, gum, cedar, pine and beech. Few rocks are found, but some of the mineral deposits are rare. The chromes, corundum or emery, and the tripoli, being almost the sole deposits of the kind in the civilized world. Bog iron ore is found, and also, aluminous and magnesian salts. The clays, which have never been developed by experienced artisans, are known to embrace the kaolin or porcelain clay, and the grey, red and blue clays, which have already contributed to our mechanic arts, in potteries of stone-ware, queens-ware, glazed red-ware and bricks. From the pure sands glass has been manufactured in considerable quantities, but hitherto its manufacture has been carried to no great perfection. Red ochre, the cheapest material for common painting, forms subordinate beds in the lower clays, and is ground to a fine powder in great quantities for the markets. Oyster-shell lime is produced in large quantities by calcining the shells of the oysters annually harvested, and also from deposits of shells found upon the banks of our tide-water rivers and creeks. These deposits are known by the name of *Indian* shells; which people seem to have made abundant meals upon the oysters, if we are to measure them by the quantity of shells remaining. These deposits are so far decomposed that they can be applied to the soil without burning or sifting. The recent oyster shells are also of great service in making roads, for when broken and ground in their natural state upon the high way, the surface becomes as hard and smooth as a macadamized road, and is very durable.

The grains most largely cultivated in this plain are wheat, Indian corn and tobacco, with cotton in the lower part.

Having premised these few statistics common to both the Eastern and Western Shore, we will now proceed to consider some characteristic features which distinguish the first geographical section, or,