

EASTERN SHORE.

The Eastern Shore, proceeding in order from the south, embraces the counties of Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester, Talbot, Caroline, Queen Anne's Kent and Cecil. The Atlantic coast of this "shore" has no harbors, and is bordered throughout by a sandy beach, from a few yards to more than a fourth of a mile in breadth, enclosing a shallow lagoon, which now, owing to the blocking up of several passages by which it formerly communicated with the sea, may almost be termed a bay or lake. The surface of the Eastern Shore, which forms part of the Peninsula lying between the Chesapeake and Delaware bays is low and level, except in the northern part, where it is somewhat broken and hilly. The soil is generally sandy. A variety of soil denominated "white oak" soil, may be distinguished by the color of its sand, which is white, very fine, feeling but slightly gritty, of compact texture, with great retentiveness of moisture. It is usually good corn land.

The soils of the Eastern Shore, except the sand plains, were originally among the most fertile in the country. A long course of improvident agriculture sadly impaired their productive value. Improved systems of farming have, however, restored the fertility of large portions of it, and demonstrated the possibility of a complete restoration of the whole.

The crops of the Eastern Shore vary, according to their access to market. On the bay and river shores are large farms, devoted to the production of "truck," a term applied generally to the perishable products designed for the city markets. As has been already intimated, their transportation by water is infinitely preferable to land carriage and fruits and vegetables thus transported have a finer appearance, can be longer preserved, and consequently command better prices than those which come by wagons. Not only is it exempt from the dust and bruises incident to land transportation, but the moist, cool air of the bay preserves its freshness, and in many instances it is actually better when it reaches the market than when taken from the tree or vine. Steam power may be employed, *ad libitum*, to secure the benefit of prompt and regular transportation. In many instances heretofore a single producer has found it to his interest to own and run his own vessel—steam or sailing—for the transportation of his own products; and no obstacle whatever can exist, no inconvenience arise, from a neighborhood arrangement, by which a few smaller producers should unite, and the produce of their adjoining farms, together find transportation to their common market. It can hardly be doubted that under the