

eral culture and drainage, have greatly improved the healthfulness of the whole region. Chills and fevers, formerly common, have almost disappeared, save in limited malarious districts ; and these not more numerous or extensive than in most regions under the same degree of cultivation. There has been very little scientific attention hitherto to the subject of manures, and besides what I have named above and the plowing in of clover, or similar crops to a limited extent, but little manure has been used. The grand manure mine, the hog pen, has been almost unknown, and the swine that have been raised have been permitted to roam at large in the forests and swamps ; a nuisance so great and a crop so small that many farmers have preferred to buy their bacon rather than to raise and catch it.

Numerous and extensive beds of green shell marl are found and though used to a limited extent, their value has never been fully improved. In the judgment of scientific men it is pronounced superior to the green sand of New Jersey, and that is so highly prized by the farmers of that State and of Pennsylvania, that it is extensively used at places so remote from the beds where it is found, as to cost the consumer twenty-five cents a bushel. When a trade shall be opened up in this, so extensive as to justify the use of steam excavators, with suitable appliances, and transportation by water, it might profitably be furnished at a fourth of that sum, and bring wealth both to consumer and producer.

There are several "Gum Swamps" of considerable extent which have never produced any thing of more value than gum trees for fuel. This tree, the *Nyssa multiflora*, is the same that is known in the north as the pepperidge, and northern men will readily understand the character of the soil from which it springs. In the swamp and marshes, asparagus grows wild in great quantities and considerable perfection, and in the fields tomatoes are equally indigenous.

In the northern part of Worcester county and extending across into Delaware, is a high table land known as the "Cypress Swamp," far the most extensive of the swamps of the State. It has an area of about 50,000 acres, and has been comparatively worthless. The cypress timber has from time to time been cut off by the manufacturers of *cedar* ware, but no other use has been made of the land, which has been regarded as a worthless quaking morass. Of late years many fields have been redeemed from the margin of the waste, developing an underlying soil of surpassing richness and fertility. Being the highest land upon the Eastern Shore, the source of the Pocomoke river, and numerous smaller streams which flow into the St. Martin's river and Sinepuxent bay, the feasibility of draining and redeeming the whole swamp