

In the Southern part of this District tobacco has been long the leading article of export. "The weed" is raised of excellent quality, but the crop is not as heavy per acre as is reported to have been produced of late years in some localities further North; still the aggregate of the crop is large; Prince George's county alone having produced as high as eight to ten millions of pounds a year.

The mines of this District are numerous and valuable. Perhaps the most remarkable of these is the clay-beds—iron-ore clays and others—which extend through this District from the Potomac to the Susquehanna, and attracts the attention of travellers by railroad between Havre de Grace and Washington. These beds of clay, at several points between Baltimore and Washington, are elevated into hills, popularly called "mine banks," and with their interlying strata of sand and gravel attain an elevation of two hundred feet above tide water. The iron-ore clay is so named from masses of the argillaceous carbonate of iron which are found embedded in it. These exist in the form of nodules or irregular balls, varying in weight from a few pounds to a hundred, or even larger, and afford iron of a very superior quality. The clay in which they are found is free from sand, plastic, and well adapted for working by the potter. The abundance of iron which it contains gives the wares manufactured from it a decidedly red shade, thus unfitting it for the choicer wares, but not at all impairing its value for the manufacture of bricks, to which it is largely applied, and for which it has no superior upon the continent.

There is scarcely any limit to the "stone ware," "queen's ware" and common red ware which may be produced by the potteries among these clay-beds, and the bricks and draining tile have already an established reputation both for quality and cheapness.

In the lower beds, clay of a different quality is found, some of it so nearly free from iron as to burn to every shade of color, from an almost pure white to a very light gray, and from that to a lead color. The white clays have been brought into very little use, but their purity in several localities is such, that there can be no doubt that they eventually will be used extensively.

Another class of these beds presents a clay composed almost entirely of alumina and silica, combined in such proportions as to furnish a material for the manufacture of *fire bricks* of the best quality known to the market. Save in the continuance of these beds to a very limited extent into Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey, no clay of this quality is believed to exist in the United States. In Eastern Pennsylvania the