

supply is inadequate to their own demand, and she already furnishes a market for this article to Maryland, which has already been able almost entirely to drive the English firebricks from the American market. As manufactures revive this will become an important interest.

In the Northern portion of this District are hills of metamorphic rocks, talcose and mica slates and limestones, which contain a variety of rare minerals.

Chromic iron ore has been extensively found, and the deposits largely worked. The chrome derived thence has supplied, to a great extent, the markets of Europe as well as America with this pigment. In the metamorphic rocks mines of copper exist, and are worked at several points, while hematite ore is supplied to several furnaces. Marble and limestone of excellent quality are largely quarried in the same group of rocks, while epsom salts and magnesia are manufactured from the silicates and hydrates of these minerals. Not less than two varieties of granite of good quality, and one of sandstone—called "seneca sandstone"—has been quarried for building purposes, and are extensively used.

### ST. MARY'S COUNTY.

St. Mary's county occupies the southeast portion of the State, on the western shore of Chesapeake bay. It extends from Wicomico river to the Potomac, and from Indian creek to Point Lookout, being almost insulated by the finest waters of the State. Its southern coast has several inlets (rivers they are locally called) communicating with the Potomac, and the coast facing on the Chesapeake and Patuxent river has the same general character. The interior is well drained by creeks flowing into these inlets, and some of them afford water power.

The surface is low and level in the southern and middle parts of the county, but in the northwest it is undulating.

When first settled the soil consisted of a "black mold in many places to a depth of two feet, under which was loam," and the universal practice of the planters was to alternate the crops of tobacco and corn, without allowing any rest to the land, or applying any renovator, until the productiveness of the region was decreased to such an extent, that in many places the crops would scarcely bring the cost of raising them. The last thirty years have witnessed a great improvement in the farming of the county, and the crops of wheat have often been quadrupled by intelligent management. This improvement has been mainly produced by the use of lime and marl.