

“a hundred sail of ships, at his Lordship’s vast expense, industry and hazard” did yearly convey the tobacco from this locality to England and the West Indies.

The climate is temperate and healthy, and the facilities for transportation of produce are naturally ample. The fine navigable rivers which border it and connect it with the Chesapeake, and the proximity of Washington, offer advantages which an industrious and thrifty population could not fail to improve.

Near Oxon creek are large supplies of sulphuret of iron. It is not improbable that manufactures of sulphuric acid from this mineral may be commenced, since new improvements have been perfected.

At Fort Washington there is a ferruginous clay, known by the name of “bole,” which is employed to dye cloth and thread, of a red color. This substance when heated attracts the magnet. Here also are found petrified shells weighing several pounds.

Iron ore is abundant in some sections. The tripoli mentioned before is found in many localities, and at Nottingham the export of it to the large markets of our own country has commenced in a small way.

Excellent water-power is found in the county, but is improved only to a limited degree.

Besides the facilities for reaching markets which are furnished by the Potomac and Patuxent rivers, the Baltimore and Washington railroad traverses the entire north-western side of the county, and places the resident within an hour and a half of Baltimore, and a few minutes ride of Washington.

Some of the finest farming in the State is done in this county, and the State Agricultural College is located here. In its vicinity there have been culture, crops and cattle unsurpassed in Maryland, perhaps unsurpassed in the country.

Wine has been and can be successfully cultivated in this county.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

Montgomery county lies between the Patuxent and Potomac rivers, being adjacent to the District of Columbia at its southern corner. It is bounded north-west by Frederick county, and south-east by Prince George’s county and the District of Columbia.