

of the county, which will no doubt be built in a few years, and will greatly facilitate communication with Washington, inasmuch as it will diminish the distance between Washington and the West not less than sixty miles.

This county has suffered largely during the last four years at the hands of marauding bands of rebels—great and small. With the suppression of the rebellion a new future must open before it; the great growth of Washington will furnish her farms and gardens a ready market for all their produce; and the manure piles of Washington will furnish fertility both to Montgomery and Prince George's. No immigrant who desires to devote himself to market gardening should pass this county by without a careful examination.

HOWARD COUNTY.

Howard county is situated between the Patapsco and Patuxent rivers, lying north-west of Anne Arundel county.

Numerous streams rising from the interior of the county fall into the rivers which almost surround it, and in their course afford considerable water power. These mill sites are to a great extent improved; and around the various factories of cotton and wool, have sprung up flourishing villages, and thriving neighborhoods.

The surface of the county is undulating and the soil productive. A range of high hills, known as "the Elk Ridge," extends nearly through the county. Excellent wheat land, and some of the finest farms for the raising of cattle and sheep, which the State contains are to be found upon this ridge.

There is a variety of granite quarried near the Little Patuxent river, a short distance above the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, of a very light shade of gray, which much resembles the famous Quincy granite. There are many varieties of granite quarried between Baltimore and Sykesville. One variety called porphyritic granite, has reddish crystals of felspar disseminated through its mass.

The Cathedral and Record office in Baltimore were built of the granite quarried on the Patapsco river.

Pure air, the finest of water, and abundance of beautiful building sites are to be had in this county. These, coupled with a fertile soil, proximity to flourishing villages, ready communication by Rail Road with Baltimore and Washington, and the advantage of successful experiments upon the soil already made, and farms in a good state of cultivation, render this county a very desirable location.