

the large quantity of magnesia in its soil. A serpentine formation found there contains chromiferous iron ore. It was from this ore that chrome was first obtained in sufficient quantities to be used as a pigment. From this deposit, and the veins in Montgomery and Harford and Cecil counties, which are probably a continuation of the same, all the chrome used in this country has been obtained, and much of that used in Europe. On the eastern border of the Bare Hills a copper mine has been opened. Six miles south-west of Bare Hills is another location where the chrome has been manufactured, and also epsom salts.

The lead colored clays in the vicinity of Baltimore have always been celebrated for producing building bricks, unequalled in the country for uniformity of color and smoothness. These clays are also manufactured into the Baltimore stone ware and the usual varieties of glazed and unglazed red earthen ware.

There is an unlimited amount of marble in Baltimore county, and it may be divided into three varieties:

1st. The fine grained white, or nearly white marble; such as that from which the Washington Monument in Baltimore was constructed. The best of this variety is taken out from the quarries near Cockeysville and Texas. The strata in these quarries is nearly horizontal, which facilitates the quarrying of huge blocks.

2d. The alum marble. This variety is well known from its use in the construction of the Patent Office at Washington. This kind has been proven to be of great strength by experiments, but the large crystalline grains which are thought to improve its beauty, increase the labor, and consequently the cost of dressing it.

3d. The grey or bluish grey marble, which is liable to turn yellow from the oxidation of grains of iron pyrites disseminated in it.

Large quantities of lime of excellent quality is prepared for market along the line of the Northern Central Railway.

Pure corundum, which when ground or powdered is sold under the name of emery, has been found twenty-one miles north of Baltimore. It has never been put to any practical use to any considerable extent.

The Northern Central Railway extends the whole length of the county; on the eastern side the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad passes through the whole range of market farms as far as Gunpowder river, and in addition to these the Back river, Middle river and Gunpowder