

river, with excellent turnpikes radiating from Baltimore, afford all that could be desired of facilities for reaching the markets of that city.

## THE MOUNTAINOUS DISTRICT.

The last two preceding counties, with Cecil previously sketched, and all that remain, bound upon Pennsylvania, and have been sometimes grouped together in descriptions of the agricultural resources and attractions of the State. This is scientifically inaccurate, although there is great similarity in their general agricultural productions. Through this whole range also, the counties of Maryland are very similar in all their productions to the adjoining counties of Pennsylvania.

It is here styled the Mountainous District merely for convenience of designation, not in any invidious sense, nor because the region is untraversable or uncultivable. On the contrary, it contains some of the finest roads and most desirable farms in the State. It includes four counties, Carroll, Frederick, Washington and Allegany, and has its eastern boundary in the range of stratified rocks, granite, (or more properly gneiss), slates and limestones, which lie nearly parallel with the Atlantic coast, and form the limit of the tertiary formation. The width of this range from its eastern border to the points where it is covered with "middle secondary red sandstone," is from twenty to thirty miles. This region is characterized by hills of moderate height, whose rounded summits present a striking contrast to the long parallel ridges of the Alleghenies. They are covered with verdure, and the streams which intersect them are, for the most part, characterized by abrupt banks with very small tracts of alluvial soil.

The narrow strip of red sandstone may be traced from New Jersey, through Pennsylvania, enters Maryland and passes through Carroll and the eastern portion of Frederick county, to and across the Potomac, just west of Montgomery county. In this geological formation mines of copper, more or less frequent, are found throughout the United States.

The belt of metamorphic rocks lying west of the sandstone trough, has a width of but a few miles; and at the western line of Frederick county, the Catoctin and South Mountain range, are found the silurian rocks, the Potsdam sandstones, the Trenton and associated limestones, and generally the first rocks of Appalachian range. This range extends from Vermont to Alabama, under various names, and its geological features have been too often described, and are too familiar to