

FREDERICK COUNTY.

This county which is one of the richest and most beautiful counties in the State, lies between the State line on the north and Montgomery county on the South, and between Carroll county on the east and Washington county on the west.

The largest streams in it are the Monocacy and Catoctin rivers, both tributaries of the Potomac.

The general character of the soil is limestone, interspersed with a slaty soil and some "red land." It is easily worked and produces large crops of wheat and corn. The surface is undulating, but in the western portion near South Mountain it is somewhat hilly and broken. The eastern slope of the Catoctin mountain produces grapes whose quality is unsurpassed, and these lands are rated very cheap. The catawba and other varieties grow there with entire success. Besides wheat and corn the heaviest product is hay. The most fertile parts of the county are the Middletown valley, the Monocacy valley and the eastern side of the county.

The price of good farms with improvements, according to location, &c., ranges from \$45 00 to \$200 00 per acre. Wood land from \$30 00 to \$100 00. There is very little worn out land in the county; price of such from \$10 00 to \$20 00 per acre. More than half the farm lands are of first rate quality. The size of the farms from 100 to 150 acres.

Water power occurs in almost every locality. Streams and springs which have their sources in the adjacent mountains, flow through every farm, and furnish abundance of the purest water. These streams have sufficient fall to make them available for manufacturing or agricultural purposes. The roads are excellent, the scenery magnificent.

The narrow valley extending from the Monocacy to Buckeystown and beyond, is rich in a deposit of fresh water marl. This marl is deposited by the waters of the streams. It consists of lime and earthy matters, and extends to a considerable depth. There is enough in this single deposit to enrich thousands of acres, and there are probably many similar deposits in this and Washington county.

Copper mines in the Linganore section have been worked ever since the Revolutionary war. Near the town of Liberty two of these mines have been extensively worked, but the excessive prices of transportation have caused their neglect for some years.

There are good quarries of slate in the same district which has been applied to local uses, but the cost of transportation has prevented their being largely worked. At Ijamsville, on