

ern Maryland Road will traverse the northern portion of the county, and a new line will soon be constructed from the Monocacy or Point of Rocks through Montgomery county direct to Washington, bringing the whole of this rich county close to good markets.

WASHINGTON COUNTY.

Washington county occupies a large and valuable tract in the western part of the State. It extends from the Pennsylvania State line on the north to the Potomac river on the south. It is bounded on the east by Frederick county at the South Mountain, and on the west by Allegany county at Sideling Hill creek. The windings of the Potomac make the southern boundary very irregular, and the width of the county north and south varies from three to thirty miles.

The surface is partly mountainous, but the intervals are wide and finely undulating. The principal vallies are those through which Antietam, Conococheague and Israel creeks flow to the Potomac river. Lime and slate are the chief rocks. The limestone rocks are cavernous, which imparts a peculiarity to the physical geography. Most of the streams are fed by copious springs in such abundance that they furnish mill seats a few hundred feet from their sources. These streams are charged with bicarbonate of lime acquired by contact with limestone rocks in subterranean reservoirs.

The most fertile lands are based on limestone clay, those on slate being usually thin. The limestone clay and "white oak" lands are very productive, and are sold at an average of \$80 per acre. Wood land at \$150. Worn out land, which is very scarce, at \$40 per acre. The number of acres in a farm is from 150 to 400. In the western part of the county, the soil is sandy or gravelly, sometimes mixed with red shale, and well adapted to wheat, grass, and stock raising. In this vicinity land is from \$4 to \$40 per acre. Water power is abundant.

The cereals mostly cultivated on the limestone lands are wheat and corn. The corn sometimes yields 100 bushels per acre; but 60 bushels is a full average crop. Wheat will not average under the present styles of cultivation more than 18 bushels per acre, but if the land is fresh broken 30 bushels per acre are often raised. Potatoes are not abundant; the corn land being too heavy for them. A tract of land lying along the base of South Mountain, peculiarly sandy is admirably adapted to their growth, and has yielded 250 bushels to the acre.

The cultivation of sorghum has commenced, and will no doubt increase in a ratio with a knowledge of the art of man-