

war a persistent effort was made to destroy the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and for months there was daily more or less cannonading and musketry firing across the Potomac between its assailants and defenders. In the subsequent great invasions of Maryland in 1862, 1863, and 1864, there was an almost total destruction of crops, fences and stock, through Washington county. It will take years of industry, frugality and prosperity, to repair these losses, but it is "only a question of time." Elasticity and energy will restore what vandals swept away—all save the priceless lives and desolated hearth-stones.

### ALLEGANY COUNTY.

Allegheny county occupies the north-western part of the State, and is crossed by the range of mountains from which it takes its name. In geological character it resembles the Allegheny regions generally, the prevailing rocks being various colored sand stones and lime stones, traversed with quartz, slate and shales.

The elevation of this county above tide water is so great, that the summer is much cooler than on the shores of the bay, and frosts linger later and sooner re-appear.

The rivers which take their rise in the mountain gorges of this county, find their way eastward through the Potomac, to the Atlantic ocean, and west through the Monongahela, Ohio and Mississippi rivers, to the Gulf of Mexico. The largest streams in the county, are the Youghiogany or Yog river, George's, Savage, Wills, Town and Fifteen Mile creeks, all of these, except the first named, empty into the Potomac which makes the entire southern boundary of the county.

The surface of this county is rugged and broken, and the greater part still covered with the native forest, but the mountainous districts are alternated with broad level valleys called glades. They are as yet mainly unenclosed and unimproved. These glades or meadows, for miles are as flat as the tide water marshes, and are covered with natural grass without timber or trees of any sort. The soils of these glades contains large proportions of vegetable matter to a depth of many feet. It is dark, porous and chaffy, like the black gum swams of the Eastern Shore. The spontaneous grasses of these glades are famed for their luxuriance and the rich nutriment they afford. Before the present war, thousands of cattle were annually driven over from Virginia every season to fatten on the abundant grass, and the butter made in these elevated valleys, rivalled the celebrated Goshen county butter of the New York market. The lofty hill sides protect these glades from the cold to such a degree, that out door