

CHAPTER VIII.

MARBLE.

There are many varieties of marble in this State, but with the exception of the white limestone near Texas, in Baltimore county, they have not extensively worked as marble.

In the last report all the kinds that had come under my notice were briefly described, and there is little to be added to the subject at this time. It may be proper to repeat my former suggestion upon this subject, which is as follows :

“ In order to assist in bringing the many varieties of Maryland marbles to the notice of those disposed to operate in this branch of industry, I propose to make a collection which shall embrace each kind in every locality, in order that dealers in marble may know where they can be had.

“ For this purpose I beg leave to suggest to all parties owning marble, that if they will forward me suitable samples of each variety they possess, I will take the proper means to exhibit and bring them into notice.

“ The samples should be one inch thick and six inches square, polished on one side and dressed smoothly on the other sides, so that they may be properly placed in a case.”

If samples of our many kinds of marble could be exhibited in Baltimore and Washington, our trade in that material would doubtless be much increased. If the owners of all such marbles will send me samples prepared in the manner proposed, I will make proper exertions to bring them into notice.

Among the additional localities at which useful varieties of marble may be obtained is one on the estate of Mr. Joseph Chaney, on the Antietam Creek, six miles south of Hagerstown. It is white with a fine grain, but must be worked to a greater depth in order to determine whether it can be obtained in large blocks, suitable for statuary and architectural purposes.

About five miles below Williamsport there is a hard calcaneous black slate which readily splits into parallel layers from half an inch to three inches in thickness. It takes a fine polish, is durable, and should be brought into use for all those purposes for which black tile is required. It ought to be supplied at less cost than the foreign article which has hitherto usurped the market.