

HYDRAULIC CEMENT.

There is nothing to be added to what was said in the first report upon the limestones used for this purpose. The formation which contains it is accessible at many points in Maryland between the North mountain and Wills Mountain, but I believe there has been no increase in the number of factories where it is prepared beyond those of Messrs. Lynn, at Cumberland, and Mr. Schaeffer, near Hancock, noticed in the first report.*

FLAG STONES AND TILES.

This material continues to be imported from the State of New York, and I am not aware that any attempts have been made to bring the flags of our own State into use except for local purposes. I am not without hope, however, that upon the return of more peaceful times some energetic operator will bring into the market the flags from near Hancock and other points referred to in the last report.

There is ample reason to believe that some of the hard, smooth slates underlying the Pottsdam sandstone of the Catoctin, are admirably suited for the manufacture of tiles for paving. Of late years the use of tiles has been largely increased for halls and other parts of the interior of buildings, and for yards and areas around them. Various kinds are in use, including marble, fine sandstones, slate, and those made by the potter, which have been extensively imported from Europe.

The slates of the Catoctin bear a sufficiently smooth polish, are hard, and completely resist the effects of the weather, and are therefore suited for use within buildings or exposed to the weather. They present various shades of blue, green and grey, in different layers, so as to give opportunity for a tasteful arrangement in the use of the tiles.

Mr. Sifford, of Frederick, who has erected machinery for sawing and polishing marble, has opened a fine quarry of these variegated slates at the base of the High Knob, six miles west-northwest from Frederick. The samples were handsome, and those tiles will prove more durable than such as are made either of marble or sandstone. They have the advantage over these, as well as the potters' tiles, in not being so readily broken.

ROOFING SLATES.

The importance of this material as a branch of productive industry, and also as furnishing a means of protection of houses from fire, induced a pretty full account of the slate quarries to be given in the first report. It was also stated that no roof slates were found at any point west of the Maryland slate quarries until we approach the Rocky Mountains, and a hope was ex-