

The third, which contains the minute grains of sand, and may be used for many kinds of iron manufacture, which are to be quickly smoothed off, and do not require a *fine* polish.

The principal supplies of tripoli for the arts have been obtained from Bilin, in Bohemia, which is *decidedly inferior* in quality to the Maryland article.

Another material called "Pure Mount Eagle Tripoli" has been largely manufactured in one of the Northern States. So far from being a *pure tripoli*, it has *not a particle of tripoli* in its composition. The microscope reveals its character, and shows that it consists of finely powdered granite rock of the variety called pegmatite, or some other of the disintegrated granites, which do not contain mica. Upon washing off the finest of the powder, we have a residuum of what, under the microscope, appears very distinctly to be grains of quartz and felspar, so that it has no title whatever to the name of tripoli.

If any rock largely abounding in quartz be reduced to a fine powder, it may be used for such purposes when a better material cannot be obtained. But it is altogether a misnomer to call such products tripoli, from which, as has been shown, it differs altogether.

It is not practicable, by any mechanical means whatever, to powder these stones so fine that each minute grain of the powder will not be larger than the thin fragments of the diatoms in tripoli.

If a trade were properly organized in the Maryland article, it could be supplied to the English and French markets at half the cost of the Bilin tripoli.

### 3.—BRISTOL BRICKS.

An article bearing this name is largely imported into this country from England, and is used in manufactories, as well as for domestic purposes, for brightening iron and steel when fine polishing is not desired. These bricks, although of less than half the size of building brick, sell at about twenty-five dollars per thousand.

I have long believed that the sedimentary deposits in the tide-water counties of Maryland contained material suited for making this kind of brick at a much less cost than the foreign article. I have not been disappointed in this expectation, and find the material at several localities. It consists almost wholly of grains of sand so extremely fine as to adhere together analagous to the particles of clay.

A very superior material of this kind exists on the farm of Mr. R. Jenkins Henry, near Berlin, in Worcester county. The grains of sand are so small as to be undistinguishable by the naked eye, and when worked up wet and then dried by exposure to the air, it forms a sufficiently firm mass to bear transportation, like the Bristol brick. I have also met with similar materials at other points, which invite the attention of enterprising persons, and which may be described hereafter.