

Westward of the North mountain we have several ranges of lime-stone in Washington and Alleghany counties which are numbered 15 in the table in chapter III.

The different beds of these vary considerably in composition and characters. The lower strata contain the material for hydraulic lime, which will be noticed in another page.

Some of the upper layers abound with casts of fossil shells and corals. The mass of the stone is black or dark blue, whilst the lighter color of the fossils gives the marble, when polished, a beautiful appearance.

The bed of limestone in formation, No. 18, immediately under the coal formation, is not likely to be available as a marble. Those intercalated among the coal strata, are in beds too thin to give promise of being profitably worked as marble, although I have seen highly polished mantle pieces which were admired by those who prefer black marble for such uses.

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 the 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.

III. HYDRAULIC CEMENT.

As before stated, the limestone, No. 15, has among its lower beds some layers of great value, because when properly calcined and ground, they produce hydraulic lime, or that which will harden under water or in damp places.

The manufacture of this article has been carried on by Messrs. Lynn at Cumberland, very successfully for many years. Mr. Charles P. Manning, chief engineer of the new Baltimore water works, informs me that after having tried all the cements of northern manufacture, he found the Maryland article from the Messrs. Lynn the best. It *sets*, or hardens very quickly, is strong, and impervious to water.

There are six kilns in use, and I was informed by Mr. Lynn that they have machinery which can produce 1,500 bushels per day.

Another cement manufactory is located on the Cumberland and Ohio Canal, three miles above Hancock; the material being also from the lower strata of the limestone, No. 18. It belongs to Mr. Frederick Schaeffer, of Funkstown, Washington county, and is under the management of Mr. Hook. I had an opportunity to witness an experiment in which the cement, upon being properly mixed, became quite hard and strong in a few minutes.

The consumption of cement is rapidly increasing, and will require an increase of the productive capacity of these works and the establishment of others in this limestone, which, it will have been noticed, is abundant in our State. Not only can our own wants be supplied, but the production may be increased to an amount equal to any demand for exportation.

II. BUILDING STONE.

The northwestern half of the State contains many varieties of excellent building stone, which are of local value, and are well known to those who desire to use them in constructions. There are, however, others which, in addition to the extensive local uses, are distributed to the tide water districts, and to some extent exported.

Granite.

There are extensive quarries of granite along and near the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, at several points between Baltimore and Sykesville. Some of these are actively worked, and give rise to a considerable branch of productive industry.