

Considerations of this kind have impressed themselves upon the minds of the public, and have infused a lively interest in the progress of agriculture with a desire for its improvement. Those more immediately interested are duly sensible of the fact that "knowledge is power," and that to perform any operation to the *best advantage*, requires a knowledge of all the circumstances connected with it. In days long past farmers were, in general, mere laborers; working without thought, (so to speak). But in the progress of time, as their position gradually changed from tenants to land-owners, and as their means for acquiring knowledge increased, they discovered that their occupation required mental as well as physical labor. The natural result has been an increasing desire for further and full information, in reference to those sciences more immediately connected with their pursuits.

An extensive acquaintance with agriculturalists in several of the counties during many years past, has given me abundant evidence of this increasing desire for knowledge. They are fully aware of the importance of knowing *what a soil is*, and also, that this question can only be fully answered by tracing it from its origin and through all its successive changes, both physical and chemical. And further, they are satisfied that this essential investigation can only be properly made, with the aid of geology and chemistry. They also desire this aid in the application of our various resources, suited to the improvement of their soils, and to other purposes.

We have, in fact, abundant evidence of this tendency among the intelligent agriculturalists of our State, to become better acquainted with the sciences connected with their profession: witness the agricultural periodicals and other useful publications in their homes, and their intelligent remarks upon what they read. Another evidence is the establishment of a State Agricultural College. The creation of this institution, so honorable to its founders, proves clearly that the farmers and planters of Maryland are determined that their sons shall not have to toil in "the pursuit of knowledge under difficulties," as has been their own lot. They have, therefore, reared a noble institution for the education of their sons; not only to aid them in cultivating the soil in such manner as to obtain a maximum product, but to give the agriculturalist the rank among men to which he is entitled, but has not yet obtained.

With able and accomplished professors, the College has been opened, and as I had an opportunity to observe during a recent visit, it is in successful operation, under the most favorable auspices. I cannot but believe that so valuable an institution will be fully sustained by our people, and such aid afforded as will increase its sphere of usefulness.

We may confidently expect that when the graduates of the College shall take their positions as farmers and planters, a