

which with the corals must have existed when the climate of our latitudes was much warmer than at the present time.

Besides these shells and corals, it also contains remains of whales, dolphins, sharks, and other fish, to be hereafter noticed.

The tertiary groups occupy all of the western shore south of the cretaceous, including St. Mary's, Charles, and Calvert, and portions of Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties. On the Eastern Shore they are believed to reach from a line a little northwest of Chester river southward to a line running from near the head of the Little Choptank, and eastward to the Delaware line.

They embrace a small portion of Kent and Dorchester, and all of Queen Anne's, Talbot, and Caroline.

They possess the highest agricultural interest from the fact that they contain the very extensive deposits of "shell marl," which have so largely contributed to increase the productive value of the land of the middle counties of the Eastern Shore.

These will be fully noticed in a subsequent chapter.

The soils of this region, except the sandy districts, were originally among the most fertile in the country. A long course of improvident agriculture in former days sadly impaired their producing value. Improved systems of farming have, however, restored the fertility of large portions of it. One of the most efficient means has been in the use of shell marl.

FORMATION No. 24. POST TERTIARY.

This formation embraces Worcester, Somerset, and the greater portion of Dorchester, county, and consists of beds of loamy clays and sands, which it is believed have not been elevated more than from ten to thirty or forty feet above the tide level. The numerous islands in the Chesapeake bay are also post tertiary.

As it contains very few fossils and perhaps none that will serve certainly to characterize it, the name is applied because of its position being above the tertiary.

The characters of the soil, in connexion with the circumstances under which this region seems to have been formed, indicates that it consists of sediments derived from the water whilst flowing over it from the various formations already noticed. We can detect in the soil and in its subjacent beds matters that *must* have come from points north and west of the North Mountain. Except in some very sandy districts it furnishes a mixed soil whose fertility is readily maintained or improved.