

supposed to occupy what was once the bed of a large river. In process of time the older formations, from No. 1 to No. 7, sank to a much lower level, whilst the elevation of the newer on the west continued until the mountain ridges have attained the heights of two to three thousand feet, which changed the course of the drainage from west to east.

Since this change took place the debris brought down by rains and streams has been deposited on the southeast of the older rocks, (No. 5.) and successively formed the cretaceous, tertiary, and post tertiary, which have also been elevated above the tide level. Deposits of this kind are still in progress in tide water creeks and rivers, as is well known to many of our people.

In addition to the numerous bars which are being formed in the bay, there are continual additions to the area of lowlands at the water level, especially on the lower Eastern Shore counties, and at the head of tide in almost all our rivers and creeks. It is needless to give instances in proof of facts so obvious to all acquainted with our tide-water counties.

Whether these additions are to be elevated for the use of man can only be determined by the wise Providence who directs them.

Subsequent to the deposit of our newest post tertiary, there appears to have been a period during which excessive rains and floods prevailed, and this was before the land had attained its present elevation. It would seem, in fact, from the existence of water-worn pebbles and small boulders, that the cretaceous and the metamorphic rocks, which underlie it, must have been elevated four to five hundred feet since this drift period.

It is probable that it was during this era that the northern portions of Europe and America were deluged by these floods, supposed to have transported icebergs, bearing the enormous masses of rock boulders, which are strewed over the Northern States. These boulders, gravel and coarse sand cover large portions of the Northern and Eastern States, and are the cause of the original infertility of the regions it covers. This drift deposit reaches as far south as the middle portions of Pennsylvania and Ohio, but with diminished size and number of boulders.

Although the great flow of waters from the North did not reach Maryland, there were the local drifts before adverted to. We know they were local, because we can trace them to their origin in the regions drained by the Susquehanna, Potomac and other rivers. Some of their pebbles were derived from the detritus of rocks southeastward of the South Mountain, whilst others consist of chert and minerals which only exist between that and the Savage or Allegheny Mountains.

This seems to have been the last of the great changes which