

was pleased to find the use of lime was becoming general, and its value for improving the soil now strongly insisted upon.

In the tide-water counties the use of lime has been extended to an enormous amount, and it has been one of the important means by which the productiveness of those counties has been so greatly increased.

One source from which a large proportion of the lime is obtained for the use of the tide-water counties is at Wrightsville, Pennsylvania, and although out of this State, yet it is of so much importance to our citizens that it is my intention at a very early period to thoroughly investigate the quarries at that place.

One of the principal proprietors of those quarries, Mr. Briscoe, informs me that there are inexhaustible supplies of each of the several varieties, and that they are prepared to furnish our farmers with whichever may be found best suited to our soils. Its general characters are similar to those of the blue limestone No. 10 of Frederick county. It contains moderate proportions of magnesia, silica, and alumina. One advantage before referred to in lime of this kind is in the fact that owing to the fineness of the silica there is more silicate of lime formed in burning than in those kinds whose silica is in coarse sandy grains.

#### *Oyster-shell Lime.*

We have two sources of this material in Maryland, one of which is known by the name of *Indian shells*, from the fact of having been left upon the banks of our tide-water rivers and creeks by the Indians, who seem to have had an especial fondness for the oyster, if we are to judge by the quantity of shells remaining.

In some localities where they have lain many hundreds or perhaps thousands of years, exposed to the weather, they are in such a state of disintegration as to be advantageously applied without burning or sifting.

There are besides large masses of shells which have suffered little change except in the loss of nearly all their animal matter, and should be calcined into lime before being applied to the soil. As there is a considerable portion of earthy matters mixed up with them, it is necessary that they should be screened before being calcined. The fine matter which passes through the screen, as it contains phosphates and animal matters, is a valuable manure especially for the garden.

#### *Recent Oyster Shells.*

It is estimated that about five millions of oysters are annu-