

Mary's, Charles, and in the southern part of Prince George's county. Its characters are similar to those of the marls which have been extensively used on the Eastern Shore. A large proportion of the most valuable beds in the above named counties are so much elevated above the water level, as to permit them to be worked out very cheaply.

In excavating the marl on the Eastern Shore, owing to the low level of most of the beds, the work is often much hindered by the water collecting in the pits. On the Western Shore this difficulty will not so frequently present itself.

I am at a loss to understand why it is that a manure, which has produced such beneficial results, and is so extensively used on the Eastern shore of Maryland, and in many counties in Virginia, should be wholly neglected in our Western Shore counties.

The soils of those counties (as is almost invariably the case with soils which have been long under cultivation) are certainly deficient in both carbonate and phosphate of lime. And yet I have noticed, in some instances, that parties were buying lime and phosphatic guanos, from abroad, to supply deficiencies which could have been more cheaply obtained in substance at home.

On the Eastern Shore I learned that the digging of marl is done in the winter; and, owing to its low position in most cases, it is thrown from the pits upon land above the water level, and hauled and applied to the soil when convenient. By this means, full employment is given to the hands during the winter, when there is little other active work to be done on the farm. When an additional force is required, the price is one cent per bushel for digging and throwing out of the pit. There, as in the Jersey marl pits, full employment can be had for all the spare hands on the farm; and, in fact, labor is also drawn from elsewhere, because constant employment is given during the winter.

There are situations on both Shores, at which excellent marl can be dug and put on board of vessels, at a cost of from one to one and a quarter cents per bushel. A proprietor could, in fact, with proper conveniences, do a good business at some of these places, by delivering it on board of vessels for two cents per bushel, including a fair profit; and if the freight be two cents, the marl could be delivered to points not exceeding—say fifty or sixty miles, for four cents, and probably to any part of our bay or navigable rivers for an additional cent.

A few of these localities on each shore may be named. The first is in Talbot county, on the west bank of the Choptank river, thirty miles above its mouth, and five miles from Easton. The second is in St. Mary's county, on the farm of