

When the act of 1834, providing for the completion of a Topographical and Geological Survey of the State, was drawn out, you will recollect, for the act was reported by yourself, that I gave it as my opinion, it would require *six years* to complete the geological part, with that minuteness essential to a full and entire developement of the mineral resources of the State. Four years have elapsed since the passage of that act, during which time it has been my good fortune to discover infinitely more resources of all kinds, than I had in my fondest anticipations imagined to exist. In pointing out these resources to my fellow citizens, I could not remain satisfied with merely indicating to them their value, but I interpreted my duties to extend so far as to put them in the way of employing them to the best advantage, by instituting a series of experiments and trials calculated to *demonstrate* their value, and at the same time to secur their fruition. Having adopted this plan, which I considered the best calculated to dispense effectually and generally the benefits of the survey, it frequently became necessary for me to revisit several times, certain districts in which new resources had been discovered, that at my suggestion, were submitted to trial in various ways.

When I made the discovery on the Eastern Shore, of the *greensand*, a material so extensively and beneficially employed as marl in New Jersey, I thought it advisable to proceed to that State, to ascertain all its geological relations, in order that I might be better able to direct its research under circumstances which concealed it from the view, and at the same time to inquire into the best mode of using it. From these and other causes, growing out of the nature of the survey, and my desire to extend its benefits to every one, as well as from the character of the country, so beautifully but yet so intricately intersected by water-courses, the tide-water districts, which the act made it necessary for me to visit first, have occupied more time than I had expected, and are now but just completed.

My researches have not been confined, so far however, to the tide-water districts. I have, at the call of persons interested in the immediate developement of some supposed or real resource, made several excursions into the upper counties. In 1834, I made an excursion into Harford in search of *limestone*, which though unsuccessful, resulted in the *negative* advantage of putting a stop to some ruinous projects then on foot, that were leading only to a series of disappointments. In 1836, seeing the interest excited in reference to one of the coal districts of Alleghany county, and observing the loose and unsatisfactory accounts that had been given of it, I visited the Frostburg coal basin which enabled me to furnish the only correct description as yet published, of that most important portion of the State, by which an estimate of the immense value of this region can be easily and safely made. During the past year, besides several excursions in Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties, nearly the whole of Montgomery county has been surveyed and reported upon. Several excursions