

were also made into Frederick county, as will be seen by my report of 1837; so that I have reached the end of the fourth year of the survey, under the act of 1834; having examined with great minuteness and care, more than one-half of the whole State. It is proper to mention however, that previous to the act of '34, one year had already been consumed in making some examinations on the Eastern Shore, so that in fact, I have been five years occupied on the survey.

When not engaged in the field, much of my time is taken up with the examination of specimens of all descriptions that are forwarded to me from all parts of the State, and in replying to a numerous correspondence that has grown out of the duties imposed upon me by the act.

But now Sir, to reply categorically to your question,—when will the Geological Survey of the State be completed? I can only say, that should my health be spared me, and I am permitted to continue my operations upon the same plan that I have heretofore been pursuing, I can see no reason, why in *two* years more, spent in those parts of the State, which though they contain mineral resources of much greater value, and in greater amount are already in a great measure known to me, and may be from their peculiar topography, more easily surveyed. I see no reason, I say, why I may not complete the geological survey in two more years. I may however, require some additional time, should its progress bring to light unexpected resources which the interests of the people of the State might demand to be thoroughly developed.

Whilst upon this subject permit me to add, that it seems to me, that in the spirit of a wise legislation, whenever a measure is productive of good to the community, and so long as it continues to dispense new benefits, there ought to be no particular desire to do away with it. That such is the character of the Geological Survey of Maryland, I appeal with the greatest confidence to my annual reports, and I hold myself bound to show, that if I am permitted to carry out my plans as originally contemplated, if the people will take advantage of the resources that I have already disclosed, and may continue to point out to them, if they will adopt my suggestions as to the best modes of employing them, the increased value of property in the State will have to be estimated by hundreds of thousands of dollars, when the whole cost of the survey shall have fallen short of *twenty thousand* dollars.

I remain,

Very respectfully,

Your Obt. Servt.

J. T. DUCATEL,

State Geologist.

Your committee are unanimously of opinion that it would be inexpedient to repeal the acts and resolutions authorising the survey,