

it is well known, that within the last twenty years, an extensive and lucrative branch of industry has arisen in the state principally derived from its mineral resources.— This branch has been extended not only to the supply of our own wants, but to that of the demands in some respects of the whole union; and has arrived at a successful competition with the products of British and French industry, in a large portion of South America. *Alum* and *Copperas*, so extensively used in the arts, were formerly imported by us from England, under a heavy tax, while inexhaustible mines of the principal materials from which they are obtained remained unknown beneath our feet; and that too, in those very sections of our state deemed the most ill-favoured in other respects; heedless as we were of the truth susceptible of almost universal application, that for those benefits which nature has not scattered on the surface of the earth, she has concealed others beneath it. Many *chemical* compounds, at one time exclusively imported from England, also at an advanced price, whilst the materials for their production occur in the greatest abundance around us, are now manufactured in Baltimore, for the supply of all the states, and for exportation to foreign countries.— Among these may be mentioned *Epsom Salts*, and the preparations of *Magnesia* generally; the material for these coming in this case also, from the most barren districts of our state. The preparations of *Chrome*, used as pigments and dyes, have furnished substitutes, for many articles formerly imported from other countries. And no one would pretend to say that we are as yet acquainted with one half of the mineral wealth which Maryland possesses of the kind just referred to. *Iron ores* are known to exist abundantly. *Copper ores* have been found, and worked. The *Coal* district beyond Cumberland has not been satisfactorily explored. *Anthracite coal* may possibly be found in Frederick county. Quarries of *Marble*, and of the best and most beautiful *building materials*, are already opened in all directions, &c.

The advantages that would accrue to the *agricultural* interest of the state, from a scientific exploration and a careful analysis of its various soils are incalculable. I remember to have heard my former preceptor, Dr. Gerard Frost one of the best informed mineralogists and geologists of our country—and who has just completed a geological survey of Tennessee, by order of the Legislature of that State: say that there was a pretty considerable, though