

on as expeditiously as its nature would allow; and 3dly, that it has been conducted with proper economy.

So far as the duties of the Topographical Engineer are concerned, your committee, having understood that this officer intends to address a communication to this House, setting forth the amount and nature of the services which he has rendered to the State, under this act, together with a detailed statement of the expenditures for the several works in which he has been engaged, abstain from making any comments. They presume, that the House will feel desirous of taking some action upon this communication when it will have made its appearance.

In reference to the duties of the Geologist, so far as regards the benefits which the people have derived from his services, your committee believe, they have much exceeded in value the cost of his portion of the survey. In the course of his scientific investigations, vast agricultural resources, of which the citizens of Maryland were heretofore in ignorance, have been developed, and a fresh impetus given to other modes of improvement previously known and not properly appreciated.

Throughout the tide-water districts, over which the geological survey, thus far, has principally extended, your committee have reason to believe, the value of land has been much enhanced, and mainly too, they think by the operation of this judicious scheme, at which a death-blow is aimed by the order of enquiry now submitted to them.

On the Eastern Shore, where great accumulations of oyster shells occur near the site of former Indian villages, they find a merchantable commodity in the lime into which these shells are readily convertible. Requiring scarce any cutlay, this single article must become, in the hands of the more thrifty farmer, a permanent source of income. The discovery of marl in localities which have always been supposed destitute of any such 'resuscitating agent, has infused new strength and vigor into the hearts of some who were ready, in the fullness of despair, to cherish livelier hopes in sections of country remote from their native State. The mania for emigration had been poisoning the public mind, and it found a powerful disinfectant in this undertaking, which has proved an incentive to homebred industry and homebred enterprize. Nor is it confined in its results to the agricultural interests of the State. The manufacturing portion of our citizens is deeply interested in its being successfully carried out. Several substances of extensive application in the arts have already been detected within our geographical limits by the very indefatigable officer at the head of this survey, who is now devoting all his energies to its completion.

Your committee have enumerated some of the prominent advantages that have accrued to the tide-water districts, and if such has been the amount of discoveries made in those portions of the State, already surveyed, where scarcely any mineral wealth or resource had been previously supposed to occur, they cannot but remain satisfied,