

REPORT OF THE GEOLOGIST.

To his Excellency,

THOMAS W. VEAZEY,

Governor of Maryland.

SIR:—I have the honor to submit to you the result of the discoveries and observations that have been made, during the past year, in furtherance of the geological survey of the State; and in accordance with the plan hitherto pursued, shall not confine myself to an exposition of the progress of the survey, but will embrace within it such disquisitions as may naturally suggest themselves concerning the economical use of the materials that have been found; adding accounts of the most approved modes (in my judgment) of extracting and employing them; as well as furnishing descriptions of their mineralogical characters and geological relations.

It has also been the custom, heretofore, to preface the account of the mineral resources of each county, by one relating to its physical geography and to its agricultural condition. As the introduction of these subjects in the preceding reports, seems to have met with the approbation of the intelligent farmers of the State, and as it is calculated to remove some unfounded prejudices, regarding certain inherent disabilities supposed to exist in portions of the country to profitable cultivation, it will be continued; the more so that it tends to inspire our fellow-citizens with confidence in the susceptibility of their soils to receive a permanent improvement, and enlightens strangers on the subject of the actual resources of the State, which, upon comparison, will be found not to yield, in this respect, to any section of the Union.

With these preliminary remarks, I have the honor of submitting to your excellency the following