

veral excavations have been made into it, with praiseworthy zeal and enterprize by Mr. William Hoffman; but they are of moderate depth—the deepest being only 20 feet, with an additional boring of 40 feet through a grey sandstone. The horizontal diggings into the shale reach only to a few feet, in which seams of coal have been discovered, the largest of which is about two inches.

From the above description of this locality it will no doubt be judged interesting; though it is difficult to pronounce upon its importance as a subject of individual enterprize. The discovery of a coal formation, even of moderate extent, in the vicinity of Fredericktown, would be of incalculable value to its inhabitants, who would be fully justifiable in employing adequate means to bring it to light; whilst such an undertaking would at the same time, certainly merit the encouragement of the State, since it might result in great benefits to the whole community. Whatever assistance I may bring to the project in my official capacity will be most cheerfully given; but, warned by past experience, I do not think myself authorized to undertake the search at the expense exclusively of the State; although there is apparently, in the act authorising the survey, a provision for defraying the costs of similar explorations. It behoves me only to say, that in my opinion the subject is deserving the attention of the State, and that to its entire developement there should be appropriated a due proportion of the contingent fund of the survey.

SEC. VII. *Concluding Remarks.*

Having, in conformity with the plan adopted in my former reports, furnished in the preceding pages an account of such counties, as in the course of my investigations have been either fully explored or sufficiently so, to enable me to give a general view of their actual condition, and of their mineral as well as other resources, it remains for me to submit to your Excellency, a statement of the present condition of our work, its past benefits, and the more sanguine anticipations of ultimate advantages to be derived by the people in the completion of the Survey.

It will be recollected, that the act authorising the survey made it imperative upon me to commence my operations in the tide-water districts, the full examination of which I was to complete before proceeding to the upper counties. It was not supposed, from what was known of the nature of the country, that it contained any great amount of resources, and strong prejudices against its healthfulness, strange misrepresentations of its physical condition were very generally entertained, not only abroad but within our own limits. The thorough examination, which I have had occasion to make of this portion of the territory of Maryland, has resulted in showing, that its agricultural resources are inexhaustible, the average duration of human life within it equal to that of any other parts of the State, its comforts and advantages superior to all, and its physical aspect as fa-