

beauty of the view. The scenery in some parts of Howard and Montgomery, on the Potomac, Chesapeake and Patuxent, the valley of Hanson's Branch and of Piscatawa, in Prince George's county, and that of Port Tobacco, in Charles, equal in reality all that the imagination of poets has described, or the fancy of painters sketched. I shall for a long time remember them, but am not adequate to the task of their faithful description.

In most countries facilities for navigation are attended with some counterbalancing disadvantages, to the surface of the country, but such is not the case here. The Chesapeake Bay, the Patuxent and Potomac rivers contribute no less to the beauty of the country than they do to its economical advantage.

▲ An officer who, during the war of 1812, came with the British army up the Patuxent, informed me that its scenery was the universal admiration of all the officers of the expedition, and by common consent was pronounced equal to any and superior to most they had ever seen. This testimony from men of education, who had visited every section of the globe, is good proof of what I have stated in relation to it.

Oh, great Potomac! You banks of shade,
 You mighty scenes, in Nature's morning made;
 While still in rich magnificence of prime,
 She poured her wonders lavishly sublime,—
 Nor yet had learned to stoop with humbler care,
 From grand to soft, from wonderful to fair;
 * * * * Your towering hills—your boundless floods,
 Your rich savannas, and majestic woods,
 Where bards should meditate, and heroes rove,
 And woman charm, and man deserve her love,

Are no less pleasant to the eye than useful for the purposes of domestic trade and foreign commerce. The foregoing may seem out of place here, but the beauty of a country offers as many inducements for investment of capital and labor in it, as its mere pecuniary advantages, and I should not have done justice to this part of the State had I failed to give its physical aspects.

THE SOIL.

By this is understood that portion of the earth's surface which can be cultivated so as to produce food for its inhabitants. The constituents of the soil are the same as those of plants, i. e., it always contains organic matter, and must contain all of the mineral constituents of plants enumerated in a previous section. But this is not sufficient, it must not be too wet, and must have the physical texture to enable it to absorb matter from the atmosphere. Before going into a particular description of the soils of this part of the State, I will give the analyses of several soils of notorious fertility, in order to show what the *best* soils are.