

level parts of the field, and are of a much deeper color. A specimen of them was sent to me by Mr. Alexander Somerville of Pt. Patience, and from his practical information and my own examination, I have deduced the following rules as to their improvement :

First, they should not be manured with finely rotted stable manure, nor with lime, but should be treated with coarse stable or barn-yard manure plowed in, or with the siftings from shell banks, or with compost manure from marshes or ditch banks. These applications will give a good texture to these places and supply them with all the necessary nutrient substances. A very full and complete report on them was given to the gentleman by whom they were sent, and I am only consoled in not having it to publish, by the knowledge that full information on this subject will be imparted to all those who seek it from him.

RESOURCES FOR IMPROVEMENT.—There is no county in the State that has so much means for the improvement of its soils, and perhaps none that has made generally so little use of them as Calvert county.

These natural resources are the very things which the soils most need to supply them with nutrient substances and improve their mechanical texture, viz : calcareous manures in the form of “ Indian shell banks,” which exist in various parts of the county, on the Patuxent border, and marls, of the variety of either clayey or sandy shell marls. Besides this, the river and the bay can furnish an *illimitable* amount of oyster shells that can easily be burnt into lime.

In my previous Reports, the mode of using these Indian shell banks has been very fully described, and those who have used them fully endorse their value. The coarse *mould* “ sifting ” which is separated from them in the process of screening, as an application for wheat or corn, equals a heavy dressing of Peruvian guano in the first, and lasts through many years.

The lime burnt from these shells is equal to the best fresh oyster shell lime, and peculiarly appropriate to all of the white oak lands, and those which contain a surplus proportion of magnesia.

The shell mould, now lying inactive and unused in the shell banks of Calvert county, is sufficient to produce, clear of all expenses attending its application, more money than is sufficient to pay all the expenses of the civil list of the county. But this is not its only resource for agricultural improvement. The quantity and extent of its marls, adapted in an especial manner to meet all the deficiencies in its soils, would seem fabulous to one unacquainted with their quantity. There is on the bay shore a marl bank of easy access showing a clear depth of about twelve feet and extending miles in length. A part of this marl is sandy marl, and par-