

Taking this view, then of the constitution of the soil, in connexion with this well known fact, that to constitute a permanently good soil, there should necessarily be present in it a due proportion of siliceous, argillaceous and calcareous particles; and in connection too with the fortunate circumstance of the existence of the immense deposits of shell-marl, which have just been referred to, the undersigned remain persuaded, that the system of Geological investigation, to be pursued for the Eastern Shore of Maryland, in so far as its agricultural interests are concerned is a very simple one. It must consist,— 1st, in ascertaining and then delineating upon a map, the extent and limits of each class of soils; and 2dly, in discovering the position and ascertaining the extent and nature of the deposits of shell marl.

In reference to the latter subject of investigation, it must be borne in mind, that, as already stated, the value of this marl as an amendment to the soil will depend upon the species of shells which it encloses, the facility with which those shells are susceptible of disintegration, and the nature of the cement by which they are sometimes held together, or the nature of the mineral deposits with which they are associated. Thus it has been found, that those beds, which consist principally of clam shells usually associated with numerous varieties of other smaller bi-valve and many univalve shells, and containing very little admixture of foreign ingredients, yield a marl which exhibits its beneficial effects upon the soil in a very short time; because the calcareous particles are derived from shells which are very prone to disintegrate when exposed to the atmosphere. Marl-beds, composed entirely or principally of oyster-shells, are much less valuable, because of the slow disinte-