gration and decomposition of this species of shell. Scallop shells, which are a species nearly allied to the oyster, resist such decomposition still more obstinately than do oyster-shells, and when they occur, as they have been observed to do, in extensive beds firmly agglutinated by an argillo-ferruginous cement, they are useless in all soils, and may be positively injurious to some. The undersigned have had abundant opportunities of ascertaining, that beds of shell marl, thus constituted, occur in various localities, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland—sometimes distinct uniform deposites, but more generally in alternating strata, which might be described as so many varieties of shell marl; the indiscriminate use of which has given occasion to some mortifying disappointments.

These general remarks, concerning the extent and nature of the shell-marl deposites on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, are predicated upon the facts contained in the following extracts from notes taken upon several spots which were carefully examined by the undersigned, or about which the information received was deemed satisfactory.

"At the Frederick-ferry, on the Sassafras river, there is a partial formation of a ferruginous sandstone rock, with impressions of shells. This rock is covered by a deposite of sand and gravel, 30 feet thick.

"Three miles below Chestertown, on the Chester river, another similar bank occurs, elevated about 20 feet above tide, composed of a more indurated ferruginous sand and clay than that at the ferry on the Sassafras, and strongly characterised by numerous impressions of shells.

"These spots may perhaps, be indicated as the commencement of the fossiliferous deposites of the Eastern Shore of Maryland.