

The localities at Indian Point and Maryland Point are stated upon the authority of intelligent gentlemen, who have asserted the existence of shell deposits on those spots; but the deposit on the Saint Mary River having been examined by the undersigned with some care, they are enabled to specify some circumstances connected with it, of great interest, it is thought, both in a scientific point of view, and in consequence of the practical application which naturally, in those circumstances, suggests itself.

The deposit referred to occurs at the mouth of Saint Inigoe's creek, on the western side. It is overlaid by a bed of ferruginous sand, soil and gravel, about twelve feet thick. The shells are very abundant, and present a great variety of genera and species. They occur in a blue clay, and are associated with groups of crystallized selenite, which project from the bank through the clay from one to two feet above tide; or after high tide, having been washed out of the bank, are loosely scattered over the beach. This bed of clay contains likewise small pieces of lignite, nodules of iron pyrites, (sulphuret of iron,) and, whenever exposed to the influence of atmospheric agents, becomes covered with an efflorescence of copperas, (sulphate of iron.)

The formation of the Selenite (which is the name given to the purest variety of a well known mineral employed in agriculture and the arts, as plaster of paris,) merits consideration in a two-fold respect, scientifically and practically.

It is not difficult to account for the formation of this variety of plaster of paris, under the circumstances which have just been stated to be peculiar to the locality mentioned. Selenite is a compound of sulphuric acid and lime. In the language of chem-