

N. E. to S. W. passing along the summit of Parr's Spring Ridge, and coinciding nearly with the western limits of Baltimore, Anne-Arundel, and Montgomery counties. This division will thus comprise the upper part of Cecil county, the greatest portion of Baltimore and Harford counties, the upper districts of Anne-Arundel county, and the whole of Montgomery county. Its geological characters, are that it consists of stratified rocks, varying in mineral composition alternating with each other, and sometimes passing one into another, in such a way as to render it very difficult to affix definite names to their different mixtures. When any of these rocks are viewed singly, they will rarely be found to present a simple mineral substance, constituting a large tract of country. They are, on the contrary, admixtures of several minerals; the principal of which are, Quartz, Felspar, Mica, Hornblende, Lime, Magnesia, Talc, &c. and according to the nature of their aggregation and the predominance of one or the other, the rocks themselves are described in the systems by different names, as Granite, Gneiss, Mica-Slate, Hornblende-rock, Limestone, Magnesian limestone, Serpentine, Steatite (soapstone.) &c. These rocks are generally metalliferous, and as a groupe are usually called primitive or primary rocks.

If, first, we inquire into the nature of the soil by which these rocks are covered, it seems proper to base this inquiry upon the consideration that the soil (so far as its mineral constitution is concerned) is produced by the disintegration of the rock which immediately underlays it: whenever observed to be