

of the Patapsco, and the decomposition of that variety of the same rock known to mineralogists as graphic Granite offers, as was already stated, situations where the material for the manufacture of porcelain ware may be confidently expected to occur. The limestone formation has been also ascertained to extend through a portion of this county: and much of the Soapstone used in Baltimore is derived from Elk Ridge.

Montgomery county might supply the latter article, of better quality, from the Patuxent; and this county, finally, possesses, besides the more usual concomitants of the primary rocks, a formation of Manganese ore, occurring, so far as known, principally in the neighborhood of Mechanicsville. It has been thought, too, that a portion of this county between Sandy spring and Rockville presents some analogies in mineral constitution with the gold districts of Virginia. The undersigned can only say, that in the rapid reconnoissance which they were enabled to make of this part of our state, they have not seen the least indication of the presence of this highly prized metal. Three miles westward of Rockville, there is a serpentine formation, which in a systematic plan of examination, it would be necessary accurately to define. Beyond this the geological character of the country changes. Slate rocks make their appearance, and at the mouth of Seneca creek, the quarries of beautiful freestone, which the facilities of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal permit to be brought to such profitable account as a building material, exhibit the mineral connection of this portion of Montgomery county with another geological division of the state of Maryland.