

gates more commonly described as belonging to the primary groupe of rocks. They consist of Epidote, Chlorite, Amgdaloids, Serpentine, and granular Limestone. The summit of the ridge is, in a great portion of its extent, crowned with a Sandstone, characterized as very compact, exhibiting occasional small cavities lined with drusy crystals of quartz, and crossed by siliceous veins, which indicate the age of the formation, as among the oldest in the transition groupe at least. It is found, not unfrequently, to form the gangue in which are imbedded various metallic substances, such as native copper, pyritous copper, specular oxide of iron, &c. This sandstone is exceedingly well adapted for use as a building material: it might also be employed for mill stones; and ere long will doubtless render a full amount of service in these ways.

The Geology of the Catoctin range, in a scientific respect, will require a very special investigation. The existence of a Serpentine rock at its base, as observed at the foot of Mount Saint Mary's, must be regarded, to say the least of it, as a very unexpected occurrence. This serpentine rock, which from the peculiar nature of the country, covered as it is with a heavy growth of forest trees, and with loose materials detached from the superincumbent rocks, could have been discovered only by accident, has been exposed to view by the sinking of a shaft, the work of some visionary in search of the precious metals. It is traversed by veins of specular oxide of iron associated with quartz, and in some places by thin veins of calcareous spar. Pieces picked up among the materials raised from the shaft, exhibited perfect specimens of Verd antique. Should the pieces of gran-