The Fourth geological division of Maryland falls now to be considered. It will be made to embrace the whole of Washington county, and a part of Allegany county as far as Cumberland. In its geological structure it consists chiefly of the slaty and arenaceous rocks of the transition series, and of the limestone so well characterized by the occurrence of caverns and hence called cavernous limestone.

There are however found occasionally, other rocks containing the impressions of shells which afford evidence of a more recent origin. The whole system of formation in a word, gradually, but more evidently than in the preceding division, approximates to the Carboniferous groupe. The soil which covers these formations is remarked to be not so deep as in the neighboring vallies, but is very productive; and the basin of which Hagerstown is the centre, between the South and North mountains, together with the smaller vallies beyond, as far as Hancock, are decidedly among the most fertile portions of the state. But to return to its mineralogical constitution.

On the western slope of the South mountain the Epidote rocks and Amygdaloids are again met with; but in descending into Pleasant valley, which lies between the mountain and a more limited range of hills known as the Elk Ridge, there is observed a formation of limestone, from which statuary marble of superior quality has been obtained. The principal quarries of this marble are in the vicinity of Boonsborough. At the debouche of this valley there is an extensive deposite of iron ore, which in its chemical composition is analogous to that described as occurring on the eastern slope of the Catoctin, but it is free from Phosphate of iron. It is technol-