

founded on positive estimation: still it may be safely stated, that when the material is at hand, it cannot exceed from two to four dollars per acre; when transferred from a distance the cost of its application may reach to ten dollars per acre, but even at this rate it should not be considered as expensive; because the improvement may be looked upon as a permanent one.

SECT. V.—*Of the different kinds of soil belonging to Caroline, Queen Ann's and Talbot counties; their natural susceptibilities to improvement; and the modes of amending them*

To ascertain the exact nature of the various kinds of soil occurring in any district of country, and to circumscribe the limits of each, is a subject of considerable importance; but it is at the same time an investigation requiring much labor, and involving many difficulties. This is especially the case as regards that portion of our territory now under examination: being evidently a transported soil, we can only speculate about the causes that may have produced it, and can never fully appreciate the conditions under which these causes have operated.

The best way—perhaps the only way—of ascertaining the true nature of a soil, in reference to its agricultural value, is to deduce it from its produce, its facilities for improvement by the usual means, together with the knowledge of its chemical composition. This result requires the united observations and experiments of the farmer and the chemist. The general indications of fertility and barrenness of a soil, based solely upon chemical experiments, would necessarily be found to differ from a variety of causes, chiefly the circumstances of situation. Thus, the power of a soil to absorb moisture, a principle essential to its productiveness,—depends greatly on the quantity of *aluminous* particles which it contains; but it will be evident that in situations where the soil is exposed to wash; it will require a larger proportion of this constituent than in a level country. The same requisite is demanded in places that are naturally dry and warm. Even the *color* of the soil, dependent upon chemical conditions not always appreciable, will be found to influence its productiveness far beyond any theoretical deductions. So that, at least in the pre-