

one especially, scarcely inferior in value to the marl, consisting of extensive accumulations of oyster shells, evidently made by the aboriginal inhabitants of the country;—since they are found to enclose human skeletons, deer horns, tools, coarse pottery, &c. plainly significant of their origin. These accumulations are found in many parts of the Eastern Shore, and their principal localities are laid down in the Map, which is intended to illustrate every circumstance appertaining to the geology of the country of appreciable importance. For the section of country now under examination, it will be perceived that this resource occurs principally on Chester river, in Queen Anne's county; on the Tread-haven, in Talbot county. On the Dorchester side of the Choptank, these shell banks are numerous; they are indicated upon the Map as occurring at Oyster-shell point a few miles above Cambridge, and at Horn point, a few miles below this town. More extensive accumulations of this kind, are said to be met with at Worton point on the Chesapeake bay, in Kent county, and similar ones are indicated on Map B, as likewise occurring in several places on the Potomac, Western Shore of Maryland. They bear evidence, as previously stated, of being the sites of Indian settlements long since abandoned. They are composed of mouldering oyster shells, intermixed with a black soil or mould, highly charged with calcareous particles, and which has proved to be extremely fertilizing. The decomposed shells themselves have been used with the greatest benefit; and when the expedient is resorted to of sifting out their finer parts, separating the coarser to be burnt into lime, they furnish a most valuable material for the improvement of all kinds of soil. To form an estimate of the value of these banks, it may be stated that as much as three hundred dollars have been given for the privilege of removing the shells from one acre only of such land. This experiment was made by Col. Emory, one of the best farmers in Queen Ann's county, with the most profitable success. Experiments made elsewhere, by Tench Tilghman, Esq. in Oxford neck, Talbot county; the late Gov. Goldsborough, and other gentlemen, in Dorchester county, have proved equally successful. The proprietor of the banks on Worton point, has publicly announc-