

the smaller kinds of this vegetable production. Some of these masses present when broken a nucleus apparently of the same nature as its envelope; others exhibit irregular cavities lined with an incrustation of a straw coloured carbonate of lime, having the lustre of imperfectly bleached bees wax. Such is the character of these masses on the plantation of G. Brent, Esq. On St. Thomas Manor, they more resemble irregularly shaped nodules, traversed by fissures, the sides of which are lined with selenite.

Below Pope's creek, at Clifton—a situation which was indicated by Col. Wm. D. Merrick, and visited in company with this gentleman and the owner, Mr. Latimer—there is an immense deposit of a *Blue marl* exceedingly rich in calcareous matter, and containing moreover a notable proportion of the green sand. The analysis of this marl is given at No. 57, of the table. The bed of marl now referred to is elevated from thirty to fifty feet above high tide, and is covered by a stratum of diluvial gravel from ten to twenty feet in depth. It is decidedly one of the most important deposits of marl hitherto discovered on either shore of the Chesapeake bay. Whenever the value of its contents shall be duly appreciated it will prove the source of renewed prosperity to the adjacent country, and of wealth to its fortunate proprietor. That marl is destined to become ere long an article of barter and exchange, as lime, plaster of Paris, &c. are now, there cannot be the least doubt; and no situation is known in Maryland that possesses more advantages for its easy delivery and general distribution than Clifton. Should the public attention be called to this subject to the extent that it deserves, it is the duty of the State Geologist to furnish proper directions for the best mode of extracting it. Other situations presenting the same, or not much inferior advantages, may be hereafter discovered.

It was stated before that a stratum of *Copperas earth*, was occasionally found associated with the marl of this region of country. It can be easily recognized by a greenish efflorescence which usually takes place on its surface after a very slight exposure, due to the formation of a saline substance characterized by a styptic taste, and very well known in the domestic and useful arts by