

therto made. As to the geology, especially of that portion of the Eastern Shore represented on Map A., it has been investigated with great care and minuteness; and if not fully given, it is principally owing to the want of accuracy still existing in the determination of the geography of this section of country. The same opportunities have not presented themselves of ascertaining with equal minuteness the geology of Prince George's and Charles counties; even of those parts to which Map B. refers. The most prominent and characteristic features alone are expressed, and such as might furnish a safe guide to the researches of those interested in determining at once the extension of the resources which they have been said to possess. Obstacles of the same kind as those that attach to the existing Maps of the Eastern Shore, and even greater difficulties, preclude any attempt being made to lay down with precision the whole geographical constitution of these counties. It is not advisable indeed, to rely upon the actual geographical limits of even the most important of their divisions; since errors might be committed that would lead to mischievous consequences, before opportunities could be had of rectifying them.

The object then of draughting the two Maps just described, is principally to furnish samples of the mode in which the results of the survey now in progress are to be exhibited, first in the general Map which will be drawn of the State; and more in detail, and upon a larger scale, of those of each county in the State. If the present Maps are found to possess any interest, it will readily be conceived that when extended and completed, they will furnish a mass of valuable information, perceivable at a single glance, and exhibiting all the physical characters of a county, and its resources. It is in contemplation further, to affix to each Map statistical tables, indicating the actual condition of the productions of the country, and to add brief accounts of the best means of taking full advantage of its resources. The examinations of the preceding year, of which an account was given in a former report, the discoveries of the past year, and the developements that are gradually made in every direction, evince that Maryland possesses an immense amount of mineral wealth; a good deal of which