

has so far remained unproductive from want of correct information as to its true nature. The object of the investigations now in progress is to bring these mineral riches to view, under their proper aspects.

The Undersigned feels himself authorized, indeed, to express to your Excellency, his conviction, that the mineral resources of the State, available for agricultural purposes, and applicable to the demands of the arts and manufactures, are still greater than he had been led to anticipate from the hasty reconnoissance of the preceding year. It is gratifying too, to find that a scheme, projected principally by the liberality of the General Assembly of Maryland, and fostered by that of its Executive Government, with but very slender means at first of calculating its beneficial effects, is daily gaining in public favor, as opportunities present themselves of making known its objects, and the comprehensive range in the application of these to the various wants of the community. We may be permitted, moreover, to congratulate ourselves that our project has met the unqualified approbation of the intelligent and patriotic everywhere, and has excited the emulation of neighbouring States.

Maryland, however, does not claim the merit of having first undertaken a geological survey of her territory; but she is *among* the first. The geological and mineralogical surveys of Professors Olmsted and Vanuxem, the former of North, and the latter of South Carolina, under the authority of their respective State Legislatures, have been for some time before the public; their interesting and practically important results have been well received and duly appreciated. This example was followed by Massachusetts, as evinced in the able report on the geology of that State, by professor Hitchcock; and soon after by the Legislature of Tennessee. A survey of this State has, it is said, been almost brought to completion by Dr. Troost, to whom our own State is indebted for many valuable discoveries of its mineral resources. During the last session of the New Jersey Legislature, a bill was reported for the geological survey of that State. A movement of similar import was made at the last session of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, a very favourable report having been