

doubtedly have been selected as affording the situation and soil for a work of permanence and perpetual good, and as cutting off a probable prolific source of frequent and costly repairs.

The Commissioners, after the examinations they have made, would be at a loss for reasons to doubt the extensive and important utility of this work, either as affording indirect revenue in the shape of the increased industry and commerce of our citizens, or as furnishing a direct profit to the States who construct it; but nevertheless, looking upon all internal improvements as more or less *experiments*—*experiments*, indeed, which like the daily mental acquisitions of childhood, must be made to fit us for matured life—they have preferred designating the mode in which the proper test may be applied, with the least risk of present or ultimate loss.

An opinion has prevailed, based upon the experience of two or three instances, occurring in these very Sounds relative to the cleansing, and if the term may be used, the cutting power of the partially inclosed and running water of the Bays

A history of one instance may explain better what is meant:—Thirty years ago, it is said, Fenwick's Island, as it is now called, was literally the Fenwick's *land* of the royal charter; it was connected by a slip of low and partially fast land to the main, and the waters of the Isle of Wight Bay, formed the head of the eastern Sounds of the Chesapeake.

It must be remarked, however, by way of parenthesis, that, in the opinion of the Commissioners, such was not the entire state of the case: above the isthmus of Fenwick's Land bay, considerable bodies of water, in Assawoman and Turkey Branch Creeks, and their junction in Assawoman Bay, which do not appear from their soil and vegetation to have been favoured with a direct outlet to the sea: so that it is more than probable that their waters poured along the left of the fast land of Fenwick's, over the low flats of Romney marsh, thus presenting, except in the extensive Romney shoal, no great dissimilitude in the relations of the several waters to those of the present day. At all events, through the narrowest part of the isthmus, it is now thirty years since a ditch was cut to divide a pasture—four feet width and three feet depth was all the labour bestowed upon it—it has long since assumed the shape of a Bos-