

ele is met with—in the similar accumulation of shells to which the name of the *White Rock* has been given. As the channel survey has not been prosecuted along this place, the Commissioners do not give its length with greater accuracy than can be afforded by the comparison of the speed of a boat, averaged and known from observation, with the times frequently taken in crossing the shoal. The soundings upon it were, however, taken with care; and as they have to propose dredging for this also, they have, in the proper place, introduced the Estimate of its probable cost. There exists no further obstacle from this abreast of Great Bay Point to South Point, the cape of the Sinepuxent neck.

At South Point, the Sounds receive the united waters of Trap and Newport Creeks; and are separated here by so narrow a barrier from the ocean, that they become, partly from the uncertainty, partly from the shallowness of their channels, almost unnavigable.

It is true that a channel of nearly four feet water exists along the whole eastern shore of Sinepuxent neck, even over the Sandy Point and Old Town Shoals—yet so narrow and so difficult to keep, that it could not be very generally and permanently useful. Violent storms, north-easters, as they are familiarly termed by those who frequently witness and suffer from their invasions, occasionally pass the ocean waters and sand across the line of beach, and open, for a short period, the old Sinepuxent Inlet, which has not been, since 1819, of any continued importance. And its present openings, so far from affording any advantages, seem only to precede, as they afford a better opportunity for, new and harassing changes in the channels of the Sound. Attempts have been several times, and of late again, made to open by artificial means an inlet rather higher up than the point of the old Inlet. The Commissioners cannot express a hope that such attempts would be successful; nor even, if carried out according to the wishes of those interested, would they answer nearly as effectually the end proposed, as the Improvement, in contemplation of which their surveys have been made. The effect of the waters in producing and in keeping up those inlets, is not to be viewed as in the same situation with the tranquil operation, on a smaller scale, of the water in a nearly level river or lake, which pass and repass, without alteration, the head-