

reference for both works. The place of this base has not yet been selected. In some part of the Eastern Shore, however, spots, it is supposed, may be taken, suitable in position and features for the purpose.

The value of such a line in the territory can hardly be appreciated until its execution shall have put us in possession of it. If there be utility in a *standard* of any kind at all, a standard of this sort, upon which no small portion of the elements of social intercourse and harmony, in the investigation and adjustment of landed property depends, is of essential value. And this value is not confined to the reference which may be made to the terminations of this solitary line, but divisions of this standard are transferred in all their integrity, and multiplied, it may be, into thousands of scales. Imagine our territory—covering, as it probably does, 10,000 square miles—divided into so many quadrilaterals that there shall be a trigonometric point somewhere in the superficies of every square mile; a point whose distance and relations to every other point of the 10,000, is accurately ascertained, and can certainly be stated to a small fraction of a foot: it need not be said here, the convenience and value of such an ascertainment. Every day, for private or social purposes, the bearings and respective levels of two or more points, situated at some miles distance, are about to be defined, or the want of such a definement is grievously felt somewhere;—every year, some fresh route, some real or imagined facility of intercommunication is presented to the public for their consideration; and large sums of money are expended, perhaps to find the object vain. The New Map, executed upon the principles proper and proposed, will obviate all this; the ascertained points will be brought sufficiently near to meet almost every possible inquiry—indeed they admit of any degree of multiplication. This subject has been before alluded to in this report in speaking of local surveys—its importance, in a document intended for the elucidation of a work new in its execution and benefits, may excuse its being mentioned again.

The project of the map, whose completion as far as the present design or necessity extends, may be witnessed in a few years, embraces also future and cheap facilities for its gradual perfection in the minutest de-