

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE COUNTIES OF
FREDERICK, BERKELEY & JEFFERSON
SITUATED IN
THE STATE OF VIRGINIA
ON WHICH
THE AUTHOR HAS DESCRIBED THE NATURAL
CURIOSITIES OF THOSE COUNTIES
THEIR
MINEROLOGY AND LITHOLOGY
ALSO, THE QUALITY OF
THE SOIL THE MANUFACTORIES MILLS, &c.
THE
Number of Inhabitants, Towns Villages, &c.
TO WHICH IS ADDED A BEAUTIFUL
MAP OF THOSE COUNTIES



Charles Varle, Winchester Va. :Printed by W. Heiskell,

[1810]

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NOTICE

In order to be well acquainted with the use of the map of those Counties, it is proper that one should know -----

First---That in maps, the North is considered to be always at the top of them; consequently, that the lower part will mark the South, the right hand the East and the left the West.

Second---That one must look at the Scale which is seen below, to know the proportions and distances.

Third---That one must be familiar with the explanations, in order to be acquainted with the marks, indicating the towns, mills, plantations, county roads, division lines, mountains, &c.

Fourth---That one must be acquainted with the letters which are used for the abbreviations, as B. for branch, C. for county, R. for rivers, &c.

N.B.....The plan of Winchester is inserted on a larger scale than the map of the counties, in a corner below, on the same plate, where the names of the streets, public places, &c. will be seen; you must attend besides to the references and observations written in the map and plan, in order to be perfectly well acquainted with them.

TO THE PUBLIC

It is with diffidence I present to view this Topographical Description of the Counties of Frederick, Berkeley and Jefferson ---confident, that from my being unaccustomed to commit my ideas to paper, in the English language, a number of errors, in point of diction, have been committed---a truth of which the reader will doubtless soon be convinced. The task, from the reason given, has been an arduous one, but the motive was imperious. The public good was my object. In the publication of this work, I have anticipated the wishes of many of the farmers in the counties spoken of, who contemplate emigrating to the Western country; as it is obvious, that the circulation of it, will afford, to those disposed to purchase property in those counties, some data, whereby to estimate its value, and consequently enable those disposed to sell, to obtain the real value for their property. The desire of many of the people of the neighboring counties of Maryland and Pennsylvania, to leave a soil, which has advanced in value, beyond the reach of a moderate capital, has also impelled me to the publication of this little work, which, although not decorated in the elegance or correctness of language of a Button or a Goldsmith, may be relied on as a faithful description of the three counties of which it treats---and, I flatter myself, that the interest of both buyer and seller will promoted by the plan I have adopted. Independent of the considerations already mentioned, it is obvious that many other advantages will result---the intercourse with other plates will probably be increased, which will doubtless produce a circulation of money, an increase of Population, and consequently of industry, and the various advantages attendant on those circumstances. Besides, it will contribute, I hope, to facilitate improvements in those counties, for turnpike roads, canals, erecting manufactories, &c resounding to the benefit of individuals and the state at large.

An Errata has been prefixed for the correction of errors.

THE AUTHOR

ERRATA

In the title page for minerology read mineralogy. Page 6, 7th line, for luscious read lushious; 9th line, because read because. P. 8, 1st line, read Mineralogy; 12th l. for solicious read silicious---on article Middletown, for 12 3 4 1 8 read 12 1-2 miles; 16th line, for shistus read schistus; 33^d l. read calcareous. P. 9, 23d line read calcareous. P. 13, 23d l. for gaity read gaiety. P. 15, 23d l. for 18 16(?). P. 18 for Gaunt read Gant; 27th l. for stone read stones. P. ? 19, read calcareous; 13th l. for chrystalization read chrystallization; 16th l. for frm read first; 17th l. for chrystalization read chrystallization; 26th l. for principle read principles; for Tullasis read Tullaces; P. 20, 8th line, for shistus read schistus---P. 22, 21st line, for wakned red awakened---P. 23, 3d l. for gasses read gases; 22d l. for capitol read capital; 23d l. for 800 read 1000. P. 24, 3d line, for mechaniss read mechanics; 6th l. 197 read 117; 16th l. for hy read by; 22 l. for Mill Creek read Middle Creek. P. 27, 24th l. for overgreens read evergreens; a colin should be substituted after the word country, in the 27th page, 27 line, in place of a period; 30th l. for crush every atom in their fall, read crush into atoms every thing in its fall; 29th line, for over your head read over head.

ADDITIONS

The article of the Population of Frederick County in 1800, as extracted from the official documents, should read thus(?);

White males	9350
Females	<u>8972</u>
	18322
Free people of color	457
Slaves	<u>5734</u>
Total	24513

Making 31 souls to each square mile; and, should the enumeration of 1790 that has been obtained from information be correct there would be an increase of 3038 souls in the population of this county since that period.

The article of population for Berkeley County, before the division on the county in 1800, was 22006 souls, according to the official report, of which 3300 were slaves, making 33 souls to each square mile. The increase of the population of this county is nearly in the same ratio as Frederick County, since the last census.

From the town run in Winchester, to the center of Stephensburg 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles, and from thence to Middletown 5 miles, 60 poles----making in the whole twelve and one fourth miles and sixty poles.

SITUATION AND BOUNDARIES
OF
THE COUNTY OF FEDERICK

The county of Frederick, is situated in the state of Virginia; it is 28 miles in its greatest length, and 20 in its greatest breadth; it is bounded to the North, inclining to East by the counties of Berkeley and Jefferson; to East, inclining to South, by the county of Fauquier, having for its line of division the summit of the South Mountain, called also the Blue-Ridge, and the county of Shenandoah, the Cedar Creek running between the two; to the South, inclining to West, by the said county of Shenandoah, having in part a straight line for boundary, coming afterwards in contact with the river Shenandoah, and running with the said river until it comes to the junction of Cedar Creek and the latter river; then with said creek as far as the bend of of it, then striking nearly West by a line, and after having crossed Paddy's Mountain, comes in contact with Hardy county; to the West inclining to the North with the said Hardy and Hampshire counties.

CONTENTS,

The surface of this county contains 735 square miles, which at the rate of 640 acres to each square mile, gives a superficies of 470400 acres.

POPULATION,

This county is 1800, when the Census was taken, contained 16257 white inhabitants, and 5118 slaves; making in the whole 21475. It is one of the most populous counties in the state.

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PRODUCTIONS,

It is well known that the 39th degree of latitude is one of the mildest climates on the globe, being nearly equi distant between the torrid and the frigid zones; consequently one of those happy climes so much vaunted for temperature and health, and partaking of the same advantages with the beautiful and renowned countries of Italy, Spain and Portugal, where the grapes, olives, almonds and other luscious fruits abound. If this soil does not afford those rich productions now, it is because the climate in winter is too cold, but it will become no doubt milder in proportion as they will clear the surface of the ground;* at present its productions are chiefly in grains, viz; wheat, rye, Indian corn, oats, barley, &c. a very small quantity of tobacco is raised here. The wheat is ground into flour by the different merchant and grist mills, is packed up in barrels, and sent by wagons and boats to the different seaports; the other grains are used chiefly on the spot. Part of the rye and Indian corn are distilled into whiskey and gin, and partly sent to market &c.

The fruits raised here are apples, peaches, pears, cherries, &c. The two first are ranked among the number of luxuries, as well as of profit, in the county, in being distilled, partly into brandy. Vineyards, in my opinion, would succeed better here than in Washington county, Maryland, (where they have of late planted the European vine with success, and made wine,) on account of the latitude of this county being more Southerly.

NOTE

* Both theory and experience prove this to be a truth; for it is well known, that the sun warms the surface of the earth only by reflection, and that when a country is covered with forests, the radia cannot pierce through, so as to produce a great reverberation, and is the cause that snow lies longer there; and history tells us that when Julius Caesar made the conquest of the Gauls, about 2000 years ago, the rivers both in Italy and France froze, and that he passed the Rhone and other rivers in the South of France with his army on the ice, while at this present day, no ice is seen on those rivers.

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NATURAL CURIOSITIES,

There are two caves in this county; one near Zanes' Old Furnace, under the north mountain, a description of which, I think useless, since it had been described so often in different works, particularly by Thomas Jefferson in his notes on Virginia.

The other lies near Cedar Creek on Buffaloe Marsh.

There is also a natural well, said to be unfathomable, on the land of Mr. Laurence Lewis, near Shenandoah River; these caves and wells are found commonly under the surface of limestone land.

MILLS,

I have counted 75 merchant or grist mills in this county; as many saw mills; several oil mills; one paper mill; seven fulling mills, and one tilt hammer.

MANUFACTURES,

There has lately been established a wool and cotton manufactory, under the name of the friendly Grove Factory, by Mr. Joseph C. Baldwin and Company, about one mile South West of Winchester, on a copious and never failing stream. A stone building, 40 feet by 30, and three stories high has been erected for the purpose, and contains at present two carding machines for wool, and one for cotton, one spinning jenny of 50 spindles, preparing machinery, &c. also a fulling mill complete, with all the apparatus for fulling and dressing cloth. The proprietors intend shortly to erect machinery for spinning cotton on a tolerably large scale.

Another manufactory was also established by the said Mr. Joseph C. Baldwin, under the name of the Yorkshire Factory, a few hundred yards distance from Middletown, on Long Meadow branch, and where the ingenious Mr. Peter Ridings superintends the machinery; at present there is in operation only two carding machines for wool; it is contemplated to erect other works shortly.

Large distilleries are also carried on in this county: the one erected one mile and a half from Winchester on Abraham's creek deserves our notice, on account of the great quantity of spirits distilled there, and from their superior quality.

MINEROLOGY,[sic]

Different genera of ores are found in the mountains of this county; as iron, copper and silver; but the two last not rich enough to be worth exploring.

This county was once famous for its iron factories, and I do not know for what causes the works have been abandoned.

Zane's furnace, under the North mountain, about 12 miles from Winchester, has been out of blast for a long time; and the iron works on Cedar Creek under the name of Marlborough, were suffered to decay many years ago.

LITHOLOGY,

Silicious, or flint stones are found in this county in great numbers, but all of them nearly opaque and coarse. I think some of them could be split into gun flints; great quantities of them lie about 3 miles West of Stephensburg.

Schistus, or slate stone, such as is used for covering houses, but not of good quality, is found all along a ridge called Opequon hills, which begins at Powell's Fort mountain that runs about half a mile East of Winchester, crosses the county of Berkeley, and pursues its course in Maryland and part of Pennsylvania, until it reaches Skinner's mountain 7 miles to the North West of Chambersburg this ridge I suspect, was the basis of a mountain in continuation with Powell's and Skinner's mountain, which I suppose to have originally been but one; the distance between the two being about 69 miles, and both about 800 feet in height, the space between them being formed by nature, of a slate stone, whose texture is easily influenced by frost and rains, it has been washed away by degrees.

Part of other mountains in this county have experienced the same fate, as, for instance the Sleepy and the North mountains were once united, whereas, they are now about 8 miles apart.

The soil being calcareous in the greatest part of this county, marble no doubt exist under the surface of the ground but no quarries have yet been opened.

On the East side of the North mountain, there are many stones of a fine grain, which could be cut to advantage (?) free stone; some of them have been found, on trial, to be unvitriifiable[sic], i.e. they stand the most intense heat.

Many limestone spars have been found in this county. Some of a spherical form, with sides white and transparent, have been met with near Hopewell meeting house; some other polygonal, with determined sides and transparent; some other of a columnar figure, with sides and truncated, are found nearly in every part of this county, where lime stone lies.

MINERAL WATERS,

All along the ridge, mentioned above, where the slate is found, several hepatic waters (sulphur springs,) are met with. The most noted one is two miles South East of Winchester, and another on Mr. Rezin Duval's land 6(?) miles east from said town; here a boarding house has been lately built, for the accommodation of the sick and visitors; the waters of this spring are highly impregnated with the sulphurated hydrogenous gas (sulphur.)

There is another spring, about 17 miles from Winchester, at the foot of the Bear Ridge, called Capper's Spring the properties of which are said to be equal to those of Ca-Capeon, but there is no accommodation near it.

Nearly all the calcarious (limestone) springs in this county are so strongly impregnated with lime, as to form considerable sediment in the beds of the stream in which they run. In my opinion, these waters could be used for some medicinal purposes.

RIVERS AND PRINCIPAL CREEKS,

Only one river passes through this county, and this is not navigable at all seasons of the year; though a company have been engaged in the improvement of its navigation.---It would be better, in my opinion, to swell the waters by means of stone dams across the rivers, which would cause a considerable depth at once, and a lock being set on the side of each, (and on the banks, if possible, in order to put it out of the reach of ice,) would render the navigation permanent, and good at all seasons. This would not be an additional expence[sic] to the company, nor to interested individuals, because the sale of the mill seats on such a never failing water, would pay for it.

The principal Creeks are Opiquon, Back and Sleepy Creeks, none of which are navigable; but Opiquon could easily be made so by above means.

MOUNTAINS.....BLUE RIDGE,

The nearest mountain to the sea shore in this county is called Blue Ridge or South Mountain: it runs North, inclining about 30 degrees to east; its summit lies about 55 miles distant from tide water, and forms the division of this county. The perpendicular height of this mountain is, from computation, about 800 or a 1000 feet from its base.

LITTLE NORTH MOUNTAIN,

So called in this county, though it is a continuation of the true North Mountain, in both Berkeley county and in Maryland; it is West of the preceding, and is broken in different places, so as to form large gaps; its greatest height 400 feet from base.

NORTH AND PADDY'S MOUNTAIN,

The mountain West of the Little North Mountain is called in this county the North Mountain; in continuation with this mountain, in a Southern direction beginning about Duck Creek Gap, it is called Paddy's Mountain. This mountain in its whole length, is very rugged and rocky; it is about 900 feet in height, perpendicular. There is no mark of cultivation on this mountain, except one solitary spot, near the road to Lockhart's Tavern where it ends. On North Mountain there is a fine spring, on the East side near its summit. Probably springs of this description have given rise to the system of some ancient philosophers, who pretended that there was a communication between the sea and the springs, by subterraneous aqueducts[sic] but it is likely they did not take notice that those springs re commonly fed by the rains falling on the soil of that part of the mountain in which those springs are situated. I have seen many other springs similarly situated, and on examination, have found the effects produced by the same causes. This mountain makes in part the division of this county.

BEAR RIDGE,

Is a mountain, parallel, and adjoining the North Mountain and West of it; it is not so high as the latter, but very steep and rugged. Here are some signs of iron ore.

LITTLE TIMBER RIDGE,

Is another ridge running parallel with the preceding. There are some farms on it, where small grain succeeds well. It is about 300 feet in height.

BIG TIMBER RIDGE,

Is West of the preceding, and running always parallel with it. It is about 350 feet in height. Both Little and Big Timber Ridge make in part the division of this county.

BEAR GARDEN RIDGE,

Parallel to the preceding; it is broken in different places; the height nearly the same as the preceding.

CA-CAPEON MOUNTAIN,

Is the last mountain to the West of this county; its summit forms the division line between this county and Hampshire; it is barren and uncultivated, and about 700 feet in height.

The Blue Ridge is the most easterly of those ridges; the others succeed it, in the manner above described.

QUALITY OF THE SOIL,

In order to give an idea of the true quality of the soil in this county, it is proper to divide it into parcels and valleys.

First---All that parcel along the Blue Ridge Mountain---the soil of which is mountainous; appears to be of a good quality, and fine farms are seen on it, and although valuable at this present time, they will become more so, in proportion as care and attention will be paid to their cultivation.

Second---This is another slip of land, about 6 miles in breadth, and joining the above parcel, which includes Front Royal. White Post, Stoney-Point, Millwood, and Berryville. This tract is of very superior quality of limestone land.

Third---This slip of land is higher situated than the above, and joins it, its quality is slate; the plaister[sic] of Paris work miracles on this soil.

Forth---This is a valley between the Little North Mountain and Paddy's and North Mountain. The lands immediately under Paddy's and North Mountains, are partly limestone; Pughtown is included in it. The remainder of it is slate, which, in my opinion, will become valuable in proportion as the spirit of improvement shall animate the farmer.

Sixth---This tract is the most Westerly of the county; it is hilly and broken. The best lands here, are situated on the bottoms, along the creeks; some parts of it afford good crops of small grain, and would, no doubt, be highly improved by the plaister[sic] of Paris.

WINCHESTER,

Is the capital of this county, and a handsome and flourishing town, situated on a limestone and very fertile soil, and on a stream of clear and limpid water, which springs half a mile from it, and passes through the middle of the town _ part of the water is carried in pipes, for the convenience and luxury of the inhabitants; the other part supplies a mill which is built in the suburbs of the town; and above having watered part of the streets and supplied several large manufactories, resumes its natural course and falls into Opequon Creek. This town contains about 400 dwellings houses, which are chiefly built with limestone and brick. It is inhabited by more than 3000 persons. One sixth part of whom are coloured[sic] people. It has a handsome court-house and stone jail, a new market-house, and five churches, viz:---an English Episcopalian, a German Lutheran, a Presbyterian, a Catholick[sic], and a Methodist; a large and convenient Poor House, a public Academy, or seminary of learning, where all the liberal branches of education and mathematicks[sic] are taught; also, several boarding schools for young ladies; one of them conducted by two

learned clergymen, and where different masters of fine arts attend. This town is incorporated, and a good police is the result of it. At present they are paving the streets in a handsome and durable manner, at the expence[sic] of the proprietors: an improvement which was very much wanted in this place. This mode is accounted preferable to the breaking of stones, as is practiced for the making of turnpike roads.

There are in this town two printing offices for newspapers, a public library and a coffee-house, where most of the newspapers of the United States are read.

The commerce of Winchester is carried on with great activity and success with the people of the back countries, who resort here for salt, and a supply of commodities which are manufactured in this town, and give in exchange the produce of their lands, the fruits of their industry and of the chace[sic], consisting shiefly of grains, flax, and hemp, of coarse linens and skins.

As this town is standing on the main roads to Pittsburg, Wheelen, Kentucky, Tennessee and the Warm and other springs, many strangers pass through it, which, besides the great intercourse it occasions, gives a gaity[sic] to the place, and has a great influence on the inhabitants.

The mail is carried through this town in stages, from the seat of the Federal Government to Tennessee.

Latitude North 39 deg. 17 min. Long 2 deg. 18 min. calculated from Philadelphia.

It is 150 miles from Richmond, 192 from Philadelphia 95 from Baltimore, 75 from Alexandria, 75 from the Federal City, 95 from Staunton, 22 from Martinsburg, 22 from Charlestown, 20 from Fredericktown.

STEPHENSBURG OR NEWTOWN,

Is a town of the second rank in this county. It lies on the big road to Staunton and Kentucky. It is a lively place, and as it is situated on an eminence, it is extremely agreeable and healthy; it contains about 100 houses, and upwards of 500 souls, chiefly Germans; it is well supplied with stores and mechanics of every denomination, particularly wheel wrights.

An academy has been built in this town lately by subscription, where all the branches of literature and mathematics are taught. The country around is highly improved and extremely fertile; the soil West of this town, is a rich calcareous loam.

It is 7 mile 3-8 from Winchester, and 5 mile 1-8 from Middletown.

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FRONT-ROYAL,

Situated immediately on the West side of the foot of the Blue Ridge, and on a fertile limestone land, is a fine thriving town a copious stream of water coming from the mountain, passes at the head of this town, and if necessary could be brought into it. There are several valuable merchant and grist mills on the said stream, near this town, and no doubt at this time, when the spirit of enterprise as regards manufactures prevails through the United States, this stream will be turned to useful purpose. There are about 80 houses and 400 inhabitants in this town; several Physicians reside in it; several large stores, and many skillful mechanics are to be found here. It is 22 miles from Winchester.

MIDDLETOWN,

Situated on the road to Staunton, and in a fine and fertile country, partly limestone land; it contains about 50 houses, and 150 souls. Here several taverns and stores are kept. A number of mechanics reside here. It is 14 miles 3-4 miles and 1-8 from Winchester, and 5 miles 1-8 from Stephensburg.

BERRYVILLE (BATTLETOWN,)

Lies 11 miles 1-8 from Winchester, on a very fertile and well improved limestone soil, it contains upwards of 25 dwelling houses, 3 large stores, 1 apothecary shop, 2 taverns, and a number of mechanics, 4 physicians make their residence in this place: and academy is kept here, to teach all the liberal branches of education and mathematics, in a well appropriated stone building.

MILLWOOD

Contains from 50 to 60 souls. Here is a large merchant mill, a fine and extensive manufactory of leather, one tavern, a large store, a blacksmith, a taylor[sic], a boot and shoe maker, and a waggonmaker[sic]. It is 12 miles and 1-8 from Winchester, on a rich limestone soil.

(15)

PUGHTOWN

Contains nine dwellings, 2 taverns, one store, and several mechanics. It is nine miles from Winchester. This place is on the road to Wheelen.

KERNSTOWN,

Is situated on the big road to Staunton, on a beautiful stream, which passes through it. It is on a limestone and fertile soil, and near a large Presbyterian stone meeting-house. It contains one tavern, a manufactory of leather; several industrious mechanics reside in this place. It is 3 miles and 1-4 from Winchester, and 4 miles 1-8 from Stephensburg.

WHITE-POST,

Contains one store, a tavern, a saddler, a shoemaker, a blacksmith, and a wheel-wright. This place is situated 12 miles from Winchester, on a rich and beautiful limestone soil.

PEN-BROOK,

Has a fine grist mill and some scattering houses around it; it is 18 miles from Winchester. This place lies on the road from Winchester to the Ca-Capeon springs.

LEEDS-TOWN,

Has a grist mill, a store and some dwelling houses; it is situated at the foot of the Westside of the Blue Ridge, near Shenandoah, and 20 miles from Winchester.

STONEY-POINT

Lies on a rich limestone country; it contains a store and few houses; 12 1-2 miles from Winchester, on the road from that place to Front Royal. All these last towns, though small, are of great service to the wearied traveler, for supplying him with refreshments.

(16)

BERKELEY COUNTY,

Lies between the 39th degree and 18 minutes North Latitude, and extends 20 miles in length and about 18 and 1-2 in breadth, and is bounded to the North, inclining to the East, by the river Potomac, which divides the States of Virginia and Maryland; to the East, inclining to the South by said river, and Jefferson county; to the South, inclining to the West, by Frederick county; to the West, inclining to North by the county of Hampshire, and the river Potomac. Martinsburg is the Capital and the seat of justice of this county.

CONTENTS.

It contains 484 square miles, or 319760 acres.

PRODUCTIONS.

The same as Frederick County.

POPULATION.

When the last Census was taken, in 1800, this county and Jefferson were but one; it then contained 15000 white inhabitants, and 3600 slaves: suppose that 1 3 of the white population has been taken to form the county of Jefferson 10000 would still remain to Berkeley. It is supposed that half the above number of blacks fell to Jefferson county, although the division of the whites was not so equal---The next census will settle this point.

There is now in this county 2100 tithables, or males above 16 years of age, paying the poor tax.

THE MOUNTAINS IN THIS COUNTY ARE—

First---The North Mountain; it is remarkable on account of its raising immediately like a wall. It has a summit beautifully undulated in all it's length. It might be computed to be about 500 feet perpendicular at its greatest height. It is not cultivated.---The East side could be planted with vines. Mr. Edward Tabb, living immediately under that side of the mountain, showed me a European vine which has resisted the coldest winters, and without either pruning or cultivation, affords large quantities of luscious grapes every year.

(17)

Second---The third Hill and Sleepy Creek mountain are nearly joining, and both run parallel to the North Mountain: They are not cultivated, except in the middle of the two, where issues a stream of water, called Meadow Branch, and where the plantation of a huntsman is seen. The heighth[sic] of both mountains is about 700 feet from their base.

Third.---The Warm spring ridge, is broken in several places: it is about 300 feet high: it divides Berkeley County from Hampshire. These ridges succeed each other in the above order, running Westerly from the North Mountain.

RIVERS,

The Potomac is the only river in this county: it divides his state from Maryland.

CREEKS

The creeks are, Opequon, Mill, Middle, Tuscarora, Back, Sleepy and the Warm Springs. The three first, as well as part of the Warm Spring Creek, are never failing streams, owing to the springs that feed them being in limestone land, which is deep and spongy, suffers the rain water to penetrate it; the water is therefore kept there, as it were, for the supply of the springs, while those creeks, which have the head springs, on slate or rocky bottoms that does not permit the water to penetrate their substance become dry in the hot seasons of the year. This circumstance, does not, I think, corroborate that system already spoken of respecting the springs receiving their supply from the sea by subterraneous passages.

QUALITY OF THE SOIL.

I have thought, that in order to give an accurate idea of the qualities of the soil of this county, I ought to divide it into three parcels or valleys.

First---The first parcel is nearly all limestone, of an excellent quality; except on the ridge, where, I think, that a mountain existed, as spoken of in the article of lithology of Frederick County, and where the sulphur springs are to be found. This ridge continues its course through this county, but it has been washed by the rains more than in Frederick County, and lies lower. The quality, of the soil is good, and by means of clover and plaister[sic] of Paris, I think will grow more valuable yet.

Second---This parcel contains the valley of Back Creek, and is watered by it. I will observe that there is a tract of land marked on the map, with the sign of a hill, on account of being higher than the other part of the valley, and extends from Mr. Gaunt's to Mr. Robertson's mill, on the Warm spring road, and on a breadth of about two miles, which is a good limestone land. The remainder of it is slate and mountain land, except the bottom, on the creek, which is loam. The whole is susceptible of great improvement, and will become very valuable by attention to agriculture.

Third---Is the valley of Sleepy creek, watered by the said creek. Some part along the Warm spring ridge is Limestone; some bottoms on the creek are loam; the rest is slate and mountain land, which, however, improved by the plaister of Paris and clover, would afford, in my opinion, good crops of small grain.

LITHOLOGY

As part of this county is limestone, marble will consequently be found in it, sooner or later. I have seen spars of different kinds in the limestone land, near Martinsburg there are some in the form of a column, with sides, and truncated, white and transparent. On Apple-pie ridge there are masses under ground of those spars, of different forms. The people on whose lands those stone are seen believing them to be gypsum, (plaister of Paris) had them ground and spread on their lands; indeed, many bushels they said, had been sold as such. I went to those places and obtained specimens of those stones, and made a tri? On them which is commonly used for detecting the true gypsum from the common stone; I put them in contact with fire, and I found, after several experiments, that the most intense heat had not the least immediate effect on them, in causing them either to lose their transparency or hardness, and concequently, I took them to be rather a corbonate[sic] of lime (of the nature of limestone) instead of being the sulphate of it, (of the nature of plaister,) and in order to make the people on whose land these stones are found better acquainted with the nature of the true plaister of Paris, I shall extract part of a chapter of Chaptals on chemistry, He expresses himself thus:---

The plaister loses its transparency by calcinations, at the same time that it becomes pulverulent, and acquires the property of again seizing the water of which it had been deprived, and resuming its hardness; it does not give fire with the steel, nor effervesce with acids. He says farther, 100 parts of gypsum contains 30 sulphuric acid 32 calcarious earth, and 38 water; it loses nearly 20 per cent by calcinations. It is soluble in 500 times its weight of water, at the temperature of 60 degrees of Fahrenheit. When it is exposed to heat, its water of crystallization is dissipated; it becomes opaque, loses its consistence, and falls into powder. If it be moistened, it becomes hard again but does not resume its transparency; a circumstance which appears to prove that its firm state is a state of crystallization; if it be kept in fire of considerable intensity, in contact with powder of charcoal, the acid is decomposed, and the residue is lime, &c.

Upon the principle above stated, we learn, that plaister and lime are both calcareous earth, and we might draw a conclusion from them, that if any virtue is attributed to the former in promoting the growth of clover and other plants, it is owing to the sulphuric acid that the plaister contains; and that both a pyretous and limestone ground is required for the formation of it.

I will add, for information also, that, as the plaister, when calcinated, looks nearly as white as any other calcareous matter, and, in order that one may be known from the other, pour some drops of water on both, it will cause an immediate effervescence on the lime, while the plaister will receive no effect from it; besides, when the plaister, after calcinations, is pounded, pulverized, and sifted, it can be formed, with the addition of water, into a paste which will grow solid by drying while it will not be so with any other calcareous substance.

Near the mill of Mr. Stephens, on Tulliss' branch, I found a kind of soft limestone, that the people also took or plaister of Paris, which being easily reduced into powder, either by pounding or grinding, or made into lime by fire, may probably answer to improve lands.

Another kind of limestone I found also, at Mr. Samuel Hedge's, in Sleepy Creek Valley, which would perhaps answer the same purpose as the above described.

I have seen at Mr. Sheerer's mill, on the Potomac, flag stones, that he raised from the bottom of the river, near his house, which surpass in colour[sic], beauty and size, any shistus (slate stone,) I have ever seen. Those slabs can be polished and sawed easier than marble, and Mr. Sheerer has used them in its stead to embellish his house. When navigation of this river shall be improved, no doubt that they will be boated down to the cities below, and will constitute a branch of commerce. Those stones would be of great service in the raising of dams and locks on this river, for the improvement of navigation, in the same manner as spoken of in the article of Rivers in Frederick County.

MINERALOGY

On the banks of Opequon, near the house of Mr. John Vanmeter, two or three miles from Martinsburg, is found a kind of sulphat of iron, (copperas,) which immediately turns leather black. It is found between the slated, but not in abundance; however, when a diligent search is made, much may be found.

Iron, copper, as well as silver ores are found on Sleepy Creek Mountain; but the last ore is not found in quantities sufficient, to be worthy of exploring: no search yet, with a particular view to obtain those ores has been made by any chemist on those mountains. The waters of Sleepy Creek contain the iron in solution to such a degree, that the stones on its bed are covered with the oxid[sic] of it.

NATURAL CURIOSITIES

There is a natural reservoir, bearing the name of Swan pond, in this county; the waters of which run off in a stream for some distance, and then sink all at once, and no more is seen of them, until near the mouth of Opequon Creek, where, in a hollow or pit of about 100 feet depth, and 300 feet in circumference, you hear them pass under the rocks of the bottom of that pit, and going undoubtedly to join Opequon Creek.

MILLS

There are in this county upwards of 50 grist or merchant mills, as many saw mills, several fulling mills, and oil mills and one paper mill.

MANUFACTORIES.

A large and convenient stone built merchant mill on Tuscarora, and joining Martinsburg, has been bought lately join Mrs. Hunter, by Messrs, Hibbert and Gibbs, for the purpose of establishing a wool and cotton manufactory: Mr. Hibbert is a fuller by trade---he has already erected all the apparatus for fulling, dressing and dyeing all sorts of cloths and a pretty large scale: Mr. Gibbs is an ingenious mechanic; he has moved from his cotton manufactory at Hagerstown, all his machinery for carding and spinning both wool and cotton, to place them in this building.

Mr. Jonathan Wickersham, a fuller, the proprietor of fulling mil and carding machine established on Middle Creek, near the precincts of Bucklestown, has added lately to his factory, a genny of 50 spindles, to spin wool, and having at hand a number of capable weavers he intends to carry on a compleat[sic] factory of cloth. I hope these two infant manufactories may be encouraged, so as to become permanent establishments and add to the stock of wealth of the county.

MINERAL WATERS.

There are several of the sulphur kind on Oqequon[sic], in this county, but the most remarkable is the one occupied by Mr. Minghini, about 8 miles from Martinsburg, his house is well fitted for accommodation, and several hundred persons resort there every season.

There is another, also, at 2 miles distance from Martinsburg, on which the citizens of Martinsburg have besaved some trouble and expence to render itr convenient and useful to visitors; they have put up a shower bath, which is used by the neighbours and townsmen.

The most conspicuous one is at Bath Town, under the Warm Spring Ridge, from the foot of which, and by different channels issues a torrent of water capable to turn a mill. Water cannot be more limpid and beautiful, than this is.

This place, tho' agreeably ornamented, and capable of contributing to the pleased of the gay and healthy, as well as convenient and salutary to the sick and invalid, might be greatly improved and embellished by taste and liberality. If the legislature of Virginia was disposed to encourage any practicable scheme to raise money for that purpose.* Nature has been lavish of her favours to this spot of country; for in addition to those medicinal springs, she has showered her bounties upon the whole neighborhood, by spreading over it a magnificent variety of the most finished and grand scenery.

The soil around this place, as a mountainous country, has the appearance of sterility, but by proper attention to culture might be made productive and rich.

I will not attempt to elucidate the properties of these water: I will only say, that the county in this valley looks barren and is uncommonly dry, and as under the surface of the earth, there generally exists a hard rock, which prevents the rain water from penetrating, so much wakened as to induce me to look for the source of this spring, and after much pains, I was informed by the neighbours and hunters living on the Ca-capeon Creek, that the waters of that creek were sinking at about 10 miles from its mouth, and formed a vortex. This spot lies to the South West of the Warm Springs Ridge, and of the Ca-Capeon Mountain, and at the distance of about 9 miles in a straight line from Bath Town. This seemed to me the more probable, as these springs are never influenced either in their temperature or quantity, by warm, or cold or wet, or dry weather, and probably after having sojourned and passed through the mazes of the subterraneous cavities under the Ca-Capeon Mountain as well as under the valley which lies between the Ca-Capeon Mountain and the Warm Springs Ridge, the soil of which is calcareous and having been in contact with the different pyrites composing their decomposition, the degree of heat, that those waters contains, as well as the

*There are commissioners appointed by the state legislature for the regulation of this spring. I have given then last fall a plan for the embellishment of this town and springs, and the ground adjacent to them, which if put in execution, I hope will make that spot the handsomest watering place in the union.

gasses with which they are impregnated, and after a due filtration through the sandy rocks, of which the basis of that Warm Spring Ridge is composed, they arrive at this spot.

These waters, when boiled leave a strong incrustations on the sides of the vessel, which plainly evince that they are highly mineralized, and consequently possessed of the virtues for which they have been so much extolled, in relieving or removing complaints. I took with me, last fall, some of those sediments to Philadelphia, and gave them to Dr. Barton, who, as an eminent chemist, will give a full analysis of their contents.

I have inserted this, in order to counteract the opinion of those, who, without taking any pains in the investigation or analysis of these waters, have advanced, that they contain no minerals in solution neither in a state of oxid nor gas and consequently, are totally destitute of any properties whatever, more than common water.

MARTINSBURG

Is the capitol of the county of Berkeley; it contains about 200 houses, and nearly 800 inhabitants; it is the seat of justice, and has for that purpose a handsome courthouse and jail of stone, and a market-house, well supplied with the necessaries of life. The situation of this town is remarkably pleasant and healthy, on account of its standing on an elevated spot, and for having the creek of Tuscarora watering its precincts, which could be carried in pipes through the town for the convenience and comfort of the inhabitants, if desired. The streets are wide, and partly planted with Lombardy poplars, and have a very fine appearance. Eight taverns are kept in this place; one of them has the reputation of being one of the best in the United States, and is well known by those who resort to the Warm Springs. Here is kept a Coffee-House, where almost all the papers in the United States are read; 8 large stores, one printing office; there are also five public meeting-houses for worship, one English Episcopalian, a Catholick[sic], a German Lutheran[sic], a Presbyterian, a Methodist and Baptist, three English schools, several manufactories, and every description of artificers and mechaniss[sic].

(24)

Latitude North 39 degrees 32 minutes. It is 22 miles from Winchester, 20 from Hagerstown, 83 from Baltimore, 81 from the Federal City, 107 from Staunton, 171 from Philadelphia, 172 from Richmond, and 16 from Charlestown.

MIDDLETOWN, OR, GERARDSTOWN,

Situated on a level soil, partly limestone, one mile and a half from Mill's Gap, under the North Mountain, to the East side of it, and nearly at the head of Mill Creek. It contains about 40 families; a physician and a Presbyterian clergyman reside here; several large stores are kept in this town, for the supply of the farmers around it; here are also a number of mechanics. There is in this place a handsome brick church, built by the Presbyterians. This town is 10 miles from Martinsburg, and 15 1-2 from Winchester.

DARKSVILL, OR, BUCKLESTOWN,

Lies 7 1-4 miles from Martinsburg on the road to Winchester; 15 miles from that place, and on Mill Creek, a never falling stream, which crosses this place. There are 30 dwelling houses, 4 taverns, 3 stores, 2 blacksmiths, 2 weavers, one taylor, one cabinet maker, one wagon maker, one distillery of whiskey; a Methodist meeting-house stands at the north end of this town.

BATH-TOWN, OR, WARM SPRINGS,

Situated immediately under the East side of the Warm Springs Ridge, 6 miles from Potomac, in a narrow valley, watered by the stream which runs from the Warm Springs. Several years ago this town was handsome, but the houses, as being built with wood have decayed, and on account of the celebrity of its waters, was yearly visited by above 1000 of the *beau monde*. It had lost its reputation on account of some diseases which raged during one season, occasioned by a pond where the waters were stagnating; but since the cause was removed, it has regained its character. Last year, it was visited by above 500 people, and no doubt will increase each year. Here are five large convenient and handsome taverns or boarding houses kept, for the accommodation of visitors and invalids; 26 families are living in this place; among the number various branches of mechanics. Here are several stores and a manufactory of leather.

(25)

I must not omit to mention, for the information of the people, who are to visit this watering place that besides the above springs, there is a sulphur spring, 4 miles distant from this place, near Sleepy Creek, it is but slightly impregnated with sulphur, and no accommodation near it, and a chahbiate[sic] spring on this ridge, about half a mile from this town. It is 25 miles from Martinsburg, 35 from Winchester, 34 from Hagerstown, 106 from the Federal City, 108 from Baltimore, 185 from Richmond, and 196 from Philadelphia.

JAMESBURG

Is situated in Sleepy Creek Valley, and has only the name of a town, for it contains only a few scattering houses, without regularity. It is about 13 miles from Martinsburg.

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### JEFFERSON COUNTY,

Lies between 39 degrees, 10 minutes North latitude; and 39 deg. and 40 min. and is 18 miles in length, and 13 miles and a half in breadth; it is bounded North, including to East, by the river Potomac, dividing the state of Virginia and Maryland; East, including to South, by the county of Loudon[sic]; Soth, including the West, by Frederick county, and West, including North, by the county of Berkeley, having for boundary, the Opequan so far as Burns' ford: then it strikes a line as far as Winkoop's Spring; then runs with Vanmeter's marsh to its mouth on Potomac.

The surface of the county contains 225 square miles, or 144000 acres.

### PRODUCTIONS,

The productions of the soil of this county, are of the same as in Frederick county.

## POPULATION,

As the county is a late division of Berkeley, and no census was taken since that epoch, the true population cannot be well ascertained; but it is commonly supposed, that it contains about one-third of the population of the whole amounting to                   souls for this county, and nearly the half of the slave population of the whole.

## QUALITY OF THE SOIL,

There are only two sorts of soil in this county: one part mountainous, and belonging mostly to Ferdinand Fairfax, Esq. On the West side of the Shenandoah river, and is nearly all in woods.

The other sort of soil is to the West of Shenandoah, and is of a very superior quality of limestone; the whole capable of cultivation, and which, in my opinion, if in Pennsylvania, and at the same distance from market, would sell for 100 dollars an acre.

## MILLS AND MANUFACTORIES,

I have counted in this county 31 grist or merchant mills, several saw and fulling mills; a number of carding machines have of late been established on the several streams of this county, and no doubt but wool and cotton manufactories will soon be established also.

There is a large and beautiful manufactory of fire arms established at Harper's Ferry by the government of the United States; I refer the reader to the article of Harper's Ferry for an account of it.

## MINERALOGY,

That part of the South Mountain of Blue Ridge belonging to this county, offers a large field for the Mineralogist. Mr. Ferdinand Fairfax has specimens, found on that mountain of all the ores of almost all the mineral genera, except platina and gold. That gentleman is the proprietor of the mountain in both this county and Loudon, and is now erecting iron works on Shenandoah, about 4 miles from Charlestown, which, it is said, will be soon in operation. The iron ore, according to Mr. Showers, the gentleman who has

the direction of the works, and who is perfectly well acquainted with that business, give the handsomest prospect of success, from a full trial made of it, as to the quality and quantity of the ore.

Iron ore is also found in great plenty of the best quality on the Western bank of the Potomac, below the iron works of Messrs. Macpherson[sic] and Brien, and supplies those works with ore.

There was formerly a furnace about two miles from Harper's Ferry, bought by the government of the United States, called Kepryst Furnace; however, this furnace has not been in blast for some years.

### NATURL CURIOSITIES.....HARPER'S FERRY,

This place, on account of the great gap across the South Mountain, through which the Potomac and Shenandoah pass, after having joined their waters at the foot of the mountain, has been, perhaps, an object of curiosity, as well as speculation, since the discovery of America, and has been mentioned as such, on different works, which causes me to take notice of it under this head.

In fact, a stupendous and rugged mountain, about 800 feet in height, and more than half a mile in breadth, cut asunder, and torn, as it were, by some gigantic stroke of nature and clothed partly with pines, shrubs, & other evergreens different in shape, form and color from the gay vegetation of the adjacent county. Those enormous and piled masses of rocks, left naked and deformed by the torrent that once washed their summits,\* projecting over head with their pointed faces, apparently, as if they were ready to tumble down and crush every atom in their fall: those accumulated waters, seeming to foam with rage in their struggle through the rocks which oppose their course, and the flight of ravenous birds, differing in size, plumage and voice from the others of the valley below, skimming in the clouds over this solitary place, present to the view, a scene highly novel, sublime and

\*Near Mr. Rawleigh Colston's farm in Berkeley county, one may see plainly, about 200 feet above the bed of the river Potomac, the old bed of that river and in going farther back, one may discover it at more than 500 feet above the present bed.

picturesque, and fills the soul with inexpressible sensations.\*

At the first view, I was led to believe, that the waters were once kept back by this mountain and formed a large lake behind it, so as to inundate and deluge all the animal and vegetable creation of the back countries: before the waters of these two rivers united and forced a passage thro' the mountain, which is the opinion of some authors.+ On a more mature consideration, and after having viewed every primary and secondary mountain, as well as almost all the ridges and hills, before and behind this mountain, which, though some of them are more or less stupendous and rugged, have their gaps cut through at every place, where a water course is seen, except the Alleghany,# and having traced, also, the old beds of rivers, creeks &c. on some grounds between mountains and ridges, at several hundred feet above their present beds: I did not wonder then, how those gaps had been formed,

\*To see those natural beauties in their full splendour, one should be there in a thunder storm. I was in that place in July last, when tremendous claps of thunder made that low spot of ground shake to such a degree as to oblige those baseless rocks apparently to leave their ground and roll on the buildings adjacent to them: the sun was nearly on the horizon, and the gust not yet ended, when the form of an aerial bridge began by degrees to show itself among the heavy clouds and rested on each side of the broken mountain, serving as an abutment to it, and formed a compleat arch over this wide gap, adorned with all the most lively colours imaginable. The scene was soon enhanced by another arch of a paler colour which surmounted this one, and whose summit was lost in the space, and the whole constituting the grandest and handsomest sight in nature.

+According to that system, all the surface of the earth must have been lakes and ponds, for we meet gaps in every mountain, hill &c. in every direction.

#The Alleghany Mountains, which is supposed to be the highest mountain between the Eastern and Western waters, is about 4000 feet perpendicular above the level of the sea, and forms the heads of several great rivers; I call the Alleghany, secondary: They are parallel to the Alleghany, and you see them diminish in size and height as you advance towards the sea shores; the South mountain, I take it to be 1200 feet above the tide water.

nor how, for many hundred miles, the beds of rivers had been dug below the present surface of the ground, in a hard and solid limestone, and granite foundation; at the depth of above 100 feet; as it is seen on the Susquehannah, river, Potomac, &c. and almost all other rivers, creeks, &c. in the United States. I formed then the following hypothesis: ---That, when providence made the globe which we inhabit, the surface was more elevated and uniform, and that, when the first rains fell upon it, the mountains of Alleghany being the highest spot between the heads of the Eastern and Western waters, (supposing that they were then about 4200 feet in perpendicular height, above the level of the ocean, and the Blue Ridge 1300 feet,) there was a considerable declivity, which compelled those waters to descend towards the sea, and formed channels, which augmented in proportion as they were joined by the collateral streams, and produced thereby those large rivers, creeks, &c. that we now see, and which being joined by other rivers, formed those Bays that disembogue into the sea, as the Chesapeake and others.

That the mountains, ridges, &c. which now exist between the Alleghany, and which run parallel with it, were formed at the creation of the world, but were not exhibited to view in this form, until the soft earthy substances were carried off by rains, melting of snows, &c. and that they were composed, with few exceptions, of a substance as we find them now, of a hard and flinty nature, and calculated to resist the changes and alterations that water produces on soft bodies; that these mountains, hills, &c. were exhibited as such, in proportion as the rain washed away the surrounding substances, and that in time, fragments of the matter which composed the primary and secondary mountains, ridges, hills, &c. forming the heads of those water courses, being detached by the rains, the melting of snows, &c. fell into the beds of those rivers, and being precipitated down, and forced to roll on them in time of freshes, they tore scraped and filed on, as the do at the present day, in time of freshes, every substance over which they pass, and formed of course, by degrees, those gaps, as well as beds that we now see.

Some wells or pits that I have seen in the bed of the Susquehanna, though the foundation be off a massy rock, proved to me the probability of my system. Some of those pits are from four to five feet in depth, and about two in breadth, and have been certainly dig up by a stone partaking of the nature of flint, carried probably by the freshes from the hills. I have always found those stones at the bottom of those wells or pits, and have examined them in a particular manner; I have found their edges always blunted, and of the same form and matter of those met with in the bottoms of rivers. Those stones probably being put in motion by the current of water, have formed by attrition, those pits or cavities in those hard rocks in the same way as the stones found in the beds of rivers have formed the gaps in mountains, and dug up such hard foundations.

My admiration of the wisdom of providence is daily increase, when I observed the order with which changes have been made since the creation of the globe, in the various alterations which time has wrought on its surface, and I am compelled, the more I reflect on it, to believe in the existence of that supreme being, who reigns over our destinies; who has, by the above agents, ordered every thing for the benefit of man, for in my opinion those changes on the surface of the earth, were purposely made to constitute those varieties of soils, which contribute to our maintenance and comfort, and by a difference in the shapes and forms wrought on its surface, contribute to our health and pleasures; that at first sight, those torrents precipitating themselves from those high mountains, ridges and hills menacing destruction seemed of no use: but on a further consideration, we see that those shattered pieces of flint have been brought down with the current and deposited under the surface of the ground,\* and are yet daily carried with the waters, and serve for the different purpose of life as for manufacturing glass, making cements, mortars for the different uses in our buildings, &c. That

\*I am of opinion that the stratum of Silicious (flinty) sand found under the federal hill, on the west side of the Bason at Baltimore which is used for the glass works, was deposited there by the freshes of Jones' falls, at a remote period, and when the bed of it was higher.

those high precipices, those naked rocky steeps, which are now apparent, have been stripped of their covering to unveil their treasures, and we find in their bowels, iron, copper, silver, gold, &c. and other substances, useful to our manufactories and other refinements in life; and besides the enjoyment we have in the sight of those rich and beautiful valleys left between those mountains; of those grand sceneries: of that magnificence in the landscape, that the eye cannot be satiated in beholding, we find in the bosom of those valleys the lime, the ochres, the slate, the fullers earth, marble, and other materials, kept as it were, in reserve for our present wants in the different branches of arts. And finally, that those immense quantities of earthly substances, detached from those high steeps and between mountains, have been washed down by the streams on purpose to form those large and fertile tracts of land all along the sea coast, which constitute the lower part of New Jersey, of Maryland, Virginia and all along the other states, to the East and to the West, as far as Louisiana. These particles of earth, carried into the sea, being mixed with the fragments of the rocks above described, and by those of the sea shells, which, being calcareous, increased the temperature of the soil, and formed a new vegetable earth, capable, under a more benign temperature, than the mountains, where they came from, to afford varieties of plants,\* shrubs and trees not to be found on those elevated situations, and the whole redounding to the benefit, comfort and pleasures of the present and future generations.

### CAVE.

An extensive cave lies to the South East of Shepherdstown, on the lands of Mr. Daniel Beddinger, and about two miles distance from the said town.

### UNFATHOMABLE SPRING,

On the lands of Mr. Moses Smith, 3-4 mile Smithfield, is seen a spring covering about half an acre of ground, whose depth, they say, has never been yet well ascertained: This spring is also remarkable for the great quantity of fish that it contains.

\* Among many others, the sugar cane.

## CHARLESTOWN,

The seat of Justice of Jefferson County, is situate in a beautiful and fertile limestone valley, on Evets Branch, which waters it, and supplies in it a merchant mill and different manufactories. It contains a new and handsome court-house and jail: and academy or seminary of learning is kept in this place for the liberal education of youth. All of those public buildings are brick. Tho' this town lately commenced building, it contains by computation 143 dwelling houses, chiefly brick, and 715 souls, and increases daily: There are in this place many valuable members of society in the class of the mechanicks, who carry on all sorts of trades and of manufactories. Here are two meeting houses for worship, one Presbyterian the other a Methodist. A printing office is kept here, where a Gazette is published weekly. The mail stage passes through this place.

It is 22 miles from Winchester, 28 from Frederick Town, 65 from the Federal City, 72 from Baltimore, 170 from Philadelphia, 16 from Martinsburg, and 117 from Staunton. Latitude north 29[39] degrees 21 minutes.

## SHEPHERDS-TOWN,

A handsome and flourishing town, lying on the Potomac River, and watered by a beautiful and constant stream of pure and wholesome limestone water, which crosses this town, and falls into the Potomac after having set in motion 4 large merchant mills, two of the most considerable saw-mills in the United States, and supplied several large manufactories of leather, distilleries, and others. It will be thought incredible when it will be said that the whole of those mills and manufactories lie within the precincts of this town, which is not a quarter of a mile wide; but when they will know that this stream has above one hundred feet fall, in that distance, all wonder will cease.

This town contains by computation upwards of 180 houses, most of them brick, and above 1000 souls, chiefly of German descent.

A considerable market house has been built here, and abundantly supplies in every sort of eatables, which and sold cheap, being the product of a country fertile in the extreme and well cultivated. This place contains six



handsome houses of worship, and built mostly with brick; one English Episcopalian, one German Lutheran, one German Calvinist, one Catholic, one Presbyterian, and one Methodist.

This place bids fair to increase in proportion to the improvement in the navigation of the Potomac, from which its commerce is fed chiefly. Several well assorted and large stores are kept here, and artificers and mechanics of every denomination are carrying on trades with success. An attorney at law and several physicians, reside in this town. It is 11 miles and 22 perches from Charlestown, and 9 miles 3-4 and 30 perches from Martinsburg.

### SMITHFIELD,

Is known also by the name of Middleway, situated on a rich limestone country, and on a beautiful stream which springs about 3-4 of a mile from it. It contains 51 dwelling houses, and 221 souls, two meeting houses for worship; one German, the other Presbyterian, three well assorted stores, and apothecary shop, one distillery, four shoe makers, one hatter, three blacksmiths, three tailors, and one tanner. An attorney at law and a physician reside here. 7 miles 1-4 to Charlestown, and 15 miles 1-2 to Shepherdstown.

### HARPER'S FERRY,

Is one of the most remarkable places for its size in the Union, on account of the manufactory of arms carried on here, belonging to the United States. It is situated at the West side and at the foot of the South Mountain, (Blue Ridge), and at the confluence of Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, partly on the bottoms and partly on the declivity of their high banks.

This place, it regards the nature of it's situation, deserves peculiar notice, being built near the borders of the two rivers, whose beds are below the level of the surface of the adjacent country, for about 100 feet in depth, stands, on that account, on a lower elevation, perhaps, than any other town in the United States.

The ferry and six acres adjoining it belong to Mr. John Wager, all the remainder of the town and adjacent country for some distance belong to the United States, and on account of the natural strength of the place and of the quantity of water to be obtained for the supply of the machine, the government have established at this place an arsenal and a manufactory of arms. The buildings of the arsenal ?? factory are situated on the low grounds

along the Potomac River and the water is taken from the said river and carried into the factory(?) by a large race.

The arsenal is situated on the flats of the Shenandoah, and nearly at the angle of the junction of the two rivers.

The cannon factory lies about one fourth of a mile from the arsenal, on the sandy flats of Shenandoah, and the machinery is moved by the water of the navigation canal, formed by the Potomac Company, in the improvement of the navigation of that river. The apparatus in this factory is not yet completed.

If the situation of the spot of ground is said to be unrivalled for the purpose above mentioned, it is not less conspicuous for all the ? ? requisites for, all the necessaries of life are easily obtained and ? having on all sides a beautiful and fertile limestone country; furnaces and forges, producing iron of the best quality, are also a short distance from the works, and all kinds of timber, firewood and charcoal are, on account of the mountains, very plentiful and convenient to the factories; even pit coal is found in abundance at the head of the river Potomac, and is boated, as are all the other materials to the works.

Tho' this place is small in appearance, it contains upwards, of 700 souls, the greatest part of them employed at the different factories.

The buildings belonging to the United States are all brick, handsome and well appropriated. There are now at work in the different departments belonging to the factory of muskets, rifles and pistols, 180 artificers. Those arms are made on the model of those of Charleville in France, accounted the best Europe, and they are in my humble opinion, equal, if not superior to them in point of realness and execution.

The quantity of small fire arms, manufactured two years ago, before the enlargement of the works, were 5000 yearly. At present it is said 12000 are made in that space of time; with the hands normally employed and when the building will be finished 20,000 yearly can be completed.

There was, according to the manager's account, two years ago 30,000 stand of arms in the arsenal, viz. – muskets, with their bay? Complete, rifles and pistols, all in the best order, and no doubt ? that ?, that 20,000 more have been manufactured, making 50,00 in the whole.

There is in this place a good tavern for the entertainment of travelers and visitors, several large stores for goods and library. One Physician and a professor of the English language reside here. Lat. North 39 deg. 21 min. 20

miles from Frederick town, 62 from the Federal City, 30 from Winchester, 65 from Baltimore, and 8 from Charlestown.

## LEETOWN,

This town is called after the late Gen. Lee. It lies on the road from Smithfield to Shepherdstown; about ten miles from the later place, and contains only two or three houses.