

garding the cost as too insignificant to be entitled to the slightest weight, when compared with the incalculable benefits which will result, not only to the cause of science, but to the mining and agricultural interest of the whole country.

During the past year two Geologists have been engaged by the United States in the inspection of her mineral lands. The States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio and Michigan, have engaged in this great work with a zeal and enthusiasm worthy of the highest praise. The great State of New York has, however, far excelled all her sister States, in the prosecution of her geological survey. She has four geological districts, with a geologist and assistant for each, a draughtsman, investigator and observer of fossil organic remains, botanist, mineralogist, and agricultural chemist. It is not necessary to add, that the survey has been of infinite benefit to the State, as well as reflecting great honor on the gentlemen concerned. Your committee would not, whilst praising the labors of others, forget those which have been rendered to the State of Maryland by her single observer, (the present Geologist,) to whom much credit is due for the vast quantity of useful information contained in his various reports to the present and to former legislatures.

These reports, although they have failed to give that general satisfaction to the agricultural community, which was anticipated by them when the office was created, from the fact that the nature and character of the services performed, were not confined to the subject of *agricultural chemistry* alone, are nevertheless of great practical benefit, and serve to define our position with regard to the great end to be attained. The collection of the whole matter now before the public, together with a vast quantity of information upon the geology of the State, not yet printed, accompanying this, will doubtless be published; maps, illustrative of our great coal and iron ore, beds and limestone formations, together with a complete statistical view of her resources. This will form a contribution to that immense and laborious work, the geology of the United States, which our State may well be proud of.

Your committee hope that Maryland, the first State to devise and commence the system of State surveys, may allow the short time of two years to her Geologist for the completion of his survey.

The idea so prevalent of late, that this survey is attended with such immense expense, is, in the opinion of your committee, one cause of the great opposition referred to in their report, whilst millions are expended annually for the promotion of your works of internal improvement, the trifling sum of two thousand dollars is denied to your long neglected agricultural interests. The comparatively trifling cost of the geological survey, or rather a fractional portion of its cost, has been the only contribution ever made by the State of Maryland, either directly or indirectly, to its agricultural interests,