

region adjacent to the Potomac river in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. Mr. McGee at once began making observations in the vicinity of Washington and the immediately adjoining portions of Montgomery and Prince George's counties, Maryland, and in this and several years following he made numerous local trips which threw much new light upon the obscure problems of the general relations of the Coastal Plain formations.

In 1884 he also made several trips westward over the adjoining provinces, one journey extending along the Potomac river to its source.

In July and August, 1885, he made a short trip with Profs. W. M. Fontaine and Lester F. Ward along the Potomac formations in Maryland and Virginia.

The first publication of the results of Mr. McGee's observations in the vicinity of Washington was in the report of the Health Officer of the District of Columbia for the year ending June 30, 1885.¹ A more extended memoir followed, entitled, "Three Formations of the Middle Atlantic Slope."² In this paper there was defined the Columbia, Appomattox (now Lafayette) and Potomac formations, and some account was given of their distribution and relations in eastern Virginia, District of Columbia and Maryland. An account of the Columbia formation was also given to the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1888.³

In July, 1886, Mr. McGee made a trip to the region about the head of Chesapeake Bay to determine the prospects for an artesian water supply for the Fishing Battery Station. Facilities for this trip were given by the officials of the United States Fish Commission. On a short subsequent visit to the region Mr. McGee was accompanied by Prof. Lester F. Ward, who gave special attention to the Potomac formation and its plant remains. The results of Mr. McGee's observations were published in a paper entitled "The Geology of the Head of Chesapeake Bay."⁴

¹ Pages 19, 20, 23, 25, Washington, 1886.

² Am. Jour. Sci., 3d series, vol. xxxv, pp. 120-143, 328-331, 367-388, 448-466, pls. ii, vi, vii.

³ Proc. Am. Assoc. Adv. Sci., vol. xxxvi, pp. 221-222.

⁴ 7th Ann. Rept. U. S. Geol. Survey (for 1885-86), 1888, pp. 537-646, pls. 56-71.