

CAROLINE COUNTY.

Caroline county which is of small extent, is bounded by Dorchester on the South, and lies between the Choptank river and the Delaware State line. Several branches of the Choptank, and "Marshy Hope creek," the principal tributary of the Nanticoke river, convey the drainage from its surface.

Some of its soils are pure sand, of considerable depth, with clayey subsoils; some is low meadow land, composed of a rich black earth, very "drainable," which would, under proper treatment, produce good crops of oats, corn, and the most luxuriant grass. By far the largest portion of the land is loam, with clay bottom. This soil will produce grains, grasses, vegetables, cotton and tobacco. These two last are always raised in small quantities for domestic use. "They come to perfect maturity, yield well, and cultivated as a crop would pay." The sandy land is very productive in sweet potatoes; in fact, every variety of vegetable and root crop, peaches, berries and fruits grow well on it. Most of the farms are composed of all the varieties of soil above enumerated, in various proportions. This gives the farmer the power to cultivate crops of all varieties. On many farms are found large deposits of muck, wood mould and other fertilizing material. There are generally comfortable, often commodious dwellings, and fine large orchards; timber is plentiful. Farming interests have been neglected, and the same system of sloth and waste that have impoverished the tillers has also impoverished the soil. But the exceptions where the farming is neat, the cattle sleek, the fences upright, and the buildings in good order, are a proof of what can be effected, and are a stimulus to exertion.

The county is well watered with creeks upon which coasting vessels trade, bringing lime, ashes, "government manure" and freights generally; taking wood, lumber, grain and vegetables in return. Up and down the Choptank river as far as Denton, steamboats ply, taking fruits and vegetables to a first rate market.

The prices of farms range from \$10 to \$25 per acre, and in some instances, below this lowest price; "there is no disputing the fact that many *bargains* are to be procured."

The general character of the country is level, not much rolling land, but the most of it is high, healthy, and has sufficient fall for all purposes of drainage. As a consequence, the roads are level, hard and easily traveled, and teaming can be satisfactorily performed.

Little or no land lies at a greater distance than five miles from navigable water; an item that will be duly appreciated by the observant farmer.