

## PREFACE.

The subjects considered in this volume are treated in a preliminary manner and are largely introductory to what will follow in later reports. The volume consists primarily of a summary of past and present knowledge concerning the physical features of Maryland, and embraces an account of the geology, physiography and natural resources of the state. To this is appended a bibliography of all publications relating to these matters. This data will prove of much value to those who are engaged in the study of the geology of the state and will at the same time afford a means of ready reference for those who are desirous of knowing the original sources of information.

In the preparation of this volume grateful recognition is accorded to the many distinguished workers of the past upon the geology of the state, and first and foremost, to the late lamented George Huntington Williams, Professor of Inorganic Geology in the Johns Hopkins University, who did so much in his twelve years of residence in Maryland to unravel the complicated geology of the Piedmont region. Many of his valuable conclusions will find place in this and subsequent volumes.

The *Introduction* to the present volume is given up largely to a discussion of the plan of operation of the present survey, together with a recital of the facts connected with its establishment and organization. It is most important that the citizens of the state should understand at the start the objects of the survey, so that they may obtain the greatest possible advantage from its operations.

The *Historical Sketch* which follows, and which comprises Part II of the report, contains an account of the progress of investigation of the physical features and natural resources of the state. Much of the data relating to colonial days has been furnished the writer by Dr. William Hand Browne, and Dr. Edw. B. Mathews has aided in the preparation of the later chapters. The wide knowledge of Professor