

Your committee have also considered the memorial of William Patterson and others, suggesting the propriety of a geological survey of the State. The committee highly approve of the suggestions contained in the memorial. They think such survey would prove very useful. Maryland, in order to maintain her present importance in the Union, must become to a great extent, a commercial and manufacturing State. Her facilities for commerce are apparent, and the results of the projected survey would prove her ability to engage in most profitable manufactures. The most extensive alum works in the Union, are established in this State. Iron is already furnished for transportation.—Coal and Granite and Marble, are to be found in exhaustless quarries, and specimens have also been discovered of almost every useful mineral. It needs only an examination by public authority to teach our enterprising citizens, the value of those treasures, which now lie hidden in the bowels of the earth, or disclosing themselves upon its surface, now serve only to turn the ploughshear of the agriculturist, and mar the beauty and impair the fertility of her fields.

Your committee think that a geological examination might be conducted in connexion with a geographical survey of the State, with great advantage to each and at reduced expense. It may be expedient to employ different agents, but even in this event, their mutual assistance would be useful and important both in regard to the time and cost of the surveys.

Your committee are unable to estimate the probable cost of those projected surveys, and they are unwilling to engage in such important undertakings without collecting in advance, all practicable information in regard to the cost—the time to be employed, and the principles upon which the same should be conducted. They therefore, submit a resolution which proposes to furnish to the succeeding Legislature, all the facilities for determining upon the propriety of engaging immediately in works which, your committee believe will tend greatly to the honor and advantage of the State. With reference to the geological examination, the committee beg leave to submit an interesting letter from Professor Ducatel of the University of Maryland, which they beg leave to submit as an appendix to this report.

*Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Governor and Council be and they are hereby authorised to appoint a competent Engineer, whose duty it shall*