

Of this quantity, Africa supplied us with about 160,000 tons, and South America with the remainder. The cost price to the farmer of this manure, may be estimated as follows—

100,000 tons African, at 8 <i>l.</i> per ton	£800,000
37,300 tons Peruvian, at 12 <i>l.</i> per ton	447,600

Making a total cost of	£1,247,600
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A million and a quarter of money spent by British farmers in a fertiliser which was unknown in practice five years ago, is an *astounding fact*, and one which is pregnant with interesting considerations. Thus, in the first place, it is a direct and practical refutation of the libel so industriously asserted by some, and blindly believed by others, that the farmers of England are "as stubborn as the clays they cultivate," and are unwilling to adopt modern ideas for the improvement of their practice, and the increase of their produce. There are, doubtless, some who are even yet ignorant of the value of this fertiliser; but the fact of the great consumption, to which we have alluded, proves that the case is not "few and far between," in which the farmer has been neither dull of conviction nor tardy in action.

A demand increasing in four years from nothing to 130,000 tons, is evidence enough that there are some apt scholars amongst us. In like manner, it is an answer to the open enemies and lukewarm friends who doubt the utility of our agricultural societies, and who sneer at the efforts of all who labour with their pens or their voices to stimulate the mind of the farmer to enquiry, and to diffuse, over the length and breadth of the land, the principles of the science and the practice of an art upon which so much depends, and comparatively so little is known.

For if we grant that some few persons directly interested in the cultivation of the soil knew the utility of the manure on its first importation, and that analysis pointed out to others *why* and *wherefore* of the fact, how is it that this fact is new or strange in any part of Her Majesty's dominions? How is it that it has endured the ordeal of doubt and denial, and has gained such general confidence in so short a time? By what means has the knowledge of a practice so new as the use of this manure been so quickly diffused? Truth, strong as it may be, cannot travel without a conveyance, and facts are generally longer on the road than fiction. Nor does ignorance ever give place to knowledge without a struggle for the victory. To the meetings, speeches, publications of our societies, and to the press connected therewith, we must attribute the extraordinary results we have alluded to. By bringing the ignorant and the learned together, those who were willing to be instructed mingling with those who were capable of teaching, by employing capital in collecting and publishing facts, by making these the texts from which our speakers have discoursed to thousands, and which our journals have carried to every market table in the kingdom; by these means, all of which our Agricultural societies and clubs have employed, information on this point of practice has been promulgated, and ignorance has been dispelled at a speed, and in a degree unparalleled at any other period in the history of agricultural improvement, and probably unattainable by any other means. By these means, the disadvantages of locality and circumstance, of isolation and limited opportunity of active communion with the world and its daily progress, have been overcome—disadvantages which have always been regarded as fatal obstacles to the progress of improvement, either in the knowledge or the practice of our farmers.

#### A CHEAP AND EXCELLENT MANURE FOR SWEDES.

To the Editor of the Mark-Lane Express.

Sir,—I beg to inform your readers of a very cheap and excellent manure, which I last year made use of, and which exceeded my most sanguine expectations. I had a large heap of turf ashes remaining on hand after the turnip season of 1843; and last winter I made my boys save a barrow full or two every morning of the shortest

horse-dung in cleaning out the stables; that I had wheeled into an out-house, and mixed with the ashes, a layer of one and the other, till the ashes were all used. I soon found the heap was in a state of glowing heat, though no steam was ever perceptible; a rapid decomposition took place, and when the time arrived for using it, it appeared like very fine mould. This I drilled with Swedes, and in one piece where there was no other manure, I drilled 50 bushels to the acre, and the plants were fit for the hoe in three weeks from the time of sowing. This year I have no turf ashes, and am using coal ashes in the same way, and intend to drill about 30 bushels per acre. My heap is now extremely warm, and smells strong, but there is no appearance of any evaporation. Perhaps I should say that my land is a flinty and chalky brush, with a gravelly or chalky subsoil.

I am, Mr. Editor, your obedient servant,  
A WILTSHIRE FARMER.

#### DISPARITY IN HORSES, AND DISPARITY IN MEN.

Ninety-six inches (or eight feet) is the utmost height of which we have any authentic record of any living man having attained; and thirty-two inches that of the shortest man, that man not being deformed. The largest horse known is Carter's Mammoth, which, if *strictly* measured, is we believe, just seventy-eight inches (19½ hands) to the shoulder: the smallest, her Majesty's pet, "The Eastern equine pigny," twenty-six inches (6½ hands.) The relative proportions are, therefore, exact—the giant is three times the height of the dwarf; the Mammoth horse three times the height of the Eastern pet.

COMPARATIVE ESTIMATE OF THE SEVERAL APPLICATIONS OF MILK.—Allow me to call your attention to the following extract from Mr. Morton's report of a Gloucestershire Vale Farm, in a work published some years ago, by the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. He says:—"In feeding calves for the butcher, it generally takes seven weeks to feed them to about a cwt. each; and they consume the following quantity of milk in the seven weeks:—About 19 gallons the first week, 14 the second, 20 the third, 24 the fourth, 27 the fifth, 30 the sixth, and 32 the seventh; so that it takes 159, or say 160 gallons of milk, to produce 112lbs. of veal. The average money value of the various modes of converting milk into a marketable commodity will stand thus:—

100 gallons of milk produce 112 lbs. of cheese, at 6 <i>d.</i> per lb.	2 16 0
And 5lbs. of whey butter, at 8 <i>d.</i> per lb	0 3 4
	2 19 4
100 gallons of milk yield 34 lbs. of butter, at 10 <i>d.</i> per lb.	1 8 4
And of poor cheese 74 lbs. at 2 <i>d.</i> per lb	0 18 6
	2 6 10
160 gallons of milk produce 112 lbs of veal, at 7½ <i>d.</i> per lb.	3 10 0
But calves newly dropped are worth (deduct)	0 10 0
	3 0 0
Value of 160 gallons of milk to make veal	3 0 0
Therefore 100 gallons of milk to make veal are worth	1 17 0
Thus making cheese is more profitable than making either butter or veal."	

The French papers are occupied with the discussion of Sir Robert Peel's measures. The *Constitutionnel* says:—

"This plan, presented with great ability, is equally well concocted in all its details. But it shows that Sir Robert Peel has yielded enormous concessions to the manufacturing party, and that the compensation offered to the landed interest is little more than a nullity. The battle will be sharp, but cannot be doubtful. Sir Robert