

Among other observations made by these gentlemen, was one that at Hurderville, in Morris County, New Jersey, the mineral phosphate of lime occurred in considerable quantity, and sometimes in crystals of large size. But the circumstance possessed comparatively little interest, inasmuch as crystals larger and finer were found abundantly in northern New York. But after I had explained to my friends in Boston the utility of this substance in agriculture, the economical value it already possessed in England, and had urged on behalf of scientific agriculture, in America as well as in England, the importance of searching for new localities where it might be obtained—the fact above stated assumed a new value. My friends revisited the locality of Hurderville, and, since my return home, have informed me that they have found in that single locality enough to supply the English market for some years to come. The first shipment of it has already been received and sold in Liverpool.

The unlearned reader may ask what use this substance is put to in England. It is found, when reduced to fine powder, and rendered soluble by means of sulphuric acid, to promote very much the growth of our turnip and other common crops. It is prepared and sold therefore in large quantities—thousands of tons every year—for this purpose; and, under the name of super-phosphate of lime, is in much demand among improving farmers in many parts of the country. But it is as yet met with only in few localities, and generally much less pure than that which is likely to come from the United States, and, I hope, from Canada. These new supplies, therefore, will cheapen the article—bring a better quality of this manure into the market at a lower price—will thus place more fertilising means within the reach of the farmer—will keep down the rising price of guano by the beneficial competition—will benefit practical agriculture, and