

Country. I subjoin an extract explaining the nature of the approved composts of Lord Meadowbanks, and shall add some observations on the Terre Noir, as applicable in case of mosses not being procurable in this country.

“The Edinburgh Review in the article of the Genl. Report of the agriculture of Scotland, says of compost heaps there is none that can be prepared at a smaller expence throughout the greater part of Scotland, nor any that increases the fertility of a soil to a greater degree than what is known by the name of Lord Meadowbanks’ compost, formed of an alternate strata of farm-yard dung and peat moss, in the proportion of one part of the former, and two, or even three of the latter. By this method the home made manure of all farms at a moderate distance from Peat moss may be at least doubled, and in our own experience it has scarcely been possible to distinguish between the efficacy of this compost when properly prepared, and that of an equal quantity of farm-yard dung.”

As to the Terre Noir, it is found in most low marshy places in this country, and judging by its appearance and the places where it is found, it must be the residue of decayed, and partly decomposed vegetables and trees, and as it is probable the principles of vegetable life are not yet destroyed by this partial decomposition, it is likely to be impregnated with great powers of vegetation, which require only to be properly brought into action, according to the practice of agricultural chemistry, to exhibit themselves. The trials I have heard of being made with it by Habitant farmers and others, even in its crude state, all confirm this opinion, and I have little doubt if heaped in alternate strata with earth or clay, lime and some cattle manure, and brought to a proper degree of fermentation &c. it would form a good and rich compost, which (should mosses not be found enough in this country) would I trust answer nigh equally well as cattle manure for turnip, potatoe or other green crops.

The Terre Noir is said by some to be of a cold nature, which is owing to its containing acid, or acids of vegetation, but these would be neutralized by the lime or changed by the further fermentation in the heaps, into fertile principles.

I have gone thus at length into the past and present state of the agriculture of the Province, because being the country of my birth, I wish to remove what I think is a reproach to it, that having such resources bestowed on it by the bountiful hand of nature it should be yet dependent on a foreign nation for some of the most important, because the most nutritive articles of food. A great part of its lands appear to be nigh exhausted, and are annually retrograding by the mode of husbandry hitherto followed, as will be seen by a comparison of their produce with those of other countries. Ten or fifteen minots per arpent appear to me to be about the highest and lowest averages of wheat, produced in that part of