

## THE FARMER'S CABINET.

As little appears to be known in many parts of New Brunswick relative to the value of the much-talked-of Guano, as a manure, we have collected a few facts, explanatory of its utility in England and the United States, which will doubtless be interesting to our agriculturists.

Guano, we learn from the *Farmer's Encyclopædia*, is a species of manure long used by the cultivators of Peru to fertilize their lands. It is the excrement of seabirds and is of three kinds—white, red, and dark grey—the first is considered the most valuable and always commands the highest price. According to Humbolt, as long as twenty years ago, there were fifty vessels annually loaded with guano at the Island of Chincha for the South American markets. It is found to the depth of from ten to eighty feet, on some of the islands; and its great fertilizing power is attributable to the quantity of ammonia which it contains. It is of recent introduction into England. In 1840, only twenty casks were imported; in 1841, one or two cargoes more; in 1842, forty thousand tons were consumed; in 1843, the receipts were still further increased; and in 1844 nearly one thousand large vessels were engaged in procuring it for the different ports in Great Britain. And it has so attracted public attention that several Provincial vessels have gone for cargoes of it, and large quantities will in all probability be for sale in Saint John early in the spring of 1845, at moderate prices. In Liverpool on the 3d of September it was quoted at from £5 to £6 per ton.

In an article in the *Boston Evening Gazette*, on Guano, it is remarked:—

"We know that it is considered a difficult matter to induce farmers to adopt new modes of practice; it may, therefore, be an interesting inquiry to learn the claims of this fertilizer to the sudden and almost unbounded favour with which it is regarded. Before proceeding, however, it may be well to state that Guano varies considerably in its chemical composition—the very ancient is not so strong in fertilizing properties as the more recent. There are four kinds known, of which the light brown is the best; some is not pure, containing in a greater or less degree foreign substances, &c., it loses a portion of its material ingredients by exposure to the atmosphere—hence it ought always to be packed in tight casks; it is adulterated by some, and, of course, such lots will disappoint purchasers by applying to an acre only the same quantity that is recommended for a good article."

"It may be asserted that experiments made in England are not to be relied upon with any great degree of confidence, as applicable to this country. This is perhaps true in a great many instances, but with respect to Guano it cannot apply. We lay down the proposition that for all soils, not already supplied with the constituent principles of vegetable life, Guano is, and must of necessity be useful. No matter what the climate is, whether dry, wet, hot or cold, where a necessity exists in the soil for these materials, fertility is out of the question, and they must be furnished or vegetation dies. In Peru, the climate is arid and the soil ste-