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Notes by the Way.

Soot.—We have no experience in the use of soot derived from the combustion of wood, but we have used a good deal of soft-coal soot, in England, on meadows and wheat. The quantity spread on an acre used to be about 40 bushels, and its cost varied from 12 to 15 cents (6d. to 7½d.), the value depending on the more or less perfect combustion of the coal; for instance: the soot from the town of Gloucester, where the chimneys were low, as they were very few of them attached to factories, always sold for 3 cents a bushel less than the soot from Bristol, a town full of factories with lofty chimneys.

We remember a farm, half way between the two towns, on which were grown, every year, 30 acres of potatoes manured with nothing but soot, and the farmer told us that he was well satisfied with the returns of the crop.

One remarkable fact we observed: wherever, by accident, a shovelful of soot fell in a heap on a meadow, and was allowed to remain there unspread for a few days; not only was the grass burnt up, but the first green thing that appeared on the vacant space was *couch-grass*!

An immense quantity of soot used, in our time, to be drawn from London on to the farms on the *chalk* in the counties of Kent and Surrey, some 20 to 25 miles from the metropolis. The farmers knew their business, and if the soot had not paid for this long cartage, they would not have gone to the expense of sending a waggon, four horses, a man and his "mate" to fetch it. There was no guano, no superphosphate, and but very few bone-mills in the south of England in those days. In fact the only aids to farmyard dung we knew of before 1843, were soot, shoddy from the cloth-