

as to destroy all confidence. If the agriculturists in this country would but first test this proposed fertilizer, then finding it efficacious, would unite in an appeal to the government, to establish persons and places, at convenient distances throughout the rural districts, for its sale, there may be a probability their appeal would succeed.

In Canada, the government and legislature have established so many important and expensive offices connected with agriculture, that the farmers there have good reason to expect their interests in all respects to receive a full share of attention. The offices are that of Minister of Agriculture, with several clerks, of a Provincial Geologist, of a Professor of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, and a Professor of Agriculture; besides a Board of Agriculture, and a Provincial Agricultural Association. Now as this question of artificial manures is one thrust upon the farmers, by the scientific world, and as farmers are often severely reflected upon, as being without a knowledge of their profession, and without enterprise, it is not unreasonable that the farmers of Canada should look with confidence to this array of scientific and practical appointments, to facilitate, so far as possible, the general application of this discovery, and to be capable of producing such highly valuable results. The same Prof. Johnson, already quoted, when in this country, in 1819, discovered that in Northern New York, large quantities of the phosphate of lime are to be found, as also amongst the Thousand Islands and on the Ottawa River, which he states is a highly valuable fertilizer, that Dr. Emmons, of Albany, knew localities in Essex County, where a single man might excavate a ton a day of this mineral. That Mr. Alger, and Dr. Jackson, of Boston,* found that large quantities of the same occurred at Hurderville, in Morris County, even as much as would supply the English market for years, highly as it is appreciated there for agricultural purposes; that a shipment was made, soon after his visit here, to Liverpool, and readily sold there. Not knowing whether in the State of New York there are any public officers, whose duty it might be to follow such discoveries to some useful result for the good of the country, it may be as well to discontinue any further remarks as applied to this country, but in reference to Canada, it is not too much to say, when the country, nine-tenths of which are interested in agriculture, is at the expense of keeping so formidable a staff, as that enumerated, on pay, the people have a right to expect them to take a lead in noticing important questions of this kind, and in turning them to the best possible account for the good of the country.

That the Governments and people of North America would export this essence of fertility, without making any attempt to apply it at home, is hardly credible; perhaps ere this time it may in some places be in common use in this State, although it is not in Canada. The learned Professor, it appears, confidently expected it would soon be of general application, for he says:

"If we place more fertilizing manures within the reach of the farmer, it will keep down the rising price of guano, by the beneficial competition—will benefit practical agriculture, and increase the produce of the country.

"To the United States, the discovery will, in the meantime, afford a new article of export, new employment to a part of its people, and, I hope, a reasonable profit for their exertions, my friends, who have sought out the several localities. As soon as American farmers shall have satisfied themselves that, when prepared by means of sulphuric acid, it is really useful to their crops, the mineral will render the same service to their agriculture as to ours. It may revive the wheat-growing powers of New England, and enable Western New York to compete more profitably in the wheat market, with the new States of the North-west." Reverting again, and finally, to the question of the best means of fertilization, it is hoped that none of the foregoing remarks will be considered as presumptuously denying that judicious applications of chemical compounds to the soil may maintain and reproduce, when exhausted, its fertility; and even be applicable on a large scale to farming purposes. It is meant only that the authors of the system are in justice bound, practically to demonstrate its efficacy, before they charge farmers with want of knowledge and enterprise, in declining to practise what, to them, is surrounded with so many difficulties.

The foregoing remarks are intended to solicit the attention of this society to the maintaining and increasing of the fertility of the soil, which, together with the improvement of live stock, are very important considerations; the one very much depends on the other. The very best descriptions of cattle are liable to deterioration in the hands of the farmer, whose system produces a yearly exhaustion of his land, while the very best, as well as the most inferior, may be improved, and that profitably, in connection with the more generous practice of fertilization, and judicious care and crossing.

Such is the demand, indeed, that no branch of farming in the present day yields more remunerative returns, than the raising of first rate stock, whether horses, horned cattle, sheep, swine, or even poultry. To ensure success, however, great caution and skill in the points of excellence are required, and in this respect, from what stock has been exhibited here, it is evident that some members of this society are competent judges, both in Durhams, Ayrshires, Leicester and Merino sheep, and thus in this neighborhood the spirit of enterprise is not wanting.

Importations of stock of this description, not only benefit the individual owners, but they also benefit the neighborhood, by facilitating the work of improvement around them, in so many respects that it were waste of time to detail. Indeed it is not too much to say, that the importers are the benefactors of the public; as all the spare stock they can dispose of from the yearly increase fills up a want, and is the means of retaining at home money which, in the absence of such men, would be remitted to a foreign country, to supply the demand. The display of such stock is calculated to create a taste for improvement, especially in the minds of the youth of the country; it helps to render the occupation of the farmer more attractive and respectable, and thereby aids to reconcile the impatient and restless ambition of youth to its unavoidable disagreeables and labour