

" plaster at two-thirds of a dollar per bushel for his grass-land,
 " than to draw out his dung thereon.

" This discovery exceeds credibility; it puzzles the philosopher, and astonishes the farmer. Indeed, it tells us all reasoning hitherto extended to the principles of vegetation, was without foundation, and that the human race are in a total state of ignorance respecting it."

Experiments on Gypsum as a Manure.

In answer to your queries respecting Gypsum, or Plaster of Paris, I shall give you as full information as I can, consistent with my own and neighbour's experiments.

The best kind is imported from hills in the vicinity of Paris; it is brought down the Seine by water, and is exported from Havre de Grace. I am informed there are large beds of it up the Bay of Fundy, some of which I have seen nearly as good as that from France; but several cargoes brought from thence to Philadelphia, have been used without effect. It is probable this was taken from the top of the ground, and was, by the influence of the sun and atmosphere, dispossessed of the qualities necessary for the purpose of vegetation. The lumps composed of flat shining *specularis*, are preferred to those which are formed of round particles like sand; when pulverized and put dry in an iron pot over the fire, that which is good will soon boil, and great quantities of the fixed air escape by ebullition. It is pulverized by first stamping it in a stamping mill, and then grinding it in a common grist mill. The finer its pulverization the better; it will thereby be more generally diffused. It is best to sow it in a wet day; but if that is not convenient, it should be a little moistened, when you can sow it at any time. The most approved quantity for grass, is six bushels per acre. No art is required in sowing it, more than making its distribution as equal as possible on the sward of grass. It operates altogether as a top manure, and therefore should not be put on in the spring, until the operation of the frost is over, nor until vegetation hath begun. The general time for sowing it is in April, May, June, July, August, and even as late as September. Its effect will generally appear in ten or fifteen days, after which the growth of the grass will be so great as to produce a large burden at the end of six weeks after sowing. It must be sown on dry

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