

with a southern exposure, and which have the whole force of the sun through the hottest part of the day, should, it appears probable, have less lime thrown upon them than those to the north. These last would be cooler and moister in such seasons, and have a considerable advantage over the others; but taking a number of years together, those to the south, from having the full influence of sun and air, and greater equality of temperature, would be the most productive. But as it is impossible to anticipate seasons of drought, the farmer, as a general rule, cannot do otherwise than manure all his fields alike, without regard to their situation, or whether they lie to the north or the south; but if there is any truth in the remark that we have hazarded above, then he will know how to govern himself. Still the question returns on us, as to the quantity we ought to apply. We may evade, by as many negative circumstances as we please, the clear and straight forward reply to this question, still we have to meet it, and who is there that can answer it? It seems one of those questions to which no one can give anything but an evasive reply. No matter to whom the question is put, whether to one even who has had the experience of a life in agriculture; he can give you no other answer than that it depends on the quality and condition of your land; and this leaves you exactly where you were before the question was asked, so that if you happen to be engaged in agriculture, and somewhat new to the business, you must grope your way as well as you can, throwing the lead along the shore of your doubts and conjectures, till experience at length puts you afloat. A few general principles are all that can be offered to guide the young agriculturist. We have already given them, and he may rest assured that very few, unless they have been precisely in his circumstances, can do more for him. But in this question of quantity, there is another involved of almost equal importance; and here will be found the same difficulty in giving decisive and determinate replies as in the case of quantity; it is as to how often lime should be applied, whether in smaller amounts, at short intervals. We have very little doubt that the last is the best mode of proceeding. But we must be understood only to speak generally, particular circumstances must be met by particular modes of action. If one clears a piece of ground where there is a large amount of undecomposed vegetable matter, he may and

ought to throw on a large dressing of lime, and if this land is not cultivated, but remains in grass, used, we mean for grazing alone, then it will not require more for several years; but if crops are taken from the ground, then we are under the imperative necessity of replacing at least as much as we withdraw. From these remarks we can draw two general conclusions, the one, that on a virgin soil we may put a large dressing of lime, and be perfectly sure that we are doing right; while on land under cultivation, we need put no more than will preserve its fertility. Also, that in the first case, the liming need not be repeated for a long time, while in the other case a heavy dressing at first is unnecessary, and that the liming had better be at short intervals, and not in large quantities. We are inclined to think from what we have seen and know of the management of land in this quarter, that too much lime is generally put on, or perhaps it would be fairer to say, too much in proportion to the barn-yard manure used. Besides regarding lime as a nutriment to plants, and a necessary aid to their vegetation, we must also regard it as more or less of a stimulant. The not keeping this in view, has, we are disposed to believe, occasioned a good deal of the murmuring and disappointment that may be heard not unfrequently expressed, as to the effects of this agent. Lime requires something to act on, or it will be of very little use. In long cultivated soils, in which the organic matter has been exhausted, and not returned by farm-yard manure, lime will do more harm than good, or to state the thing more strongly, it will lead to barrenness. It is in this matter of barn-yard manure that our farmers in general are deficient. They do not treasure it with sufficient care or attempt to increase it with sufficient industry, and the little they have they spread over too much ground. This carelessness not only tells upon the crops, but leads to dissatisfaction in the use of lime. From there not being vegetable matter enough in the ground for the lime to act on, it of course fails, disappoints, and spends much of its force in stimulating instead of fertilizing; thence we are driven to the conclusion, that farmers use lime too liberally and too frequently, and that it would be better, while they remain inattentive to their barn-yards, in filling them with the means of enriching their lands, either to put on less lime, or to repeat it at longer intervals.

The practice of England will be no guide to us