

tables contained in chapter VIII. the amount exported from Pictou and Cape Breton will be found stated at large for a period of ten years. The next in value is the Plaister of Paris.

The composition of this article may be thus expressed:

Of sulphuric acid one proportion 75

Lime one do. 55

*Water two do. 17 each. 34

Plaister or gypsum is chiefly found in the county of Hants, although there is some in Cumberland, in the parts of Halifax county bordering on Hants, and at the Gut of Canso. There are various kinds, but it is generally known by the division of hard and soft plaister. The hard plaister is firmer in its texture, and more difficult to manufacture than the other, and consequently not much valued. The soft is of different shades of colour, and of different degrees of induration. Windsor, Newport and Shubenacadie are the places where the greatest quantity is to be met with. It is on high broken ground where the rocks are principally worked, to save the labour of digging. This fossil is by no means a solid body. Large veins of earth are scattered through the rocks, sometimes red and other coloured clays, and not unfrequently layers of lime, all which it is necessary to clear away at much expence. The mode of working it is by blasting with powder, and breaking with the pick-axe. This stone is exported to the United States, where it is ground in mills, and applied as a dressing for land. The result of the application is beyond belief, and appears rather the effect of magic than of manure. The whole quantity exported annually from all parts, may amount to one hundred thousand tons. Essential as this manure is to the United States, and abundant as it is in Nova Scotia, it has produced but little to the colony. The trade has been always attended with some fatality, or fetter, and generally in the hands of very poor people. It is also singular that the inhabitants of Nova Scotia, who are so much employed in transporting this manure for the Americans, have never made a fair experiment of its virtues themselves. It is possible it will not have so great an effect in Nova Scotia, as in the States, because the dews are not so heavy, nor the heat so great; but it is very improbable

* See Letters of Agricola.