

as it is generally dried strongly together, it must first be reduced into a fine state by thrashing, or other means. In Belgium they employ it particularly for manuring their flax, and calculate the annual value of the dung of 400 or 500 head of pigeons at 25 or 30 rix-dollars, (about £5 or £6 sterling). Poultry dung must always be used as a top-dressing, or only harrowed in very lightly; and it should be spread over the ground when there is no wind. We should generally choose damp, but not wet weather, for the purpose, otherwise the many soluble substances would be carried too deep into the soil, or washed away altogether. If a meadow be manured with poultry dung, and sheep driven on it soon afterwards, it is almost entirely eaten bare by them, probably on account of the many salts, including common salt, contained in this manure. Like all other manures containing much ammonia, it soon destroys moss in meadows. When it is wished not to employ poultry dung by itself, it will be found best to mix it into a common heap with some soil rich in humus; a soil of this kind should be used with all organic remains containing much nitrogen, as all loss is thereby prevented. How much, however, of this invaluable manuring substance (nitrogen), in the state of ammonia, is every year wasted on all farms, it is impossible to say.

To the excrements of birds belong also the dung of the cormorant or gull, which occurs in immense quantities on some islands lying off the coast of Peru, and is named Guano. It is used in Peru with the most striking effects in manuring the maize-fields. Vanquelin and Fourcroy, who undertook a chemical examination of the "Guano," found it to contain 25 per cent. of urate of ammonia, and urate of potash, as well as the phosphates of potash, a fatty substance, and some silica. According to Klaproth it consists, on the contrary, of much humate of ammonia, common salt, phosphate of lime, some animal remains, and sand. More minute subsequent remains have shown that guano is very variable in its composition, from differences both of climate and situation.

Vice versus Labour.

Under the above heading we find in a recent number of the *Mark Lane Express*, an excellent and highly toned article on the moral and social condition of the cultivators of the

soil, signed A MAN O' THE MEARNS, which we select the following extract, length of which will be justified by the importance of the truths enunciated, and which has universal application:—

In all ages and in all kingdoms of the world vice has proved itself diametrically opposed to labour, and for the most cogent and tangible reasons will of necessity continue to do so to the end of time. Virtue, industry, and wisdom, whether viewed in an individual or in a collective or national light, have always been considered synonymous terms; and so have immorality, idleness, and poverty. Such is Nature's irrevocable fiat, pronounced against every race against every social rank of the human race. Neither kings nor queens, peers nor pariahs are excepted any more than country squires, farmers and agricultural labourers. Where we find virtue or vice, whether in the palace or in the cottage, there we are also sure to find their respective awards in some form or other. We may as well think to gather figs of the air as to realise the contrary. Indeed, it is well known to mankind that it is so; for had the reverse been true, the heart recoils from the contemplation of what would have been its inevitable consequence.

There is, perhaps, no branch of industry where immorality is attended with more ruinous results than in agriculture, more especially amongst the labouring population; consequently there is no place where virtuous habits are to be more sedulously cultivated, both by precept and example, than in the cottage of the agricultural labourer. We repeat, *both by precept and example*; for if landowners and factors (stewards) and tenants spend immoral lives, it is hopeless to think of a virtuous, industrious, and prosperous peasantry.

The reason why immorality is attended with results so adverse in agriculture arises from the heavy character of the work and the fidelity with which it must be executed in order to obtain from the soil abundant crops, such fidelity being incompatible with loose, immoral, and vicious habits. There are, no doubt, "rogues" who will go through a vast amount of work in a short time, if you will only give them a bribe or in some way or other bribe them to do so, and then look sharp after them; but "the fit starts" of this kind are always attended with shortcomings, that do far more than counterbalance any benefit derived from them, while the work can never be performed as it otherwise would be, consequently it is never followed by the same train of propitious results. In other words, "the blessing of an Overruling Providence never has attended such a system of dishonesty; never will do so; for although fruitful seasons are given to both good and bad, yet we have the Divine authority for the conclusion involv-