

likewise loved women; but was so jealous of decency and decorum, that he ordered that every one taken in the act of gallantry, or offering insult to a woman, should suffer death: he had in short, attained the difficult medium between prodigality and avarice, and was at once generous and economical.

MANNER OF USING THE PLAISTER OF PARIS.

In a letter from a gentleman near Trenton, New Jersey, dated July 14th, 1789.

[From the *Christian's, Scholar's, and Farmer's Magazine.*]

IN answer to your queries respecting the Plaster of Paris, I shall give you as full information as I can, consistent with my own and neighbours experiments.

The best kind is imported from hills in the vicinity of Paris; it is brought down the Seine, and 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 the bay to Philadelphia, have been used without effect.—It is probable they were taken from the top of the ground, and, by the influence of the sun and atmosphere, dispossessed of the qualities necessary for the purposes of vegetation.

The lumps, composed of flattening specula, 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 be, as thereby it will be more generally diffused on the land.

It is best to sow it on a *wet day*; but if that is not convenient, it should be a *little moistened*.

The most approved quantity for grass, is six bushels per acre. No art is required in sowing it, except to make its distribution as equal as possible on the soil. It operates altogether as a *top manure*, and, therefore, should not be put on in the spring, until the operation of the frosts are over, and 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, and

the growth of the grass will be so rapid, as to produce a large burden, at the end of six weeks after sowing.

It must be sown on dry land, not subject to be overflowed. I have sown it on sand, loam, and clay; and it is difficult to say on which it has best answered, its effects, however, are sooner visible on sand.

It has been used, as a manure, in this state, upwards of twelve years. Its duration may, from the best information I can collect, be estimated from seven to ten years; for, like other manure, its continuance very much depends on the nature of the soil, on which it is placed.

One of my neighbours sowed a piece of his grass ground with the Plaster, six years ago; another sowed a field with it, four years since; a great part of my farm was sown with this article in May, 1788. We regularly cut two crops, and pasture in autumn. There is no appearance of failure in the virtue of this manure; the present crop being as good as any preceding.

I have, this season, mowed about fifty acres of red clover, timothy, white clover, &c. which was plastered last May, July, and September.—Many who saw the grass, calculated the produce at two tons an acre,—I imagine, from the two crops, I shall have, at least, three tons per acre.

Several strips were left in the different fields, without the plaster; these were unproductive, and not worth mowing.

In April, 1788, I covered a small piece of grass ground more than two inches thick with yard manure; in the same worn out field, I sowed of the plaster, to contrast its effects with those of the dung. I mowed the dunged, and plastered land twice last year, and once this; in every crop the soil plastered has produced the most.

You will remember, in all your experiments with clover, that you should mix about one-third of timothy grass seed; it is of great advantage, as it serves to support the clover; the timothy very much facilitates the curing also of the clover, and renders it a superior fodder.

The plaster operates equally well, on the other grasses as on clover. Its effect is said to be good, if sown in the spring on wheat; but I cannot say this from experience. On Indian corn, I know in operation to be great. We use it at the rate of a table spoonful for a hill, put on immediately after the corn is first dressed. From some experiments, last year made and reported to our Agricultural Society, it appears, that nine bushels of additional corn, per acre, was produced by this method of using the plaster.