

I do hereby certify, that the above named HENRY WYNKOOP, is a person of undoubted good character, and worthy of credit; and I do also further testify, that the Plaster of Paris is much used as a manure in the neighbourhood of Philadelphia, and that it is generally held in high estimation by those who have tried it as a manure.

(Signed)

Philadelphia, June 30, 1789.

SAMUEL POWELL,

President of the Agricultural Society.

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*Letter on the Use of Plaster of Paris as a Manure, taken from a Publication, entitled, The American Museum.*

HAVING, for four years past, made use of a large quantity of Plaster of Paris, or Gypsum, as a manure upon a variety of soils, and under different circumstances—I beg leave to lay before you the result of my experiments, together with some observations, respecting the nature of this fossil. I am the more anxious to comply with my duty to the society in this respect, because many of our fellow-citizens are losing the great advantage to be derived from the use of this manure; entertaining an opinion, that it does not, in itself contain any nutriment to plants, but that it acts merely as a stimulus to the soil, by which, although vegetation is for a short time rapidly promoted, yet the ground becomes exhausted, and is left a dead inert mass.

1. In the year 1785, I sowed three acres of light soil, containing a little clay, with barley and clover. In the month of April, the following year, I divided the field into three parts, and strewed six bushels of French Gypsum on No. 1; the same quantity of the American Gypsum, brought from the bay of Fundy, on No. 2; and left the intermediate space, No. 3, without any. On cutting the first crop, that year, little difference could be observed; the second crop produced double the quantity of grass, where the Gypsum had been put; and the succeeding year, the difference was still greater in favour of this manure.