

'Let us then,' said Segued, 'wait till the expiration of the year; do thou return to thy scientific retirement, and I will seek the companions of my youth, happy in being freed from that wearisome discernment which points out the failings of those I must converse with, and contented to wear, over the eyes of knowledge, such a veil as shall hinder my seeing deformity in objects, on my idea of whose beauty my happiness depends.'

Immediately, as the appointed time elapsed, they quitted Cairo, returned to the sage, and besought him to replace

them in their original state—'Go, my sons,' said he, 'I will indulge you in your request, on condition ye bear in mind this truth—that man can here look for little happiness beyond the absence of misery—farther felicity is reserved for the celestial mansions.—Depart to your dwellings and occupations, and be convinced, that while thou, Ali, hast the necessaries of life, and thou, Segued, the pleasures of wealth, ye are happier under the dispensation of Providence, than human or supernatural power can make you.'

LETTER ON THE USE OF PLAISTER OF PARIS, AS A MANURE,

[From 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 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 singlass 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 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. Early in October 1787, the clover lay was ploughed once, about four inches deep, was sowed with rye, and in that rough state was harrowed. The rye was of a superior quality, and double the quantity on No. 1 and 2, of that on No. 3. After harvest, the rye stubble was plough-

ed, and sowed with buck-wheat, when a striking difference was still observable in favour of the gypsum, and which continues in the present crop of Indian corn.

2. In April 1787, I sowed three acres of potatoe ground (a light loam) with barley and clover. Just as the barley was above ground, some gypsum was strewed diagonally across the field, about eight feet wide. Little or no difference could be observed in the barley; but in the month of September following, there was a striking difference in the clover, in favour of the manure, which would have afforded a good crop of hay, whilst the remainder of the field was but indifferent. I have frequently put gypsum upon grain, without observing any immediate difference, in the appearance of the crops.

3. In April 1786, six acres of a poor singlass soil, situated in German-town hill, were sowed with oats, the ground not having been manured for twenty years; it produced a crop not paying expences. In April, 1787, one half of the field was covered with gypsum, six bushels to the acre. The latter end of the same summer, that part, on which the manure had been put, produced good pasture of blue grass and white clover, whilst the remainder afforded little but a few scattered weeds. In October, the field was ploughed once, and sowed with rye; at harvest, the former produced ten bushels to the acre, the latter not above five.

4. A field of 15 acres, a light loam, was, in April, 1784, sowed with barley and clover, the produce only twenty bushels to the acre, the ground not having been sufficiently manured. In 1785, it produced a good first, and a tolerable second