

*Copy of a Letter from Mr. H. Wynkoop, of Verden Hoff,
Bucks County, Pennsylvania, 13th August, 1787, to the
President of the Agricultural Society at Philadelphia.*

“ S I R,

“ CONVINCED of the utility of the Plaster of Paris as a grafs manure, I communicate to you for the information of the society, an experiment which I lately made. In the month of March last, as soon as the snow was off the ground, and so settled as to bear walking upon the surface, I spread eight bushels of the Plaster of Paris upon two and a half acres of wheat stubble ground, which had been sown the spring before (in common with the rest of the field) with about two pounds of red clover seed for pasture; this spot yielded about the middle of June five tons of hay. A small piece of ground within the enclosure, and of similar quality, having been left unspread with the Plaster, afforded an opportunity of distinguishing the effects of plaster of Paris as a manure; for from the produce of the latter, there was good reason to judge that my piece of clover, without the assistance of the plaster, might have yielded one and a half tons of hay; so that the eight bushels of the pulverized stone must have occasioned an increase of three and a half tons of hay upon two and a half acres of ground, in addition to which it is now covered, to appearance, with between two and three tons fit for the scythe. This soil has been in course of tillage about fifty years, and never had any dung or manure upon it, but yet was what might be called good wheat land. As the effects of the plaster were thus powerful upon such kind of ground, there is good reason to conclude they would be much greater upon a soil previously manured.

With due respect, I am, &c.

(Signed)

To the President of the Agricultural
Society in Philadelphia.

HENRY WYNKOOP.”

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