

Government do ought to excite any anticipations which must end in disappointment.

I propose to examine, not the personal testimony upon which the existence of this island is founded, nor even to show the value of the guano said to be found there, if those who are interested in it really give a true sample of it—for this would show it to be inferior to Peruvian guano—but to prove, from indisputable chemico-agricultural facts, and from known meteorological and physical laws, the enunciation, that *if the island does exist, and if it is covered with guano, THEN THIS GUANO CANNOT BE EQUAL TO THE PERUVIAN BROUGHT FROM THE CHINCHA ISLANDS, AND CANNOT BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR IT.*

Let us just state the qualities upon which Peruvian Guano bases its superior efficiency to all others hitherto known—take a view of its composition, and the nature of that which gives it its confessed superiority, show the causes of its peculiarity, and see how far the same state of things can exist in the location where this new island is said to exist. All these things being duly considered and ascertained, it will be seen that *no guano equal to the Peruvian can exist 1500 miles from the western coast of South America.*

First. Peruvian Guano owes its superior efficiency to all other guanos, to the large quantity of ammonia which it is capable of affording by the decomposition of its organic matter. This is now an established axiom in chemistry and in agriculture. It is composed of the excrements of birds containing a large amount of urea, uric acid, and other compounds capable of furnishing ammonia. These different compounds readily decompose when exposed to heat and moisture, produce ammonia, which from its volatile nature, at once passes into the atmosphere—is carried wherever the winds bear it, until brought down by dews or rain. The reason why this decomposition has not taken place in the Peruvian Guano is that on the western coast of South America no rain falls; the deposits made by birds, therefore, lose the water which they naturally contain, by evaporation, and are retained for ages in the condition in which they are exhibited to us in the shape of Peruvian Guano. Now let us state the reasons why no rain falls on these islands, and if the same state of things does not exist in relation to that now being sought by the United States, unless natural laws are reversed or suspended, then rain must fall on it; if it does fall, the guano must suffer decomposition, and consequently be greatly depreciated, and not to be compared to the Peruvian—becoming, indeed, a phosphatic guano, such as the Mexican, or at most only equal to that from the Lobos Islands, which now will not pay for its transportation around the Cape of Good Hope or around Cape Horn.

Rain is the condensation of vapor in the air, by means of cold and from electric causes. The trade winds coming from the coast