

agricultural press, that great caution is necessary in order to avoid deception. It will be well for farmers before being led away by certificates of the superiority of any manure over "best Peruvian guano," or equal mixtures of "best Peruvian and best Mexican," to ascertain if these guanos came from the same parties as sold the manure, and whether they were *really* what they assumed to be. The business of making artificial manures is profitable in proportion to the amount of fraud practiced in it, and unfortunately professed men of science, have furnished their official position and name to the recommendation of such manures, and thus have become aids to gross imposition on the purchaser. Again, I say to all, beware of them, unless accompanied in every instance with a written guarantee as to the per cent. of ammonia and of biphosphate of lime they contain.

There have been manures sold in the Baltimore market under the name of "superphosphate of lime," which on analysis did contain not three per cent. of that article; as well might one call a coin a silver coin which only contained three per cent. of silver. There are manures also sold here the chief materials of which are bought in Baltimore, thence carried hundreds of miles to be *manufactured*, and then again brought back and sold to our farmers. Do they not have to pay thus double freight on these manures, and then trust to both the honesty and intelligence of a manufacturer for their purity and goodness? Manure dealers of this class can afford to advertise largely, for their profits are great, and although their manures may be heralded to the agricultural public as superior to the best Peruvian Guano, or as superseding it, yet such cannot be the case except in *very rare instances*. They are sold at a price above their value, and farmers will find to their cost, when it is too late for redress, that they have been induced to part with their hard earnings for comparatively worthless articles.

To prove this I have furnished a review of a publication made some time since, recommending a manure made in New York and sold here under the name of De-Burg's Superphosphate of Lime. Superphosphate of Lime for various reasons had become a popular one, amongst many farmers, in various parts of the country, and hence I presume the above name was chosen: it was sold here by agents of high mercantile credit and standing, and recommended by the chemist of the Maryland State Agricultural Society. All of these things had a tendency to induce public confidence in it, and therefore I feel it more my duty to examine into its merits; what these merits, or rather demerits, were, the following communication shows, and I only introduce it here for the purpose of cautioning planters and farmers against all similar sources of imposition for the future.

It was in reply to a gentleman who had always taken a deep interest in scientific and practical agriculture.