

Boussingault, who, besides being one of the first chemists of the day is a practical farmer on a large scale, holds the following language in his valuable work under the title of Rural Economy:

"In agricultural establishments in which the importance of manure is duly *appreciated*, every precaution is taken, both for its production and preservation. Any expense incurred in improving this vital department of the farm, is soon repaid beyond all proportion to the outlay. The industry and intelligence possessed by the farmer may indeed be almost judged of at a glance, by the care he bestows on his dunghill. It is truly deplorable to witness the vast loss and destruction of manure over a great part of the country. The dunghill is often arranged as if it were a matter of moment that it should be exposed to the water collected from every roof in the vicinity, and as if the object were to take advantage of every shower, to wash and cleanse it from all it contains that is really valuable. The main secret of the admirable and successful husbandry of French Flanders may, perhaps, lie in the extreme care that is taken to collect every thing that can contribute to the fertility of the soil."

He also adds, that if "premiums were awarded to those farmers who should preserve their dunghills in the most rational and advantageous manner, they would prove of more real service than premiums in many other and more popular directions."

These observations were intended for France, but they are equally applicable to this country.

It is really painful to witness the want of care in this respect which so generally prevails. There are, it is true, many exceptions in those farmers who are not only fully aware of the necessity of preserving their manure, but who use every means in their power to retain all its valuable constituents.

If it were possible to find two adjacent farms of equal size, with soils exactly alike, and managed and cropped alike; each having the same number and kind of domestic animals, an experiment of the most expressive kind could be tried. We will suppose that one of these is in the possession of a person who takes "every precaution for the production and preservation of the manure," whilst on the other the manure is well "washed and cleansed of its most valuable components." At the end of a limited period, say 10 years, if no manure from abroad be brought to either of them, it would most likely appear that he who used well-washed manure would have "short crops," which he would perhaps charge