

CHAPTER X.

ON GUANO.

Maryland was the pioneer State in the use of guano in this country.

According to my recollection, the first trial of it in the State was by Captain Abel S. Dungan, of a few bags brought by him from Peru, and applied to part of his corn crop. This, I think, was about the year 1832, and soon after the importation of it by the cargo soon commenced.

The good effects of this manure upon exhausted soils, brought it rapidly into use, and the high price it reached, induced enterprising persons to search for it, especially upon those small coral islands whose only inhabitants are birds. The results of this activity brought into notice the various kinds of guano now sold by the dealers.

All of those that can be had in considerable quantity, are sold in Baltimore, which continues to be the leading guano market in this country.

In estimating the value of any guano to the farmer, we may disregard all its constituents except ammonia and phosphoric acid. The value of some of them depends principally upon their large proportion of ammonia. Others containing no ammonia, are valuable for their phosphoric acids alone. There are some again which contain available proportions of both of these matters so important to the farmer.

We may therefore divide the guanoes now accessible to our agriculturists into three genera or groups.

1.—AMMONIATED GUANO.

The only species of this kind is Peruvian guano, containing from 7 to 18 per cent. of ammonia.

2.—PHOSPHATIC GUANO,

Containing phosphoric acid equal to from 16 to 90 per cent. of phosphate of lime.

Of this the species recognized in the official advertisements of the State Inspector of Guano are—

Mexican,	White Mexican,
Colombian,	Brown Colombian, or
Sombrero,	Nevassa.