

made ammonia, which tends to promote a vigorous growth of crop and thus rapidly abstracts the essential constituents of the soil, including its phosphoric acid. It is for this reason that a better permanent effect results from mixtures of Peruvian and phosphatic guanos than from the former, when applied alone.

CHAPTER XI.

BONES.

Bones were first used as a manure in Germany, and afterwards, in the year 1771, were introduced into England. Little use, however, was made of them prior to the beginning of the present century, since which period their use has rapidly extended throughout Great Britain.

The high prices of bones in England have drawn, and continue to draw, them from almost every part of the world; even the bones of the soldiers who fell at Waterloo, and at the siege of Sevastopol, have contributed to enrich the soil of Great Britain.

The first bones used for manure in this country, it is believed, were crushed at the establishment of Mr. Wm. Trego, and sold to farmers in Harford and Montgomery counties in the year 1836.

They were sold for some time at 33 to 35 cents per bushel, or about half their present value. The prices in England are about 40 pr. ct. higher than they have yet reached in this country.

When I first applied bones in Harford county, in 1839, the operation was watched with interest by my neighbors, some of whom thought they would prove an extravagant and useless application; and there were those who appeared to have formed theories in reference to manures which ruled bones out of the list, because, as they believed, they were of "too dry a nature."

Their good effect, however, soon became manifest, and the result was to produce heavy crops upon soils which had been long lying idle, after having been rendered sterile by improvident planting and farming of former times.

The use of bones soon extended, and my old neighbors are now perfectly willing to pay double the prices which were then thought extravagant.