

masses, or hard lumps. In this condition, the material cannot be readily incorporated with the soil. It might be burnt as an impure limestone; but generally speaking, it will be found sufficient to suffer it to remain exposed for one season, which will bring it into a proper state to be hauled out.

In the lower parts of Talbot county where the marl lies deep, occasionally not more than a foot above high water mark, its extraction is inconvenient and laborious. Still, its benefits must not be resigned. Advantage should be taken of low tides to raise it upon the banks, from which it may be hauled at convenient opportunities.

The value of marl is now so generally acknowledged, and its property of improving a soil, and even restoring one totally impoverished, so universally recognised, that no farmer should hesitate to make the hauling of it a regular occupation. Marling to be carried on with advantage, or even with economy, should be carried on throughout the year, or at least during a specified portion of it, by a force expressly set aside for that purpose and none other. "If only a single horse," says Mr. Ruffin, "were employed in drawing marl throughout the year, at the moderate allowance of two hundred working days, and one hundred bushels carried out for each, his year's work would amount to twenty thousand bushels, or enough for more than sixty acres. This alone, would be a great object effected. But besides, this plan would allow the profitable employment of additional labor. When at any time, other teams and laborers could be spared to assist, though for only a few days, every thing is ready for them to go immediately to work. The pit is drained, the road is firm, and the field marked off for the loads. In this way, much labor may be obtained in the course of the year, from teams that would otherwise be idle, and from laborers whose other employments would be of but little importance. The spreading of marl on the field, is a job that will always be ready to employ any spare labor; and throwing off the covering earth from an intended digging of marl, may be done when rain, snow, or severe cold, have rendered the earth unfit for almost every other kind of labor."

As to the mode of applying marl, it consists simply in disposing of it in heaps over the field; then spreading it in the manner that is done with other manures; and finally, turning it in with the plough. It may sometimes, be used also as a top dressing.