

working the land in some crop ;—3rd. By mixing it in compost beds, and applying it in the same manner. Each of these methods has its peculiar advantages, and is also liable to objections. The *texture* of the soil is to be taken into consideration. By the first method, the lime becomes very thoroughly mixed with the soil, particularly if it be a loose sandy soil, as the rain water washes down its particles, and fixes them between the grains of sand. But when lime, or any other manure, is purchased, an immediate return is desired, which cannot be had if this plan be followed. Many of our farmers, too, having but little ready money, cannot afford to spend it without getting speedy remuneration for its use. By the second method, the lime is thrown to the bottom of the furrow, and cannot be afterwards well incorporated with the soil, which is a great objection, as the benefit from its use, to the fullest extent, is not speedily obtained. The third method has the advantage of diffusing the lime very equally over the surface, and insuring its mixture afterwards ; but it involves great labor in hauling and applying it, and but a small quantity can be applied at a time in this manner. The best mode of combining the advantages of these several methods, is first to fallow up the ground, which leaves it uneven, with numerous fissures produced by the ploughing, apply the lime, then follow it with a heavy iron tooth harrow, and cultivate it in some crop that requires frequent working.—corn for example. In this manner we mix the lime well with the soil, receive its benefits immediately in a crop, which can be more completely realised, as the corn can be followed by wheat, with which clover may be sown. The chief indications are then fulfilled. 1st. The lime is more thoroughly mixed with the soil. 2nd. Return for its cost in a crop of corn. 3rd. Increased return by a crop of wheat immediately succeeding the corn, and then the benefit of a good crop of clover, so useful, not only as food for stock but as an improvement to the crop which it precedes.

For the reasons above stated, this mode of applying lime is preferable to all others. By it we mix the lime thoroughly with the soil, and obtain immediate return for its cost, a consideration of the highest importance with farmers, who have not the ability to lay out of their money for several successive years, but need an immediate return. Again this mode gives not only the speediest reward, but gives a much greater profit than any other mode in the same number of years, which is the ultimate end of the application of all manures.

It has been a much mooted question, whether lime should be applied in its *caustic* or slaked state. The only condition to decide this is the quantity of organic (vegetable,) matter in the soil. Where this is large, as in the upper districts of Caroline county, in the Black Gum swamp soils of Dorchester, Somerset, and Worcester, and, indeed, in all newly cleared or drained lands, caustic and even hydrate of lime (water slaked,) should be preferred, it promotes, in a very strong degree, the decomposition of vegetable matter, which is of no use in a soil until it is decomposed.