

valuable elements as 64 bushels of bone dust. A much larger quantity will have to be applied than of bones, because the phosphate of iron is very insoluble, but on this account its effects will be much the more permanent. It exists in great abundance in the above localities, and I hope will be used with signal benefit. In the coming season I shall subject it to various tests in order to devise the best means for speedily extracting its phosphoric acid. There is a large *peaty deposit* in Anne Arundel county, on the farms of the Messrs. Hodges & Harwood, and the Hon. J. S. Sellman, which contains also some of the phosphate of iron. It is very rich in inorganic matter, containing about 20 per cent. of various salts, useful in vegetation, and about fifty-five per cent. of organic vegetable matter; when exposed in heaps to the sun for a short time, it is easily burnt, and its ashes prove a very valuable manure.

It has been used to a great extent by the last named gentleman with immediate effects, equal to guano, and the end of its influence is not yet. The marsh from which it is derived, a few years ago would have been sold for almost any price, now scarcely any sum would buy it. Besides its agricultural value this deposit is a subject of deep interest in other respects, the discussion of which would be out of place here.

L I M E .

No substance, with the exception of stable manure, has been so long and so generally used as that which heads this article. There is none concerning which there has been such a variety of opinions as to its use at all, the quantity per acre to be used, the time and mode of its application. The Romans and some of the so-called barbarous nations of Germany used it long before the Christian era. "Edui et Pictones agros calce uberrimos fecit." "The Edui and Picts made their fields very rich by lime," says an ancient author. In the form of marl, too, it has been used for a very long time; and though this be an age of progress, the progress in agriculture has very lately commenced. Leases as far back as the time of the reigns of Edwards I and II have conditions annexed compelling the use of marl by tenants.* The *Chartæ Forestæ*, passed 1225, mentions the right of sinking marl pits. It was probably also used in the time of Pliny, in France and Britain. The diversity of sentiment which has and still exists in relation to lime is a sufficient proof that heretofore all the causes which promoted or prevented its efficiency could not have been known. A thousand different opinions have been promulgated as to its mode of action, and a thousand contradictions to those opinions, like the opinions themselves, all based on experiment and practical observation. How little this empirical practice has

* See first volume *British Husbandry*, London.