

The best Peruvian Guano comes from the Chincha islands, which are three in number, and lie in one line from north to south about a half mile apart. Each island is from five to six miles in circumference, consisting of granite covered, with guano, in some places to the height of 200 feet in successive strata, each stratum being from three to ten inches in thickness, varying in color from a light to a dark brown. No *earthy matter whatever is mixed with this vast mass of excrement*. At the point where the guano is now worked the height of the deposit is upwards of 80 feet, and the removal of 200,000 tons has scarcely affected it in a sensible degree. As may be imagined from the immense weight of the mass and the gradual way in which it has been formed, its solidity is very considerable, and in some cases it has been necessary to blast it as we would a rock of sand-stone or lime-stone. It is very obvious that in this case the guano will be preserved in great purity, and that we have enough there to last for all the purposes of Agriculture for many centuries yet to come. There is another variety of guano of which only a few cargoes have gone to England, and none of which have come to this country, called Angamos guano, better somewhat than the Peruvian.

Guano is also brought from Ichaboe, from the Coast of Patagonia, from Saldanha Bay, and lately from Mexico. I have been informed that near Key West, and in several other places on the coast bordering on the Gulf of Mexico, large deposits of this manure abound. It would be well worth the attention of some of our enterprising merchants to examine into this, and our naval officers too on duty there would confer a great favor on their country were they to examine and bring to light these deposits. The composition of such of these Guanos as are sold, I shall show and their differences. Amongst what are called concentrated manures, Guano, without competition, holds the first place. Practical experience for ages in uncivilized countries bears testimony to its value. *Practice and science alike confirm that testimony in the latest times and in the most civilized nations.*

To what, then, does Guano owe its confessed superiority? To what its high rank above other manures? What is that in it which makes it equally sought after by the savage on the wild coast of Peru, the nobility of England, and the lord of the soil in the United States?

I do not pretend to assume the position of a discoverer in answering these questions. I only assume it as a part of my official duty, in giving answer to the above questions, to make public what is known of this article; so that the Agriculturists may have facts placed before them in relation to it, and may thus form opinions fixed on a reliable basis. Very many elaborate analyses of Guano have been published by scientific men, and much light shed on its composition. Unfortunately, however, for practical