

There is another variety of guano lately brought to our market, called

MEXICAN GUANO.

I have not yet examined it myself, but the analyses of it by various distinguished chemists show it to contain from 60 to 61 per cent. of phosphates and between 1 and 2 per cent. of ammonia. It is sold at \$25 by the ton of 2240 pounds. It cannot take the place of the Peruvian on those soils to which the Peruvian is especially adapted, which are by far the greatest number, but to soils which can absorb abundance of ammonia from the atmosphere, and are deficient in phosphates, it is the cheapest manure by which this deficiency can be supplied. A ton of 2240 lbs. contains of phosphates about 1366 pounds, at 1½ cents per pound, worth \$20.49; of ammonia about 33.6 pounds, worth \$4.03—equal to \$24.52. The price of \$25 per ton of 2240 pounds, certainly is very near its real value. Justice to this guano requires that the other varieties should be correctly inspected.

Guano is a compound of various substances, having different values. A large proportion of one of little worth cannot make up for that which is more valuable—any more than cents can make up for dollars, or pounds of silver make up for pounds of gold. What is the absolute, or what the relative worth of its different valuable constituents? These we have shown to be ammonia or compounds capable of forming it and the phosphates. They are not salt, because that can be more cheaply supplied; they are not sulphates, because they too can be obtained at less cost; it is not organic matter deprived of its ammoniacal elements, because it can be found in any marsh or barn-yard, certainly it is not sand and gravel stones, because these are often-times too abundant on some farms already, and certainly would be *dear* any where, provided we had to pay for them at the rate of \$46 or even \$38 per ton, as has been the case in some specimens of guano, and for *which privilege the State* compelled the purchaser to pay her a valuable consideration. If the value depends upon none of these, it must depend upon those which are left, that is, its ammonia, phosphates, and perhaps potash, but as to the latter, not to an extent worth estimating in the calculation of values; all these are commercial articles, having known and determined values.

Without going into any elaborate reasoning to show the money value of these several ingredients in guano, I will here state that whether we determine the value of the ammonia by its market price, or whether by what remains after deducting the cost of the other valuable constituents in pure Peruvian guano, 12 cents per pound will be a fair valuation for it. The phosphates present no difficulty. They can be purchased at the rate of 1½ cents per pound.