

adulteration or from natural causes, the difference in value exists in the article, and that difference should be made known. I am very happy in being able, in addition to other testimony, to adduce that of the celebrated Dr. Hare, "nomen clarum et venerabile." Dr. Hare is one of the very first of living chemists and philosophers. Being entirely disinterested, and fully competent to judge in this matter, his opinion is entitled to the highest confidence.

During the last spring, when public attention was much directed to this subject, in consequence of some analyses of guano which I published in the "Baltimore Sun," a committee of the Elkridge Agricultural Club solicited his opinion, which he gave in the following letter:

PHILADELPHIA, May 13th, 1851.

GENTLEMEN—Mr. R. H. Hare has, in your behalf, requested me to state whether, in my opinion, it can be possible to estimate the comparative value of different specimens of guano without a resort to chemical analysis. I am surprised that there should be any doubt on this subject. The fertilizing power of the manure in question is notoriously dependent upon the proportion of phosphoric and nitrogenous matter (matter capable of forming ammonia) which it contains. To determine the quantities of these ingredients without analysis is utterly impossible.

I refer you to the pamphlet of Dr. Ure on this subject. Dr. Ure justly alleges: "The farmer should never purchase guano, excepting its composition in the preceding particulars be warranted by the analysis of a competent chemist."

This distinguished chemist adds, "In a recent case which came under my cognizance, in consequence of being employed professionally to analyze the identical cargo, I found the guano to be nearly rotten and effete, although," as he adds, "the purchasers bought it under the conviction that it contained 19.4 per cent. of ammonia."

I am of opinion that the person employed to inspect guano ought to be an accomplished chemist, and should be allowed to employ, at the public expense, at least one competent chemical assistant. That every cargo imported should be scrutinized and samples taken of every variety, each of which should be analyzed so as to furnish certificates of them severally, of which the purchasers should be entitled to certified copies.

I am, gentlemen, respectfully yours,
ROBT. HARE.

To Messrs. Glenn and Lurman, as members of a Committee of the Elkridge Agricultural Society.