

buy it or not. Guano is an article of commerce, and like all other commercial articles, its price will be in proportion to the demand and supply. The best of it can be furnished here at a good profit, at prices which, at present, an inferior article brings, and whenever profits are to be made, commercial enterprise will avail itself of the opportunity to make them. The purchaser is no more dependent on the seller for his guano, than the former on the latter for his money. *Guano ought to bring a higher price in England than here, for the crop there produced by it is worth more than the same quantity produced here. But it costs less.*

The details of a proper inspection law can be easily made out, and inspections performed with a sufficient degree of practical exactitude. Let there be a standard of ammonia and of phosphates to make No. 1, and whatever else may be under that, let it be marked No. 1, less — per cent. Let the name of the ship be marked on each bag, and compel the seller to have a precise copy of the analysis of whatever guano he may offer for sale, with the name of the ship attached; this copy to bear the certificate of the inspector, and be open to the inspection of every one who may wish to purchase; or whatever may be the details, LET THE PRINCIPLE BE CARRIED OUT, THAT THE INSPECTION SHALL SHOW THE QUANTITY OF VALUABLE MATTER IN THE ARTICLE INSPECTED.

I have dwelt thus long on this subject—its importance to the agricultural interest demanded that it should be fully presented to your notice. I felt it my duty to make the above statement in justice to that interest, and shall offer no other apology.

I have been frequently called upon to make examinations of guano for purchasers, have been written to by many to inform them where the *best* guano was to be had. In obeying these calls and answering these queries, I have been threatened with suits for damages, and attacked in various other ways by interested individuals. These efforts to change my course I did not consider necessary to notice, as it is well known that *no public officer ever discharged his duty without giving offence to those who were interested in the neglect or faithless performance of it*; and I only mention them here to show how deep an interest is felt in preventing the proper understanding of this subject. Until I am especially prevented, by competent authority, I shall, whenever I can, make examinations of all substances without a guarantee, offered for sale as manure, publish the results, and abide the issue.

### MODE OF APPLICATION.

Under this head I shall treat not only of the mechanical application of this manure to soils and crops, but also of the previous treatment to which guano should be subjected before its use; and I shall speak of guano not as an element—not as a substance