

## 5.—BONES.

There appears to be nothing new to add in reference to the use of ground bones, or the mode of preparing, which I gave heretofore. The good and prompt effects produced upon crops by the use of bones prepared *in this manner* have been experienced by others, as well as myself.

I may add, that costly as bones appear to be, they constitute an economical manure, because certain to remunerate the purchaser by means of increased yield of crops for a long period, if properly prepared and applied. They are too expensive to be negligently handled, but should be carefully sown by hand (unless a *good* spreading machine can be obtained) on ground previously harrowed, and then harrowed in, but *by no means* turned under with the plow.

I doubt not but our enterprising bone dealers will not fail to avail themselves of the opportunities now presented for obtaining unusually large supplies of bones in our State and upon its borders. The residual bones from the enormous amount of meat daily supplied to the army, if prepared and applied to our fields, cannot but produce most important results. There are also other matters of offal of vast amount and value to those in the vicinity of the camps, which are already being secured by some of our enterprising agriculturalists.

I have again to express my regret that the refuse bone black of the sugar refiners continues to be exported from the State, which is also the case with the large residue of *cracklins* or *greaves* produced in Baltimore. These ought to be applied to our lands, without being exported and then returned to us mixed up with other matters, and sold as fertilizers.

## 6.—SUPER-PHOSPHATES.

This variety of fertilizers continues to attract attention, especially in Great Britain. Something of a contest seems to be in progress as to the advantage and economy of applying super-phosphates alone to the soil, and there is some difficulty in settling the question. The results of their actual application in numerous cases are altogether so contradictory as to give us little light.

We can only gather that, whilst they have often but not always, proved useful when drilled in with a succulent and rapid growing crop, such as turnips, they have more frequently proved of little use when applied to the grain crop.

Science tells us that their soluble form renders them more quickly available, whilst it also informs us that they are liable to be carried off by the water from heavy rains drenching the soil. Even if these do not occur, the phosphoric acid is