

**PRINCIPLES OF AGRICULTURAL
CHEMISTRY, WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE LATE
RESEARCHES MADE IN ENGLAND**

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Principles of Agricultural Chemistry, with Special Reference to the Late Researches Made in England by Justus von Liebig

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JUSTUS VON LIEBIG

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OF
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LATE RESEARCHES MADE IN ENGLAND.

BY
JUSTUS VON LIEBIG.

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TO
MY FRIEND
DR. CHARLES DAUBENY,
PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD,
THE ZEALOUS PROPAGATOR
OF
SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES IN AGRICULTURE,

This little Work

IS DEDICATED BY

THE AUTHOR.

MUNICH,
March 4th, 1856.



EDITOR'S ADVERTISEMENT.

I CANNOT allow this little treatise to appear without expressing the very high gratification I have had in translating it, and thus assisting to lay it before the British public.

It is, so far as I can judge, by far the best of the author's writings on the important subject to which it refers.

Apart from all controversy, it contains, in the shape of fifty propositions, a most admirable summary of the true relation between Chemistry and Agriculture. These propositions are beyond all doubt true, so far as our present knowledge extends, and contain principles, the due appreciation and application of which is of the last importance to all who wish to cultivate Agriculture on true, that is, on scientific principles.

No doubt can be entertained by any one who has read the various memoirs published by writers opposed to the author's views, that these views and the principles or doctrines he has hitherto laid down, have been generally misunderstood by these writers, and that failure and disappointment have been the natural results.

But in the fifty propositions now given to the world, the real doctrines of the author are so simply and clearly expressed, that it is almost impossible not to understand and appreciate them; and it may be confidently expected, that their promulgation will produce most beneficial results.

I trust that I may be allowed to express this hope, since these propositions embody, in a fuller and more extended form, those principles of Agricultural Chemistry, or rather of the science of Agriculture, which I have deduced from the author's writings, and which I have long taught in my lectures, frequently in the very words now used by their author. So strong is my conviction of the truth of these principles, that I regard it as certain,

that all real improvements in Agriculture will be found, on examination, to be referable to these principles or laws, and that, as Baron Liebig somewhere has said, "therein lies the whole future of Agriculture."

The present work demonstrates that the author's so-called "Mineral Theory" has been entirely misunderstood by Mr. Lawes, and that the experiments of the latter gentleman, in all points, really prove the truth of the "Theory," as it exists in the author's works.

It is most gratifying to observe that the controversy has been conducted, on both sides, with perfect temper and good feeling, and this circumstance will greatly enhance the value and efficacy of that portion of it now published.

WILLIAM GREGORY,

Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH,

March 1st, 1855.