

wisest and best of men, as well in other countries, as in our own." (Testimony, pp. 30 to 34.)

2d. The Rev. Thomas E. Bond, in a separate answer on this point, says, "With respect to the conflict of convict labor with the mechanical labors of the community in the vicinity of the Penitentiary, your deponent has little to add to what has been stated in association with some of his colleagues. He has learned nothing during his attendance on the examinations which took place last winter, before a committee of the House of Delegates, which established the fact that neither weavers nor others would be benefitted by withdrawing the manufactures of the Penitentiary from our market. The place of these fabrics would probably be filled by similar fabrics manufactured to the eastward, or in other Penitentiaries and if not, it is questionable whether the sale of fabrics made by hand-loom in this city, would not be diminished by the necessity, which purchasers would be under, of going elsewhere for the stout cloths now manufactured in our Penitentiary.

"But whether the above opinions be correct or not, one thing is certain—hand-loom cannot compete with power looms in the manufacture of *any article* which can be made with facility by the power looms. It would be as reasonable to expect of an agriculturist using only the hoe to contend in the market with his neighbor who has the advantages of a plough and horses: and hence the conclusion is inevitable, that if the Directors of the Penitentiary are required by law to confine the labor of the convicts to the manufacture of articles now made by power looms, the institution will not be able to support itself, and must look to the State treasury for its maintenance.

"I am aware that a different opinion is entertained by others. It has been supposed that as the convicts cost nothing in the form of wages, that they might successfully contend with power looms. But it will be found that the expense of convict labor is little less than that of journeymen at full wages. They are unprepared by any previous knowledge of the business when they enter the penitentiary, and must serve an apprenticeship, during which time they are nearly a dead expense to the institution. Their labor, after they become efficient, must be taxed with the great expense of guarding and supervision, and with the support of all the sick, infirm or otherwise incapable convicts—add to all this, that much of the preparatory operations is done among the trade by children at very low wages, while in the penitentiary there are no children, and it will be seen that the competition is not so unfair as it has been presumed to be: and if you charge convict labor with the interest on the money expended by the State, not to furnish them with machinery and implements for the prosecution of their employments only, but with all that has been expended in order to secure them in confinement, it will be found that convict labor is at least as dear as any other. The only experiment which occurs to your deponent, with respect to the advantage the trade would derive