

about an equal demand for all—nearly every country merchant requires the variety for assortment. It is impossible to say what would be the effect upon the general market by the withdrawal of the Penitentiary goods; but we have always considered that the having them has made our market more desirable to purchasers, and that the sales of the inferior goods have been facilitated by them.

"55. I have been in the habit of selling Penitentiary goods. The prices have been regulated by the Executive Committee, who must be guided by the general state of the market.

"58. I do not know of any advantage the Penitentiary can have over persons in good credit, in the purchase of raw materials.

"59. I believe the city weavers can make as good fabrics as are wrought at the Penitentiary.

"60. Bed ticks and other striped as well as plain goods are woven by power-looms. Plaids, either cotton or woollen, cannot so conveniently be made in them. The convicts at the Penitentiary could not be employed at such looms without the erection of a steam engine and the other necessary apparatus."

Sth. Edward Gray, who has been a manufacturer for upwards of twenty years, (see Testimony, page 384,) in reply to interrogatories 42, 43, 45, 47, 49, 50, 52, 54, 57, 58, 59 and 61, and special interrogatories by the Committee, says.

"42. An effective weaver can now earn, in the hand-loom manufactories of this city, about sixty or seventy cents a day. Each weaver can weave between twenty-five and thirty-five yards of plaids and checks per day, during the time they are at work. They lose time in taking the web out and putting another in the loom. A good weaver might average thirty yards per day.

"43. It is my decided opinion that neither the journeymen weavers nor the master weavers would be benefitted by the discontinuance of weaving by the Penitentiary, because the goods which are now made by the Penitentiary would be brought from other states into this market. I know that goods manufactured at the Penitentiary have been sent to other cities for sale, particularly in Philadelphia. This is an advantage to the commerce of this state, as it tends to beget a debt in those cities in favor of our own, and aids in equalizing the domestic exchanges.

"45. The manufactories at the Penitentiary may interfere with some of the private manufactories of the city. For instance, the demand for dressed granite in this city is limited, and, by reason of its great weight, it cannot be easily imported into this city from other states, and the expense of freight and insurance on that article, sent by water is very considerable. If this business of dressing granite was prosecuted at the Penitentiary, it would increase the supply of the article beyond the demand, and have a tendency to affect injuriously the private manufactories in the city.