

“47. As far as I am informed, I think that the journeymen weavers’ wages in this city are a shade higher than in Philadelphia. The arrangements of the master weavers in Philadelphia, and the machinery used by them, are more complete than the arrangements and machinery used in this city. The consequence is, that the journeymen in that city are enabled to weave more, and do weave more, per day, than those in this city, and of course can weave it for less.—They are more industrious, too, and follow their business with more energy. Many of our weavers here appear to be too willing to follow any other business, if it should promise, for the time, greater gain—such as laboring on the rail road, &c.

“49. The manufactures of power looms have displaced those of hand looms to a very great extent, in all goods that are not striped or checked. But I learn that they are now introducing power looms which weave striped and checked goods. I have seen one of those looms, and I found that it wove striped and checked goods admirably, and as far as I could judge from a cursory view, will most likely supercede the manufacture of those goods by hand looms. The striped bed tickings are now exclusively manufactured by power looms—hand looms cannot come into competition with them in that article, and more particularly hand looms worked by convicts.

“50. The quantity of hand loom weaving has diminished in this city very considerably in the last five years. I form this opinion from the fact that the quantity of cotton yarn used by them has fallen off very much.

52. “The prices of the penitentiary goods are clearly affected, as are all other goods, by the state of the market.

54. “The goods manufactured at the penitentiary are better and bring a higher price than the goods manufactured in other hand loom manufactures. They are better died and wove, and heavier. The penitentiary goods are principally consigned to wholesale commission houses in this city. The effect of withdrawing the penitentiary goods from this market would be to cause more of similar goods to be brought from other cities here.

57. “I know of no employment to which convict labor could be directed, that would not come into competition with the same employment out of doors, equally as much as hand loom weaving does at present—but I do not think the hand loom weaving of the penitentiary does come injuriously into competition with the hand loom weaving out of doors.

58. “The penitentiary has no advantage over any other person in the purchase of raw material, but such as a good credit may give it over persons of less credit. In making sales to the penitentiary I always had in view the fact that the faith of the State was pledged for the redemption of their debts. This is not generally known, I believe, and I do not think it operates advantageously to the institution on the minds of manufacturers and commission merchants generally.