

of this house. At the factories, spinning is done almost entirely by boys and girls, who are better suited to this kind of labor than old and middle aged men, and these generally infirm and diseased. And this work is done at the factories at about one dollar and a half, or two dollars per week for each hand. Indeed nearly all the work in the spinning and weaving department at the manufactories is done by boys and girls at the rate I have mentioned, and they find themselves besides. The penitentiary has tried to manufacture this description of goods, but they were found unsaleable. Wilmington stripes have not been in general use or in fashion for ten or fifteen years, and I do not know that they are made at all. I have not seen any for a long time. These stripes and diapers were made, at the penitentiary, some years ago, and after having been sent away to be sold on commission, because there was no sale for them in Baltimore, they were returned, and some are on hand now. Canton flannels cannot be finished without machine cards, one of which will do as much work in half an hour as one man in a day. This fabric is peculiarly the work of power loom, and of all goods made by hand, is perhaps the dearest. Power looms cannot manufacture plaids, because of the frequent change required in crossing or checking the warp. These must necessarily be made by hand, and where the hand and power looms come into competition, the latter must destroy the former, because of the difference of labor, as I have before stated. Indeed power loom goods can be purchased almost as cheap as we can purchase the materials, so that our labor would yield almost nothing in such a competition. Every loom requires one hand, but in the manufactories one girl can attend two looms, at least; and in New England some attend four, as I have been informed. We made three attempts at bed ticking—the last in 1832,—it cost thirty-two cents per yard, and we could only get twenty-two, because of the competition with power looms. And this kind of goods cannot be so profitably made at the penitentiary, because a man who can weave sixteen yards of check, one yard wide, per day, cannot weave more than nine yards of bed-ticking—our task here was eight yards. It requires two additional treadles in twilling, and consequently they cannot work so fast. The indigo used in bed ticking costs \$1 50 to \$2 00 per pound. A pound will dye about 14 to 16 pounds of yarn, making about twelve to fifteen cents for every pound of cotton yarn, including indigo, copperas, &c.

For the purpose of an accurate estimate in answer to the inquiries of the committee, I have procured, and have now before me, a piece of very superior power loom bed ticking, containing 40 3 4 yards, which weighs 18 pounds, and sells at twenty-three cents per yard by the piece. This is a much better article than can be made by any hand loom. I calculate the cost and profit as follows: