

*weavers*, by creating a supply greater than the demand, and thereby reducing the price to its minimum value; I should think its suspension would benefit the weavers, but can't say to what extent, or offer a remedy.

And when asked if he knows of any employment which could be pursued in the penitentiary which would not conflict with the same employment out of doors, he says:

57. None, unless the manufactory of wrought nails, as they are seldom made here, and many imported; I think it likely they might be made to advantage in the penitentiary. [Testimony pp. 228.]

2. Samuel Mass, to interrogatories 29, 43, 45, 46, 54, and 61.

29. I have visited the two prisons in Philadelphia, and most admire the plan of the new circular one. I was informed by the keeper that solitary confinement and prevention from labor had a more salutary effect upon the prisoners than any other mode of punishment; they frequently, under such circumstances soliciting, yea, entreating to be permitted to again attend to their employment; which convinces me, together with my own reflection upon the subject, that a mode of punishment entirely of that description would not only lessen the expenses of the institution by requiring a less number of officers, guards, &c., erections of buildings, &c., but besides, would prevent crime to a very great extent; as I am fully of the opinion that not one person out of ten confined in solitary confinement for six months, and kept entirely without employment for that length of time, would scarcely ever again be seen in the prison, and that only from the dread of the same kind of punishment; or to be more plain, that a person once so situated would remember it so effectually, that he would take very good care how he went about committing acts, which when committed and proven upon him, would return him to a like situation; and I do most seriously believe, that three months confinement under such circumstances would be of more real and essential service to the prisoner, as well as to the community at large, through the prevention of crime, than five years confinement under the present management.

43. I am under the impression, that if the whole system of penitentiary labor could be abolished that the journeymen weavers would be much benefited by it; and the reason why I presume so is, would, as a matter of course, throw as much more of those kinds of goods or productions entirely out of the market as there are persons employed in producing or manufacturing the same; consequently, there would be a demand for an equal number of persons who would be disposed to earn their bread by honest employment without the walls of a prison, to those whose dishonesty was the means through which they obtained employment within them; it would therefore cause a greater demand for hands; the consequence of which would be higher wages and a greater degree of certainty in continual employment. I believe it would benefit the journeymen to a much greater extent