

ables them to make a heavier, superior article, which commands sales at all times, even in the greatest depression.

“54. Two cents on plaids and three cents on checks. There is a greater demand for the Penitentiary goods. If Penitentiary weaving was withdrawn it would revive the trade at present prostrated; the manufacturers by employing additional mechanics would replace the same goods as now made by the Penitentiary, and the trade now totally ruined, would, it is believed, take a high stand among the first mechanical businesses in Baltimore.

56. Yes; and to the second part we answer, that we believe it would benefit both; to the next part of this question we would respectfully request you to turn to the answer already given in answer to question 54; to the last part we answer that the same number of men are employed, we do not care whether they work plaid and checks, but we would rather have neither employed.

58. Yes; the knowledge that the State is bound for the debts of the Penitentiary, gives the establishment a superiority in point of credit that is not equalled by any manufacturer in the city of Baltimore, and when purchases are made by the penitentiary they are on longer time and cheaper price than generally purchased by manufacturers.

59. To the first part of this question we answer—yes, we can make as good goods, but to the second part we must answer, no; we cannot sell them as cheap, we can make goods and sell them at the same price as they are sold in other places, provided the goods are exactly equal; hand loom goods east of Baltimore, are generally made of a lighter fabric and may probably sell a shade lower than those manufactured in this place.

61. The goods generally manufactured by power looms are brown muslins, twilled muslins, bed ticks, Jeans, Pittsburg cord and canton flannel. The hand looms are checks and plaids, handkerchiefs, linses; it is not believed by the undersigned that checks or plaids or handkerchiefs, could be woven by power, neither of us ever having seen the experiment tried. We believe the convicts could be profitably employed by spinning their own yarns and weaving the same by power looms.—Testimony, 249—250.

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While considering this branch of the duties assigned to us the committee avail themselves of the opinions of the Rev. B. C. Smith, Chaplain of the Auburn State Prison, kindly communicated to the committee, in answer to inquiries made by them. This gentleman, was, of course not a witness before us, but from his familiarity with the important subject of prison manufactures, his opinions are entitled to great consideration, in the view of the committee, and the attention of the Legislature is solicited to a deliberate notice of his remarks. We quote from his letter: