

by the petitioners. The checks and plaids have given way to the low priced calicoes; and all plain goods are produced at a much lower rate by power than they could possibly be by hand. The amount of power loom work of all kinds sold in the city of Baltimore annually, is about \$8,000,000; the amount of hand labor is \$300,000, including the products of the Penitentiary. When it is remembered that the demand for domestic goods was formerly almost exclusively supplied by the importation of foreign fabrics at high prices, or by the productions of the hand loom, at a time when power looms were scarcely known; it cannot be a matter of astonishment that the hand loom business is at this day depressed; when the manufacture of cotton and woolen goods is, in this county, comparatively in a condition of great perfection—where there have been immense improvements in machinery, and in the skill of our artizans—where large capitals have been invested in domestic manufactures, and this branch of business has grown up under the fostering care of the government, and now supplies ninety-five hundredths of the demand at a much cheaper rate than could possibly be supplied by the foreign article, or by the productions of hand looms. It is to this cause, and this only, are we to look for the reasons of the difficulties under which that class of our citizens are at this moment laboring. They are certainly not so prosperous as they were—they are not now driving so profitable a trade as they formerly did; but they mistake their case when they suppose their difficulties are occasioned by the Penitentiary. They feel the pain, but they are wholly in error as to the disease. They should look to the power looms, and there they will find the reasons of their diminished numbers and depressed condition. If *they* were banished they would soon find their numbers increase and their profits accumulate.

But it is contended that the power loom does not produce the same fabric, and therefore cannot come into competition with the hand loom. As well might it be contended that the price of the different descriptions of bread stuffs are not regulated by each other. Will it be denied that if an extraordinary quantity of wheat is brought into the market, and the price of that article is reduced, that the price of corn will not also be depressed? Surely not. The price of the different descriptions of domestic manufactures of the same nature, are in the same way dependant on each other. If the power loom produce an article which will answer the purpose of the hand loom article, the price of the latter must come down, or no sale will be found for it.