

Letters about the rebuilding

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The Stone Mason's Work

It is specified that the stone shall be either Hookstone or else Hawksworth Gullet. In my opinion it is neither, but an open pored sand stone called New Leeds.

It is specified that the cornice, checked door jambs, string course, window sills, and curb stone to receive the iron palisades shall be cleansed, (that is they shall be rubbed smooth,) and it will be observed that the work is only tooled thereby saving a great amount of labour. I think it is evidence that it is not the kind of stone which the Architect meant in the specification, when we may observe such porous stone scarcely could be rubbed smooth some of it would make good filtering cisterns.

The whole of the work is roughly and slovenly done as any one may see who will examine the joints of the flagging and the other stone work.

The Carpenter & Joiners Work
All the timbers for roof &c are specified to be Memel timber, and that no

American wood shall be used in any part of the building. ~~Neither shall~~

The wood was also to be free from sap and some of the beams, (which beams appears to me to be American red pine,) have a great deal of sap upon them, not less than 2 or 3 inches at some of the angles. Part of the roof timber is, as I believe, Swedish pine, and some Memel timber.

It is difficult to tell what the sashes and frames are made of now they are painted. They are specified to be of Petersburg or Archangel red deal. I don't think they are either, though some part of them may be because they appear to me to be a mixture, some parts of them look like spruce and some parts of them look like some of the cheaper Baltic woods.

The inner doors are specified to be of the best Riga White deal, but the stiles and rails of both doors and door casing, are of American spruce, as also the

small doors under the sinks.

The laths to hold the concrete for the fireproofing are of al wood such as scotch fir, bad and sappy deal &c which cannot last long, scotch fir has been known to be rotten in 4 or 5 years. Again the stronger laths to which the ceiling joists are nailed were so irregularly arranged that I should not be surprised if some of them were to fall down in a few years.

The mahogany hand rails should have been either oiled or polished a little.

It is specified to have a speaking tube or whistle at the coal lift, but there is nothing of the sort fixed.

As regards the Plasterer's Work I think there is ~~is~~ sadly too much sand in proportion to the lime and nothing like sufficient hair -

In the Bricklayer's Work I think the mortar had sadly too much sand in proportion to the lime and the walls were not grouted as

they should have been even as specified.
The underspinning both at the joining
of the old building and in the alterations
in the kitchens were badly done so that
the upper parts of the buildings have
given way very much. I cautioned
the Clerk of the Works that it would
be so if they proceeded in that manner
but he did not heed.

The so called concrete in the fireproofing
is, I think, a bad job. It is specified
that "a coat of mortar an inch thick
shall be spread upon the laths and
pressed down, being composed of 1 part
lime to 3 parts of coal ashes or sand."

Now nothing of the sort was done.
Again the concrete had not the
proper quantity of lime amongst
it to make it a right consistence

W. W.

Shury Hill 11/21 59

Dear Friend

Jo Spence

As I understand it is the
Reuben Committee to day I incline
to write a note to recommend the
big steps to be covered in as I am
satisfied that they would be much
safer if they were; and now that there
is a cottage built close to these it
seems of consequence. A place of this
sort. air covered from the rain and
moisture can easily be dried up by
using a little sand or other dry substance
and if ~~the~~ you think this is not the best
place and that at some future time you
may remove them, you may cover them
with boards, that can easily be put
up and taken down, and the boards will
always be useful, I would cover it thus



Yours sincerely

W. Richardson

