

IN A COAL MINE. BY JAMES. A car-full of coal is seen. The day was ours to spare. At students dig we seek a mine. To see coal laborers there.

ST. JOHN'S BREAD. An Interesting Sketch. [From the Lancaster Express.] And his bread was locusts and wild honey.

THE COMMON AMERICAN LOCUST—Robinia pseudo-acacia—bears a similar pod to the carob, only much smaller and less fleshy; yet, before they become too dry, they are often sought by the boys, for the sugary matter which some of them contain; and this is especially true with a species commonly called the "honey locust"—Gleditsia triacanthos—which, although always a larger tree and podded tree, yet does not usually, except in the case of the former, or "post locust," as it is sometimes called.

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to could not possibly have been of the same species of order, as the only which illiterate Americans apply that name. From the first appearance of the Cicada septendecim until its final death and disappearance, it does not, in a term, ordinarily, longer than three weeks and during that period, nothing has been recorded, and no observations have been made, eliciting the fact that it eats anything at all; its whole mission appearing to be, to provide for the sustenance of its species; shortly after which it dies, and becomes food for other animals.

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than is ordinarily the case when shingled; what carpenter can one-third well-laid roof would last as long as a shingled roof, and the sides of the building would endure longer. An ordinary balloon frame with rafters would be necessary; then nail light strips crosswise of the rafters; and frame of well-saved dry straw will roof from five to seven squares, each containing one hundred square feet. Wheat and oat straw, about one-quarter less, is about the same labor to put on the roof as to nail on roof-boards and shingles. The cost of the material to the farmer is a mere nothing. Most of the work may be done by the farmer and his help. Rafts, at least, over stock-yards, might be made in this way sufficient to shelter the entire crop of grain in the West, at a very small outlay by the growers.

Cost of Building in New York. The Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York city has an interesting article on the cost of building. "Until about the middle of 1863 building materials sympathized but little with the general advance of prices; for the reason that large quantities of lumber, which, in connection with a dullness in the trade and moderate wages, enabled new buildings to be erected at a nominal advance upon old prices. From that time, however, the price of lumber advanced very rapidly, and the price of materials at once rose to about one hundred per cent. over those current at the commencement of the war. This advance was followed by a reaction of about ten per cent. which, since then, succeeded by another upward movement; so that to-day the cost of building averages more than at any previous period. Below we give an interesting showing the prices of the various building materials in September for five years:

Table with 5 columns: Material Name, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865. Rows include Iron, Scotch pig, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865; Iron, English pig, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865; Iron, Cast, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865; Lumber, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865.

As a natural result these high prices have led to the use of inferior workmanship in the erection of buildings. A lower class of labor has been employed, and inferior materials used for lumber and furniture. The scarcity of labor has also necessitated a free employment of inferior workmen, and at the full rate of wages. As a consequence a large proportion of the buildings now being erected are of a class less adapted for durability than formerly. In fact the exhaustion of the supply of well seasoned lumber has caused an advance in that kind of material of proportion to that of other descriptions, and consequently that lumber to be well seasoned has to be kept five to seven years, it is apparent that a considerable time must elapse before the market can be adequately supplied. The probability is all the greater from the fact that dealers will be reluctant to buy, at present prices, stocks to be held for years, in the face of a sweeping decline in value which will seem reasonable to anticipate, for a somewhat probable reason, building is likely to run largely upon second-class materials. This is one of the thousand disadvantages flowing from the arrangements consequent upon the war, and which really tend to materially upon the comfort and welfare of the community.

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