

# PETERSBURG CHURCHES.

WITH ONE EXCEPTION, THEY ARE EXTREMELY COMMONPLACE.

The magnificent Church of St. Isaac, Upon Which Many Millions of Dollars Have Been Expended—Russian Choirs the Finest in the World.

BY WILLIAM KLEBOY CURTIS.

The churches of Petersburg are commonplace with one exception, and do not compare in architectural taste and richness with those of any city of its importance. The one exception is the Church of St. Isaac, a splendid structure of the most costly materials, and an example of the purest architecture, but, unfortunately, with foundations so in-



ST. ISAAC'S.

secure as to require constant repairs, and an interior arrangement so peculiar as to conceal instead of displaying its riches.

St. Isaac's is severely simple, so plain that one whose eyes have become accustomed to the elaborate ornamentation of the gothic cathedrals of the continent has to study it awhile to comprehend its beauty. It is, however, a masterpiece of architecture, and the longer and oftener one looks at it the greater do its glories appear. The only other ecclesiastical edifice that can compare with it, of its order or architecture, is the Church of the Savior at Moscow, more recently built and on the same general plan, to commemorate the destruction of Napoleon's army.

The gem of Petersburg architecture is not dedicated to the son of Abraham, as people usually infer, but to St. Isaac of Damlaia, a Greek martyr. Ever since the foundation of the city, the Christians have had a place of worship on this spot. Under Peter a wooden edifice was erected that was destroyed by fire. Then Catherine built one, which was burned in 1824. The present edifice, with the reckless way she had of doing things, it was torn down, and foundations laid in 1859 for what was to be, and until recently has been, the finest temple in the city.

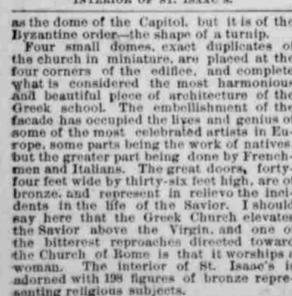
The foundation itself is a wonder, for it is a perfect forest of piles, a million or more of them, sunk in the marsh on which the city is built, at the depth of from 10 to 20 feet. This work is not sufficient to carry the enormous weight of stone resting upon it, and for more than fifty years all the engineers of the empire have been experimenting with an enormous cost to make it more secure, without great success. The walls toward the river are gradually sinking, and there seems no way to prevent it. Enormous scaffolding continually approaches, and the appearance of the building, but giving continual employment to a large number of workmen, who undoubtedly need the money more than the city.

The cost of the building was originally \$16,000,000, \$18,000,000 more than the Capitol at Washington, but the repairs since it was completed in 1858 have been enormous.

The building is in the form of a Greek cross, like all the Russian churches, each of the four grand entrances being approached by three broad flights of steps, each whole flight being composed of a single block of granite brought from Finland on sledges over the snow. The level roads and the snow make possible in Russia the transportation of large masses of rock from the Finland quarries, that could not be carried on wheels or railroad tracks. The steps lead from the four sides of the building to the four grand entrances, each of which has a superb peristyle.

Each peristyle has 112 massive pillars of polished granite, sixty feet high, with a diameter of eleven and a half feet—the finest assemblage of granite monoliths in the world, all from out of the same quarry in Finland. The pillars are crowned with capitals of bronze. Over the peristyles, and at twice their height, rises the chief and central dome 246 feet, supported by thirty pillars, which, although gigantic in size, look small compared with those below. The dome is covered with copper, overlaid with gold bullion, hammered to the thickness of the American dollar. The value of the gold upon this roof is nearly 1,000,000 roubles. It glitters in the sun with amazing brilliancy. Very naturally the dome of St. Isaac's, reaching far above everything else and being so bright, is the most conspicuous object in the city, and can be seen for miles around the country, rising like a golden mountain.

At the crest of the miniature dome, an exact copy of the great one beneath, looking like a little chapel, and that is surmounted by a golden cross, the top of which is 356 feet from the ground. The height of the monument is 535 feet high, the dome of St. Peter's at Rome 418 feet, and the goddess of Liberty, who stands guard at the top of the Capitol at Washington, is 300 feet from the ground, or four feet higher than St. Isaac's. The dome of St. Isaac's is not so cone-like



INTERIOR OF ST. ISAAC'S.

as the dome of the Capitol, but it is of the Byzantine order—the shape of a turnip.

Four small domes, exact duplicates of the church in miniature, are placed at the four corners of the edifice, and complete what is considered the most harmonious and beautiful piece of architecture of the Greek school. The embellishment of the facade has occupied the lives and genius of some of the most celebrated artists in Europe, some parts being the work of natives, but the greater part being done by Frenchmen and Italians. The great doors, forty-four feet wide by thirty-six feet high, are of bronze, and represent in relief the incidents in the life of the Savior. I should say here that the Greek Church elevates the Savior above the Virgin, and one of the bitterest reproaches directed toward the Church of Rome is that it worships a woman. The interior of St. Isaac's is adorned with 198 figures of bronze representing religious subjects.

The Treasures of Siberian Mines.

and all the labor was done by Russian workmen, although foreign artists have been engaged to furnish designs. Nothing can exceed the simplicity of the model, no style of decoration could be more severe, no meretricious ornamentation meets the eye; the architect has permitted the effect to be produced by stupendous proportions and costliness of materials.

There is nowhere in the world, except in the new Church of the Savior at Moscow, such an assemblage of rare stones. There are pillars of malachite, columns of lapis-lazuli, frieze and wainscoting of both materials, whose proportions exceed anything that has heretofore been done in those beautiful materials, and a great part of the floor is of jasper, so slippery that matting has to be spread for people to walk upon. The attendants keep slippers of felt for tourists to draw over their shoes when they inspect the interior of St. Isaac's, to save them from broken bones. The columns of lapis-lazuli came from the mines of Siberia, and the cost of transporting them to Petersburg was \$30,000 each. The malachite columns and pillars are also from Siberia, from the quarries belonging to the government, and the cost of their transportation was enormous, but not so great. The jasper comes from the same place.

The Ikonostas. The inmost shrine, or sanctuary, corresponding to the altar of a Roman church, and called the ikonostas, into which women are never admitted, is a small circular temple, a model of the dome of the church—for the same design is repeated everywhere—supported by pillars of malachite eight feet high, with capitals and bases of gilded copper. The cost of this work was \$200,000. There is a fine window of stained glass, representing the ascension of the Savior, by a Russian artist. The effect is, however, destroyed by gilding the lead in which the glass is set. The Russians gild everything, even the silver spoons and steel knives they use on their tables.

The walls of the interior are decorated with large pictures in mosaic or distemper by Russian artists, and the work is still going on, only a third or more of the surface being so far covered, although it is the intention to decorate all the panels in a similar way. When the church is finished the entire interior, with the exception of the columns and other work of malachite and rare stones, will be covered with mosaics and frescoes, and the effect will be very fine. As it is now, the interior is too dark to display the beautiful workmanship. The colors on the walls will light it up.

The Singing of the Monks. There are some fine statues and silver shrines in the interior, but very few compared with the older churches. Service is held at St. Isaac's daily and almost continuously, the hours being 6 to 8 a. m., 10 to 12 a. m., and 4 to 6 p. m. Strangers in the city usually attend to hear the music, which is the most effective part of the service. The singing of the monks justifies its fame. Women are not permitted to take



part in the service, neither is any one whose life is not consecrated to the duty. Nor are musical instruments of any sort permitted, not even a tuning-fork, but there is a choir of boys and monks whose voices are superb, and one can hear no finer music than they give. For this choir all the convents and monasteries in Russia furnish material. Young boys are educated expressly for the organ, and when their voices change, others are found to take their place. The boys and monks become monks or priests. The basses are especially fine, and in the choir I heard voices that would make a sensation on the operatic stage. The effect of the music is heightened by the appearance of the monks, who do not sit as the choirs of other churches do, but stand in a semi-circle, two or three rows deep, as the case may be, in front of the ikonostas or altar. Russian priests or monks may never cut their hair or beards, and they wear long gowns of black with peculiar head-dresses, stove-pipe hats without brims, covered with ermine, which hangs down over their shoulders like a widow's veil.

The Fine Choirs of the World. The finest church music is said to be found at the Cathedral of St. Paul's, London, where there is a choir of 250 boys; at New Church, Oxford, to which some rich graduate left a legacy providing for the education of eight boys; and at the cathedral of the most male voices that can be obtained; at the court chapel at Vienna, where the Empress Elizabeth has taken the choir under her special patronage, and she can hear herself. An appointment in the court choir is the highest prize that can be won by a pupil in the Vienna Conservatory, and as the members are subjects of imperial favor, there is naturally an active strife for the places.

I have heard the music at all these churches, and while it is difficult to distinguish and compare them, there can be no doubt that the music at St. Isaac's is at least the most impressive if not the most artistic in a technical sense. The service is all chant, except the hymns, but no melody. There are often solos for the tenor or bass voices, which are finely rendered, but they are always in a monotone. The severest test that can be put to the choir is the recitative, and the Russian masses are composed of nothing else. There are no offertories or Ave Marias, no chance for the display of a fine voice, but simply a series of harmonious chords, still and round like the dissonance of an orchestra.

The only other fine church in Petersburg is the Cathedral of Our Lady of Kazan, the head of the diocese. The saint to whom this church is dedicated is the most popular of the Greek calendar, and is supposed to have the Russian Empire particularly under her charge. Her portrait, kept here, performs miracles, and so obtained her fame in the city of Kazan more than a thousand years ago. She was brought to Moscow in 1579 and to St. Petersburg in 1821, when the cathedral was finished to receive her. All the emperors and empresses kneel at her shrine before setting out upon a journey or undertaking any important act, and implore her assistance and protection.

Before the Czar is crowned he spends several hours in devotion to her image, with his imperial forehead pressed upon the feet of the Virgin. The saint to whom the cathedral was dedicated is the most popular of the Greek calendar, and is supposed to have the Russian Empire particularly under her charge. Her portrait, kept here, performs miracles, and so obtained her fame in the city of Kazan more than a thousand years ago. She was brought to Moscow in 1579 and to St. Petersburg in 1821, when the cathedral was finished to receive her. All the emperors and empresses kneel at her shrine before setting out upon a journey or undertaking any important act, and implore her assistance and protection.

Munich, the capital of Bavaria, was founded by Duke Henry of Saxony, in the year 962.

Henry Price, "the father of Masonry in America," died in Townsend, Mass., in 1780.

night in prayer to this image before his campaign against the great Napoleon. When he returned victorious, and the remnants of Napoleon's shattered army was creeping out of the Russian snows, Alexander came to the shrine again and spent another night in thanksgiving. The present Czar went at once to our Lady of Kazan to seek consolation upon the assassination of his father, and is a frequent worshiper at her feet. The people of Petersburg say that the Czar went at once to our Lady of Kazan to seek consolation upon the assassination of his father, and is a frequent worshiper at her feet. The people of Petersburg say that the Czar went at once to our Lady of Kazan to seek consolation upon the assassination of his father, and is a frequent worshiper at her feet.

The cathedral of Kazan is a plagiarism of the cathedral of Constantinople.



ICON OF OUR LADY OF KAZAN.

St. Peter's in Rome, although of course upon a much smaller scale. It was erected in 1802 during the reign of Catherine, is 238 feet high, 182 feet wide, and has a dome 230 feet high. There is a semi-circular colonnade, in imitation of St. Peter's, supported by 66 monoliths of Finland granite 35 feet high, resting on bases of bronze and terminating in capitals of the same. The ikonostas is of solid silver, as well as the balustrade that surrounds it, and bears an inscription to announce that it was a zealous offering of the Don Cossacks after the campaign against Napoleon in 1812. The church is full of trophies of the war against France, as the Virgin of Kazan is supposed to have been influential in securing victory for the Russian arms, and the common people will tell you that without her intercession Alexander could have done nothing.

| Wages Paid in England Under Free Trade and in this Country Under Protection—An Instructive Array of Facts and Figures. |         |        |
|--|---------|--------|
| Meat, articles, 4 0  | \$1.03  | \$1.00 |
| Bread, ten loaves, 2 1/2   | 37      | 39     |
| Flour, 7 lbs., 1 0   | 25      | 30     |
| Butter, 1 lb., 1 0   | 25      | 30     |
| Milk, 1 qt., 1 0   | 25      | 30     |
| Cocoa, 1 lb., 0 6  | 12      | 10     |
| Coffee, 1 lb., 0 6   | 12      | 10     |
| Sugar, 1 lb., 0 6  | 12      | 10     |
| Tea, 1 lb., 0 6  | 12      | 10     |
| Poap, 1 lb., 0 6   | 12      | 10     |
| Folia, starch, 1 lb., 0 1 1/2  | 3       | 1 1/2  |
| Corn, 1 bushel, 0 3  | 6       | 3      |
| Oat, 1 bushel, 0 3   | 6       | 3      |
| Beans, 1 bushel, 0 10 1/2  | 21      | 21     |
| Shoes for family, 1 8  | 41      | 25     |
| Rent, 1 year, 5 6  | 1 37    | 1 38   |
| One pair shoes, 1 0  | 19      | 20     |
| Do. wife and children, 2 0   | 59      | 42     |
| School fees, 0 4   | 8       | 8      |
| One pair shoes, 1 0  | 19      | 20     |
| Medical attendance, 0 3  | 6       | 6      |
| Totals, £1 9 8 1/2   | \$7.31  | \$6.77 |
| Left from \$7.50   | 9 8 1/2 | 14 78  |
| Difference in favor of New York  | 64      | cents. |

These figures are given of goods that can be bought in stock at any time. It is especially true that a man can do his shopping as cheaply in New York as in London.

| Wages Paid in England Under Free Trade, and in the United States Under Protection. |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|
| Bookbinders, 66.03   | \$12.93 | \$14.73 |
| Brushmakers, 6.00  | 15.00   | 20.00   |
| Brickmakers, 7.75  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Bricklayers, 11.50   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Blacksmiths, 8.50  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Butchers, 6.00   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Bakers, 6.25   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Blast furnace-keepers, 10.45   | 18.00   | 19.00   |
| Blast furnace-fuelers, 6.50  | 16.50   | 17.50   |
| Boilermakers, 6.00   | 16.50   | 17.50   |
| Coal-miners, 5.84  | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Coal-mill hands, 4.62  | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Carpenters, 7.50   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Coopers, 6.00  | 13.50   | 14.50   |
| Carrion-makers, 6.75   | 13.00   | 14.00   |
| Cutlery, 6.00  | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Chemicals, 84.00   | 6.00    | 13.00   |
| Cooking, 6.00  | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Cabinetmakers, 6.00  | 14.00   | 15.00   |
| Farm hands, 3.00   | 7.50    | 8.00    |
| Glass blowers, 4.00  | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Glass, partly skilled, 6.00  | 7.00    | 8.00    |
| Glass, unskilled, 2.00   | 4.00    | 5.00    |
| Gloves, 6.00   | 6.00    | 7.00    |
| Gloves, men, 4.50  | 10.00   | 11.00   |
| Hatters, 6.00  | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Iron ore miners, 5.50  | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Iron, 200 lbs., 4.00   | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Iron per ton, finished, 2.00   | 5.31    | 6.71    |
| Heaters and rollers, 10.00   | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Instrument makers, 8.00  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Laborers, 4.10   | 8.00    | 9.00    |
| Longshoremen, 8.00   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Millwrights, 8.00  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Line thread, women, 2.50   | 5.23    | 6.23    |
| Machinists, 8.50   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Machinists, men, 8.00  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Printers, 1000 ems, 25   | 40      | 40      |
| Printers, work hands, 6.25   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Pattern-makers, 6.00   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Painters, 7.50   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Plumbers, 8.00   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Plasterers, 7.50   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Opticians, 7.50  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Polishers, 7.50  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Paper-makers, 5.25   | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Puddlers, 8.00   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Quarriers, 6.50  | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Rope-makers, 5.25  | 9.00    | 10.00   |
| Rope-makers, men, 6.00   | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Railway firemen, 5.00  | 9.00    | 10.00   |
| Shoemakers, 7.00   | 14.00   | 15.00   |
| Machinists, 7.00   | 14.15   | 15.15   |
| Coppersmiths, 6.00   | 16.50   | 17.50   |
| Drillers, 6.00   | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Riveters, 8.00   | 17.43   | 18.43   |
| Higgers, 5.50  | 11.00   | 12.00   |
| Patent-makers, 8.00  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Salt-makers, 6.00  | 9.00    | 10.00   |
| Silk, men, 5.00  | 10.00   | 11.00   |
| Silk, women, 2.50  | 5.00    | 6.00    |
| Scarf-makers, 1.50   | 2.25    | 3.00    |
| Servants, month, 5.00  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Stonemasons, 6.00  | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Stationary engineers, 7.50   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Sonnet-makers, 5.00  | 10.50   | 11.50   |
| Temperers, 8.00  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Upolaters, 8.00  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Wire-drawers, 11.00  | 22.00   | 23.00   |

Who Pays the Tariff Taxes. An Answer to the Democratic Assertion that It Is the Consumer.

Free-traders generally, most tariff reformers, and many of the prime necessities of life, controls an untaxed product, and is strictly Democratic in its management. The output of coal is well on to 40,000,000 tons a year, and at least 20,000,000 extra tons that the ring takes from the pockets of the people.

What Is Rosewood? It has been a great mystery to many persons why the dark, rich-colored wood so much used for furniture should be called "rosewood." Its deep-tinted, ruddy streaked surface certainly does not resemble the rose, so we must seek some other reason for the name. Here it is: When the tree is first cut, the fresh wood exhales a very strong, rose-like fragrance, which soon passes away, leaving no trace of the peculiar odor. There are several varieties of rosewood trees; the best, however, are those found in South America and the East Indies and neighboring islands.—St. Nicholas.

# FREE-TRADE FICTIONS.

Cost of Living in England and the United States.

Wages Paid in England Under Free Trade and in this Country Under Protection—An Instructive Array of Facts and Figures.

The fiction that you can get more for \$7.50 per week in free-trade London than in protection New York is forever spotted by the following table prepared and sworn to by Mr. Price and R. P. Porter, of the New York Press.

| Articles.                       | London prices. | New York prices. |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Meat, articles, 4 0             | \$1.03         | \$1.00           |
| Bread, ten loaves, 2 1/2        | 37             | 39               |
| Flour, 7 lbs., 1 0              | 25             | 30               |
| Butter, 1 lb., 1 0              | 25             | 30               |
| Milk, 1 qt., 1 0                | 25             | 30               |
| Cocoa, 1 lb., 0 6               | 12             | 10               |
| Coffee, 1 lb., 0 6              | 12             | 10               |
| Sugar, 1 lb., 0 6               | 12             | 10               |
| Tea, 1 lb., 0 6                 | 12             | 10               |
| Poap, 1 lb., 0 6                | 12             | 10               |
| Folia, starch, 1 lb., 0 1 1/2   | 3              | 1 1/2            |
| Corn, 1 bushel, 0 3             | 6              | 3                |
| Oat, 1 bushel, 0 3              | 6              | 3                |
| Beans, 1 bushel, 0 10 1/2       | 21             | 21               |
| Shoes for family, 1 8           | 41             | 25               |
| Rent, 1 year, 5 6               | 1 37           | 1 38             |
| One pair shoes, 1 0             | 19             | 20               |
| Do. wife and children, 2 0      | 59             | 42               |
| School fees, 0 4                | 8              | 8                |
| One pair shoes, 1 0             | 19             | 20               |
| Medical attendance, 0 3         | 6              | 6                |
| Totals, £1 9 8 1/2              | \$7.31         | \$6.77           |
| Left from \$7.50                | 9 8 1/2        | 14 78            |
| Difference in favor of New York | 64             | cents.           |

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| Bricklayers, 11.50   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Blacksmiths, 8.50  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Butchers, 6.00   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Bakers, 6.25   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Blast furnace-keepers, 10.45   | 18.00   | 19.00   |
| Blast furnace-fuelers, 6.50  | 16.50   | 17.50   |
| Boilermakers, 6.00   | 16.50   | 17.50   |
| Coal-miners, 5.84  | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Coal-mill hands, 4.62  | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Carpenters, 7.50   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Coopers, 6.00  | 13.50   | 14.50   |
| Carrion-makers, 6.75   | 13.00   | 14.00   |
| Cutlery, 6.00  | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Chemicals, 84.00   | 6.00    | 13.00   |
| Cooking, 6.00  | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Cabinetmakers, 6.00  | 14.00   | 15.00   |
| Farm hands, 3.00   | 7.50    | 8.00    |
| Glass blowers, 4.00  | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Glass, partly skilled, 6.00  | 7.00    | 8.00    |
| Glass, unskilled, 2.00   | 4.00    | 5.00    |
| Gloves, 6.00   | 6.00    | 7.00    |
| Gloves, men, 4.50  | 10.00   | 11.00   |
| Hatters, 6.00  | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Iron ore miners, 5.50  | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Iron, 200 lbs., 4.00   | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Iron per ton, finished, 2.00   | 5.31    | 6.71    |
| Heaters and rollers, 10.00   | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Instrument makers, 8.00  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Laborers, 4.10   | 8.00    | 9.00    |
| Longshoremen, 8.00   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Millwrights, 8.00  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Line thread, women, 2.50   | 5.23    | 6.23    |
| Machinists, 8.50   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Machinists, men, 8.00  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Printers, 1000 ems, 25   | 40      | 40      |
| Printers, work hands, 6.25   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Pattern-makers, 6.00   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Painters, 7.50   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Plumbers, 8.00   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Plasterers, 7.50   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Opticians, 7.50  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Polishers, 7.50  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Paper-makers, 5.25   | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Puddlers, 8.00   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Quarriers, 6.50  | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Rope-makers, 5.25  | 9.00    | 10.00   |
| Rope-makers, men, 6.00   | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Railway firemen, 5.00  | 9.00    | 10.00   |
| Shoemakers, 7.00   | 14.00   | 15.00   |
| Machinists, 7.00   | 14.15   | 15.15   |
| Coppersmiths, 6.00   | 16.50   | 17.50   |
| Drillers, 6.00   | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Riveters, 8.00   | 17.43   | 18.43   |
| Higgers, 5.50  | 11.00   | 12.00   |
| Patent-makers, 8.00  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Salt-makers, 6.00  | 9.00    | 10.00   |
| Silk, men, 5.00  | 10.00   | 11.00   |
| Silk, women, 2.50  | 5.00    | 6.00    |
| Scarf-makers, 1.50   | 2.25    | 3.00    |
| Servants, month, 5.00  | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Stonemasons, 6.00  | 12.00   | 13.00   |
| Stationary engineers, 7.50   | 15.00   | 16.00   |
| Sonnet-makers, 5.00  | 10.50   | 11.50   |
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