

## QUALITY OF THE MARBLES.

Mr. Brown enumerates thirteen varieties of marbles differing in shade of colour and quality; the most esteemed is a pure white -valued for monuments. This and several others I examined last autumn; the colours in the latter are grey, nearly black, blue, and pale red, intermixed with white in clouds, bands, and streaks; in one variety the prevailing tint is pink, and variegation is produced by a little blue, in another these colours are about reversed and white streaks are added. The result of the mixing of the tints is the production of varieties very pleasing to the eye. As regards quality the samples forwarded to me seemed excellent, considering they were for the most part obtained during the earlier operations: I thought them especially adapted for building purposes and monuments. Prof. H. Y. Hind concurred with me in the favorable opinion formed. It was particularly mentioned with reference to the white marble sent that the specimens had been taken a few feet only below the surface, and that the quality was found to improve very much in depth. Samples had been sent to the United States, all of which were pronounced equal to Italian marble for building, and three or four kinds were found equally good for other purposes. The *Boston Traveller*, Dec. 12, 1869, spoke of some samples as indicating a very fine quality of marble. Blocks suitable for monuments, weighing from 4 cwt. to a ton, were also sent about the same time to different parts of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and to Pictou and Halifax, N. S., and placed in the hands of marble-workers. The favorable opinions expressed with regard to some of these blocks, as given below, cannot fail to be very gratifying to the owners.

Messrs. G. W. Ross and Co., Marble Workers, Pictou, N. S., write to Messrs. N. J. Brown and Co.:

"Pictou, Jan. 6th, 1870. We are in receipt of yours wishing to know how we like your marble sent to us in November last. We have as yet worked but one monument. We are very much pleased with its texture and quality. It works as freely as the best Italian marble, and we believe it will be more durable for outside work. It takes as good a polish as any marble we ever used. The Vermont is not a circumstance to it. Your marble will no doubt soon run all others out of our market."

Mr. James McGrath, Marble Worker, St. Stephen, N. B., who has been in the marble quarries of Italy, writes to this effect:—

"Jan. 22, 1870. Now I have a small monument of a late design finished and standing outside in the principal street in St. Stephen; every one seems to like it, and I am in hopes that yours will take the lead of the marble here, at least for all large monuments. One thing I can assure you, that I am fully satisfied with it. You will please let me know your price for monument stock, as there are many inquiring about it."

Mr. G. A. Sanford, Marble Worker, Halifax, N. S., says:—

"Jan. 20, 1870. I have this day completed a monumental headstone of your marble, and have very great pleasure in pronouncing its quality as a weather stone *good*. The samples forwarded have quite a number of face fractures, which can only be perceived when the marble is polished, but as you go into it, I have no doubt they will disappear entirely. It works as free as Italian marble, takes as brilliant a polish, and I believe will stand the climate fully better. It resembles the New York building marble in texture, but some of the small specimens are equal to the finest statuary. I set up the monument in my yard to-day; it has attracted great attention and is much admired as the finish is equal to glass surface. Give me something like a price per ton of sizes suitable for steps, sills and landings; if it can be produced at anything like granite prices, I think a large trade might be done, and as soon as you can produce thoroughly sound blocks it would command full market price."

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