

house on Mountain Hill; contractor, M. Guichereau. One house, 35 x 30 feet, wood, lined in brick, three stories, on de la Reine street, for Mme. Vve. Charles Lessard; contractor, N. Lessard; probable cost, \$2,500.—Contracts for the restoration of the "Cercle Catholique" estate premises on St. Francis street have been awarded as follows: Joinery, E. St. Pierre; plumbing, N. Vezina; roofing, N. Barbeau.—Jos. St. Hilaire, contractor, has the contract for the work to be done at the church and sacristy of St. Edward de Frampton. David Ouellet is the architect.—The contract for the galvanized iron roofing at St. Victor de Tring church has been awarded to S. Fancher.

ACTION OF LIME, ETC., ON IRON.—The action of lime, plaster and cement on iron, especially the destructive influence of lime and plaster, is worthy of great attention owing to its extensive and steadily increasing use for building purposes. If a piece of iron, f. i., is thrown into fresh mortar, prompt oxidation may be witnessed, especially with wrought and rolled iron. This oxidation quickly passes into the interior of the iron and considerably lessens its resistive power. Besides, the enormous expansion of these bodies must be taken into consideration. Thus it occurs that solidly built iron frames are broken. The action of gypsum is the same as that of lime, unless the gypsum had been exposed to damp air previously to use. Cement, however, is an excellent protection against rust, for it has been proven by experiments that a piece of iron covered with cement was not attacked by water. The only remedy to prevent the deleterious effect of lime and gypsum is said to be a coating of minium applied to the iron.

The manner in which the huge gasometers on the site of the new South Union Station, Boston, were demolished was certainly novel and interesting, says the Brick-builder. These were built of brick, with

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very heavy walls so strongly knit that the roof of one of the buildings was blown off with dynamite without weakening the walls in the least, although before the dynamite was used the iron bolts and braces had been removed. In taking down the brickwork an application was made on a gigantic scale of a principle often used in cutting butter and cheese. At intervals of about twenty-five feet above the gasometer were narrow windows extending the greater portion of the height of the wall. A strong wire cable was made fast to the ground at the base of the inside of the wall, carried over the top and down to the ground on the outside of the line of a window, and taken through a pulley block, to the drum of a hoisting engine. When all was ready the engine was started, the wire wound up on the drum, and the great strain forced the cable to cut vertically through the bricks and mortar almost as smoothly as it might have passed through an immense cheese. After the brick wall had thus been cut vertically a table was passed around a pier between two windows, the hoisting cable attached to this cable on the inside and thence carried over the top of the wall and directly to the hoisting machine. When the power was gradually applied the immense slice of wall began to reel and totter and finally fall with a crash on the outside of the enclosure. This is about as expeditious a way of removing a large mass of masonry as we have ever heard of, and accomplished the desired result with great satisfaction.

BUILT TO STAND FOREVER.

A curious method of construction, which is said to have been much in use in Ireland upwards of a century ago, came to light recently in connection with the attempt to straighten the spire of a church in the county of Cork. After the spire had been examined by an architect, and the contractors had set about taking it down, with the view of re-building, the surprising discovery was made that it could not be taken down except it was done en masse, as the stones of which it is built were hermetically bound to each other with a combination of molten lead and sand, which rendered it absolutely impossible to separate one stone from another, the whole spire being, as it were, one solid block. On further and closer inspection it was found that the entire building was erected in a similar manner, no other mortar or binding substances of any kind being used save the sand and molten lead. A huge iron shaft runs through the top portion of the spire, on which the stones were slipped like rings and irrevocably rivetted with lead and sand.

The Ontario government was waited upon last week by a deputation from Stratford representing two sides of a dispute about the waterworks system of that city. The water supply is in the hands of a private company, which was chartered before the passage of the law providing for a reference to arbitration when the municipality desires to take the service over. That is the position at the present time in Stratford, but the company is not willing to give up its franchise. Representatives of the city asked that the government should take steps to bring the company under the arbitration law.

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