

and some of the freestones and flagstones of the Province are well adapted for the purpose. The rocks should be laid in mortar, and the inside of the kiln should be plastered, the air being excluded on all sides except at the archway and top.

Near the kiln there should be a shed to keep the lime after it is burned from the rain and weather.

In charging the kiln the limestone is broken into pieces of a few pounds weight. An arch is built opposite the archway to admit the fuel. After the arch is completed the kiln may be filled with broken limestone to the top. The arch being filled with wood, and the fire kindled, the heat must be gradually increased until the limestone be sufficiently burned to slake readily. In general, when the charge is sufficiently burned, the smoke at the top of the kiln disappears, and the flame of the fuel rises in its stead; the charge also sinks down a few inches.

Some kinds of limestone require a stronger heat than others, a little experience is therefore necessary to accomplish the work well and with precision, and it may be remarked that the rock when it is first taken from the quarry requires less heat for its calcination than when it has been exposed some time to the sun and the weather.

If the heat should be too great, the limestone will melt and run into slag; but after burning a kiln or two of any kind of limestone, any person of observation will acquire that kind of knowledge which is necessary in all practical operations.—The gases that escape from kilns while the limestone is burning are unwholesome, and it is desirable that all kilns should be at some distance from dwelling houses.

As soon as the lime is sufficiently burned, time should be allowed for it to cool, when it must be removed from the kiln, for it expands with great force during the process of slaking, and if it should be exposed to rains or moisture in the kiln, it will force the walls apart or greatly injure them.