

**DURABILITY OF TIMBER AND WOODWORK.**

In every department of human industry the successful man is generally one who has learned from the experience of others. In the particular matter of building there is much to be learned respecting the durability of different materials from the buildings of times gone by.

The proper seasoning of timber is one of the very best means of securing it against decay, from whatever cause it may originate. The seasoning, however, to be effectual, must be thorough and complete. In late years the modes of seasoning timber have changed. In olden times it was allowed to dry in the air a long period of time. The carpenter or builder of the present day who would feel any delight in the progress of his art cannot feel insensible to the advantage of giving durability to his materials, and yet be uninterested in any inquiry into the probable extent of their duration; for while his productions are worthy of imitation, the remembrance of them will be preserved by the engraver's art as long as there shall be men capable of paying a just tribute to the memory of departed merit. The French army in 1799, under the great Napoleon, destroyed the celebrated bridge across the Rhine, at Schaffhausen, but the fame of Grundeumann, the carpenter, will long continue; and the form of that excellent structure of the art will only cease to be remembered when carpentry itself no longer exists. We have introduced our subject in this way for the purpose of citing some of the most remarkable incidents on record in history. We have taken the pains to condense a number of the most remarkable of these, as showing our readers how long timbers have been preserved in almost perfect state. Examples are not wanting in the history of Mexico, where timbers have been found in a perfect state after being cut over 300 years. But our examples are obtained mostly from ancient history, and exist in the old world. The piles of the bridge built by the Emperor Trajan, across the Danube, is a striking instance of the durability of timber in a wet state. One of these piles was taken up and found to be petrified to the depth of three-fourths of an inch. But the rest of the wood was little different from its ordinary state, though it has been driven more than sixteen centuries.

The piles under the piers of London bridge have been driven over six hundred years, and from observations made by Dancie, 1746, it did not appear that they had materially decayed; and they are to-day sufficiently sound to support the massive superstructure. These piles are chiefly of elm.

In digging away the foundation of the old Savoy Palace, London, some 60 years ago, which was built 700 years before, the whole of the piles consisting of oak, elm, beech, and chestnut, were found in a perfect state of soundness, as also was the planking which covered the pile-heads. Some of the beech, however, after being exposed to the air a few weeks, though under cover, had a coating of fungus spread over.

On opening one of the tombs of Thebes, some 60 years ago, there was discovered two statues

of wood, a little larger than life, and in good preservation; the only decayed parts being the sockets to receive the eyes. The wood of these statues is most probably the oldest in existence that bears traces of human labor. We believe they are in the British Museum to-day.

A continued range or curb of timber was discovered in pulling down a part of Trowbridge Castle, in Kent, which was built over seven hundred years ago. This curb was built in the middle of the thickness of the wall, and was, no doubt, to prevent the settlement likely to happen in such heavy piles of buildings, and therefore is an interesting fact in the history of constructive architecture, as well as an instance of the durability of timber.

In digging for the foundation of the present house in Ditton Park, near Windsor, the timbers of a draw bridge were discovered about ten feet below the surface of the ground; these timbers were sound, but had become black. Hakenwell says that Sir John de Molines obtained liberty to fortify the Manor House of Ditton, in 1396, and it is probable the draw bridge was built soon after that time; accordingly the timbers have been there about 400 years.

The durability of the framed timbers of buildings is also very considerable. The trusses of the old part of the roof of the Basilica of St. Paul, of Rome, was framed in 816, and they were sound and in good condition in 1814, a space of nearly one thousand years. These trusses are of fir.

The timber work of the external domes of the church of St. Marks, at Venice, is more than eight hundred years old, and is still in a good state.

The timber roof of Crosby Hall, in London, was erected over three hundred years ago, and the roof of Westminster Hall, which is supposed to be of chestnut, is now over three hundred and fifty years old.

The rich carvings in oak, which ornamented the ceiling of the king's room in Sterling Castle, are many of them still in good preservation. It is nearly three hundred and fifty years since they were executed, and they remained in their original situation until a part of the roof gave away, in 1877, when the whole was removed, and afterwards were dispersed among the collectors of curious relics of the olden times.

In some of the old mansions that yet remain, and in ancient cathedrals and churches, there is nothing like dry rot found.—Wood and Iron.

**CARDIFF.**

The *Timber Trades Journal* of Oct. 11, says: During the past seven days there have come to hand once cargo of deals from Miramichi, and one cargo of pitch pine from Pensacola. Our market has not altered in any material degree from the position we have had occasion to record recently; there is apparently not the slightest present improvement, and we can but confirm our previous remarks relative to the outlook of the timber trade. There is a steady, but not large delivery going on from stocks.

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**LIVERPOOL STOCKS.**

We take from the *Timber Trades Journal* the following Comparative Table showing Stock of Timber and Deals in Liverpool on Oct. 1st, 1883 and 1884, and also the Consumption for the month of Sept. 1883 and 1884:—

	Stock, Oct. 1st, 1883.	Stock, Oct. 1st, 1884.	Consumption for the month of Sept., 1883.	Consumption for the month of Sept., 1884.
Quebec Square Pine.....	444,000 ft.	392,000 ft.		
Waney Board.....	455,000 "	500,000 "	371,000 ft.	304,000 ft.
St. John Pine.....	10,000 "	63,000 "	2,000 "	20,000 "
Other Ports Pine.....	70,000 "	61,000 "	16,000 "	8,000 "
Red Pine.....	60,000 "	52,000 "	21,000 "	7,000 "
Pitch Pine, hewn.....	409,000 "	606,000 "	48,000 "	43,000 "
Sawn.....	150,000 "	510,000 "	102,000 "	62,000 "
Planks.....	57,000 "	67,000 "	20,000 "	25,000 "
Dantzic, &c., Fir.....	134,000 "	67,000 "	24,000 "	8,000 "
Sweden and Norway Fir.....	24,000 "	109,000 "	1,000 "	8,000 "
Oak, Canadian and American.....	374,000 "	310,000 "	123,000 "	104,000 "
Planks.....	175,000 "	179,000 "	54,000 "	67,000 "
Baltic.....	21,000 "	0,000 "	0,000 "	0,000 "
Elm.....	37,000 "	43,000 "	31,000 "	17,000 "
Ash.....	27,000 "	40,000 "	20,000 "	12,000 "
Birch.....	71,000 "	102,000 "	69,000 "	41,000 "
East India Teak.....	28,000 "	71,000 "	17,000 "	6,000 "
Greenheart.....	105,000 "	30,000 "	12,000 "	13,000 "
N. B. & N. S. Spruce Deals.....	50,481 stds.	25,770 stds.	9,843 stds.	8,129 stds.
Pine.....	900 "	1,082 "	2,637 "	2,358 "
Quebec Pine & Spruce Deals.....	7,820 "	9,269 "	1,384 "	742 "
Baltic Red Deals, &c.....	5,533 "	3,982 "	61 "	67 "
Baltic Boards.....	316 "	67 "	24 "	84 "
prepared Flooring.....	4,007 "	8,172 "		

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OFFICE OF THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION ASSOCIATION,  
TORONTO, MARCH 10, 1884.

*The National Manufacturing Co'y, Ottawa:*

GENTLEMEN,—In reply to your enquiry, I beg to say that the highest awards made at the Industrial Exhibition for the years 1881, 1882, and 1883, for Tents, Marquees and Flags, were to your Company, being a Silver Medal for each year. Last year, 1883, was the first in which a medal was specially offered for Camp Furniture and Equipages, and it was awarded to the National Manufacturing Co'y, of Ottawa.

I am, your respectfully,

H. J. HILL, Manager and Secretary.