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SPECIMEN BOOK

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MANUFACTURERS OF

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Iron Cornices, Gutters, Conductors, Window Caps, Dormers, Balustrades, Finials, &c.

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PREFACE. Galvanized Iron: Its uses, &c.

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THE innumerable and almost endless variety of uses to which iron at the present day is applied, as well as the inexhaustible supply of the crude ore afforded by the natural resources of this country, combine to give a striking and peculiar importance to any art, discovery, or invention, by which increased facilities are furnished either for its manufacture, preservation or adaptation to our purposes.

Although within the last half century the use of iron has been increased to an extent almost inconceivable, and it now enters as an essential element into almost every department of mechanical and architectural structures, yet it has been found that this, the strongest and most useful of metals, will, by its tendency to oxidize or rust, be rendered in space of time totally inefficient and unreliable, in many of the uses to which it has been applied.

Hence it is that the subject of its preservation has for a long series of years received the attention and exercised the ingenuity of scientific and practical men.

To this end a variety of processes have been suggested, and from time to time adopted, but none have ever been found to stand the test of time, prior to the discovery of the process now commonly designated Galvanizing. It is well known in science that a galvanic action is produced by the contact of two metals different in their nature, and that the most oxidizable of two, while in contact, becomes positively electrified—the other negatively electrified—an electrical current being produced, which passes from the more to the less oxidizable of the two, the latter is protected by the former, so long as any portions of the former remains to maintain such electrical current. The application of this principal of "electro-chemical protection" to the manufacture of Galvanized Iron, independent of its importance in affording an even, secure, and permanent coating to the iron, is a point of true economy, as from the efficiency of the protection it affords, the necessity of paint and other modes of preservation (none of which are permanent) is entirely superseded.

The idea of galvanizing iron is not one of recent origin. After a trial of years the article now has an established reputation, based not only upon the expressed opinion of eminent chemists, but upon the character it has sustained through long and impartial experiments in every department of service in which it is designed to be introduced.

Galvanized iron, since its introduction, has deservedly taken a prominent place among building materials. After an experience of over twenty-five years in this country, and a much longer period in England and France, it is established beyond a doubt, that Galvanized Sheet Iron, prepared expressly for the purpose, is the most economical, on account of its being the most durable article, for roofing purposes, ever discovered, being entirely rust-proof, and requiring no paint or care whatever to protect it from decay. But the most prominent place it has taken is in Cornices, Window-Caps, &c. It is destined to supersede all other materials for building trimmings, as it combines more advantages than any other material used for the purpose. It is light, and does not weigh heavily on the walls, which, in a large building, is a great point gained; especially in our large cities where there is so much made land, the foundation not being solid enough to support the immense weight put upon it, and causing the walls to settle, by being so heavily loaded with stone cornices and trimmings.

The expense is very much less, being not more than one third as much as stone. It is more durable than sand stone, not being affected by the variations in the temperature, which in some portions of the country is so great as to crack and split the stone, until its original design is entirely obliterated. It possesses great advantages over wood for the above purposes, inasmuch as it is perfectly fire-proof, and very durable, being in some cases exposed to the action of the weather for twenty-five years, without any material signs of decay. It is a well known fact, that in cities very disastrous fires are often encouraged from building to building, by the means of a wooden cornice. Many of the cities are awake to the fact, and have passed laws prohibiting the use of combustible materials for outside finish.

Had there been a more general use of galvanized iron for this purpose the past quarter of a century, a great many of the disastrous conflagrations which our country has experienced might have been in a measure prevented.

On most of the first class buildings erected in this vicinity, of late, galvanized iron has entered largely into their construction, in the way of Cornices, Window-Caps, Gutters, Finials, &c., &c., and in many cases we have made the entire front of this material, filling in between with brick, which, when painted and sanded, had the appearance of a sand stone trimmed building, of three or four times the expense.

We make Cornices, Window-Caps, Gutters, Balustrades, Finials, Dormers, &c., &c., of any style or design that our patrons may desire, and will furnish estimates, upon application, for all kinds of iron work for buildings.

The senior partner of our firm is the pioneer of New England in the manufacture of this class of work, having made the first galvanized iron cornice which was put up in New England. This branch was carried on in connection with other business until the increasing demand obliged the forming of a new business, or rather the separating from any other, and giving the whole attention to the manufacture of this work. Our facilities are unequalled by any other manufacturer in New England. We use the most improved machinery in the market, both of our own manufacture and invention, and also of other parties. We have constantly employed skilled workmen who have been brought up by us and been in the employ of our Mr. Cushing for twelve or fifteen years, on this class of work. We send men to all parts of New England to put up our work, when desired; but when we have orders from distant parts of the country, we fit the work all complete at our establishment and ship it in sections ready to be put into the building.

The illustrations shown on these pages are but a few of the many designs into which we have worked this material. Parties wishing anything shown in this pamphlet will please state the number of the figure and the probable quantity desired. We are prepared to make these or any other designs, of any size, to order.

Letters addressed to us will receive prompt attention.

DANIEL CUSHING & CO.,

Manufacturers of Plain and Ornamental Galvanized Iron Work, LOWELL, MASS.





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