

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

---

### SECTION I.

VARIOUS LIMES, OR AGENTS OF ADHESION IN CALCAREOUS  
 MORTARS AND CEMENTS.

#### CHAPTER I.

	Pages.
Of limestones, and the various limes they furnish.—Distinction of the known limes into rich, poor, and hydraulic limes. Characteristics of the different limes.—Method of distinguishing and classifying them.—Relation between the qualities of limes and the chemical composition of the stones whence they are derived ... ..	1

#### CHAPTER II.

Calcination of limestone on the large scale.—Conditions necessary to render the calcination as easy as possible.—Case of the rich limes.—Case of the hydraulic limes.—Different kilns made use of.—Average quantity of combustibles required for the calcination of a cubic metre of lime.—Irregular action of the coal kiln by slow heat ... ..	13
--	----

#### CHAPTER III.

Of artificial hydraulic limes.—Two modes of preparing them. Comparison between the hydraulic limes and the water-cements used in England.—Description of the processes followed by M. Saint Leger at Paris.—Average price of the artificial hydraulic limes ... ..	20
b	

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07151-2 - A Practical and Scientific Treatise on Calcareous Mortars and Cements,  
Artificial and Natural

Louis-Joseph Vicat Edited and translated by John Thomas Smith

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

ii

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

## CHAPTER IV.

	Pages.
Of the slaking of lime.—Ordinary process.—How abused. Expansion of the different kinds of lime.—Effect of cold water upon rich lime in effervescence.—What renders lime sluggish in slaking.—Second process of extinction.—How it ought to be practised in order to reduce rich lime well. Water absorbed.—Expansion of the various limes, in powder not compressed.—Third process.—Water absorbed.—Expan- sion.—Order of the three processes in reference to the degree of division communicated to the lime.—Action of the carbonic acid of the atmosphere upon limes differently slaked.—Method of preserving the different limes before and after extinction ... ..	26

## CHAPTER V.

Of the hydrates of lime, or solids resulting from the simple combination of water and lime.—Influence of the degree of consistency given to the hydrate in the first instance.—Ac- tion of the air.—Mode of exhibiting this action.—Action of the water.—Use that may be made of the hydrates in the arts.	34
--	----

## SECTION II.

VARIOUS INGREDIENTS WHICH UNITE WITH LIME IN THE  
PREPARATION OF CALCAREOUS MORTARS AND CEMENTS.

## CHAPTER VI.

Of sands.—Of arenas.—Of psammities.—Of clays.—Of volcanic or pseudo-volcanic pouzzolanas.—Of the artificial products analogous to pouzzolanas.—History of these substances ...	43
--	----

## CHAPTER VII.

Qualities of the ingredients mentioned in the preceding chapter.—Definitions—inert substances—slightly energetic	
---	--

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07151-2 - A Practical and Scientific Treatise on Calcareous Mortars and Cements,  
Artificial and Natural

Louis-Joseph Vicat Edited and translated by John Thomas Smith

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

iii

	Pages.
substances—very energetic ditto.—Insufficiency of their physical characters to denote the qualities specified under the above denominations.—Approximate chemical methods of recognising them; by means of acids, by lime-water ...	52

## CHAPTER VIII.

Manufacture of artificial pouzzolanas.—What are the substances most proper for such fabrication.—Conditions to be fulfilled to attain the object.—Influence of a slight calcination and the contact of the air.—Nature and quantity of the ingredients in a good pouzzolana which are acted upon by muriatic acid ... .. .	58
--	----

## CHAPTER IX.

Mutual suitableness of the ingredients, with the various limes, in relation to the destination of the mortars or cements for the preparation of which we use them.—Case of constant immersion.—Case of alternations of dryness and moisture. Case of exposure to the weather ... .. .	64
---	----

## SECTION III.

COMBINATION OF THE ELEMENTS OF CALCAREOUS MORTARS  
AND CEMENTS.

## CHAPTER X.

Mortars or cements intended for immersion.—Choice of proportions.—They are variable.—Limits established for certain cases.—The proportions exert a more important influence the less energetic the mixed substances are.—They must be modified according to the use for which the mixtures are intended.—Choice of the process of slaking.—Order of pre-	b 2
--	-----

eminence of the three known processes, in reference to the nature of the lime made use of.—Manipulation or manufacture.—How it ought to be conducted under various circumstances.—Application to use, or immersion.—Difficulties to be overcome, how to manage them.—Old method defective. Action of the water upon the parts of immersed mortars or cements with which it is in immediate contact.—Influence of time ... .. 67

CHAPTER XI.

Mortars or cements constantly exposed to the weather.—Mode of correcting the bad qualities of rich limes.—Use of sand in different mortars.—Opinion of the ancients upon the quality of sands.—Influence of their size—it varies with different limes.—Method of mixing them.—Choice of proportions,—with rich limes,—with hydraulic limes.—Choice of the process of slaking;—it is the same as in the case of immersion.—Fabrication.—Conditions of a good manipulation.—Use—difficulties to be overcome.—How to attain the object.—Precautions in respect to drying to be taken after application.—Very remarkable influence of time upon mortars of rich lime, after many centuries ... .. 84

CHAPTER XII.

Mortars or cements subjected to the constant influence of a damp soil.—Influence of the coarseness of the sand.—Of the process of slaking.—Proportions.—Application to use.—Of concrete ... .. 98

CHAPTER XIII.

Of the vicissitudes to which cements and mortars may be exposed.—Influence of these vicissitudes.—Case of frosts.—Effects of the proportions and the size of well-mixed sands ... .. 102

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07151-2 - A Practical and Scientific Treatise on Calcareous Mortars and Cements,  
Artificial and Natural

Louis-Joseph Vicat Edited and translated by John Thomas Smith

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

v

## CHAPTER XIV.

Pages.

Influence of beating upon the resistance of mortars.—Cases in which it is more injurious than useful.—Difficulties which mortar when used as a plastic substance opposes to moulding.—Case in which these difficulties disappear ... .. 106

## CHAPTER XV.

Natural cements.—Composition of the calcareous minerals which produce them.—Their advantages, their inconveniences.—All argillaceous limestones when imperfectly burnt afford natural cements ... .. 111

## CHAPTER XVI.

Of ancient mortars compared with mortars of the middle ages. Description of the cement used in the Egyptian Pyramids. State of the art in Egypt;—amongst the Greeks;—amongst the Romans.—False opinion of the moderns as to the cause of the hardness of ancient mortars.—Known limits of absolute resistance of mortars ... .. 114

## CHAPTER XVII.

Theories of calcareous mortars and cements; their insufficiency. M. John's experiments.—Macquer's hypothesis. Lorient and Lafaye's opinions.—Definitions.—Four cases presented by aggregates.—Probable consequences of the first case; ditto of second case;—ditto of third case;—ditto of fourth case.—Theory of the solidification of hydraulic limes.—M. Petot's experiments.—Remarkable influence of sand on the absorption of carbonic acid in old mortars. M. Berthier's opinion.—Its insufficiency.—Concluding remarks ... .. 124

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07151-2 - A Practical and Scientific Treatise on Calcareous Mortars and Cements,  
Artificial and Natural

Louis-Joseph Vicat Edited and translated by John Thomas Smith

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

vi

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

## APPENDIX.

## NOTES ON CHAPTER I.

No.	Pages.
1. History of lime and calcareous minerals ... ..	141
2. Chemical methods of appreciating the qualities of lime- stones.—Fruitless attempts of the ancients in this respect...	143
3. Of the way in which we have been enabled to add to the facts made known in 1818.—Authenticity of the new results ... ..	145
4. On the colour of limes ... ..	ib.
5. Method of analyzing a magnesian limestone by hydration	146
6. Account of the Madras magnesia ... ..	147
7. History of artificial hydraulic limes ... ..	150

## NOTES ON CHAPTER II.

8. Effects of calcination on compound limestones.—Mutual re-action of the constituents ... ..	152
9. Influence of aqueous vapour upon the calcination of lime- stones.—Experiment by M. Gay-Lussac ... ..	ib.
10. Fact relative to calcination in a close vessel ... ..	153
11. Consequence of the imperfect burning of limestones. Contradictory experiments on this subject ... ..	154
12. Experiments upon the different quantities of combustibles used in the burning of lime ... ..	157
13. Sensible improvement which takes place in the burning of lime with coal, by very slight modifications in the manage- ment of the fire, and in the selection of the combustible ...	158
14. Irregular action of the coal kilns by slow heat ( <i>feu continu</i> ).—Use of turf ... ..	159
15. Kilns with alternative fires for the burning of argillaceous limestone—manner of using them ... ..	ib.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07151-2 - A Practical and Scientific Treatise on Calcareous Mortars and Cements,  
Artificial and Natural

Louis-Joseph Vicat Edited and translated by John Thomas Smith

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

vii

## NOTES ON CHAPTER III.

No.	Pages.
16. Remarkable instances of the use of artificial hydraulic limes	161
17. Opinion of certain chemists on the efficacy of oxide of manganese in lime and mortars—Striking instance in opposition to that opinion ... ..	163
18. Details of the manufacture of artificial hydraulic lime on the first calcination under the most unfavourable circumstances ... ..	164

## NOTES ON CHAPTER IV.

19. Examination of the vapour and gas disengaged during the slaking of lime ... ..	166
20. Opinions of the masons regarding lime which slakes to dryness ... ..	167
21. History of the various processes of slaking.—Examination of Fleuret's process ... ..	ib.
22. Numerical comparison of the bulks, with the quantities of water absorbed ... ..	168
23. Observations on the quantity of lime contained in equal bulks of the same consistency, of the different hydrates...	169
24. Remarkable fact of the indefinite preservation of rich lime in paste, in damp trenches ... ..	ib.
25. Notes regarding the preservation of limes slaked by immersion ... ..	170
26. Repugnance of the workmen to the use of hydraulic lime. Reasons of this repugnance ... ..	ib.
27. Methods made use of at Doué (Maine and Loire) to slake hydraulic lime, on the large scale and by immersion, and to convey it by the Loire ... ..	ib.
28. Experiment on a large scale on the preservation of quick-lime ... ..	171

## NOTES ON CHAPTER V.

29. Definition of the hydrate of lime by chemists.—How to obtain it ... ..	171
30. Experiments on the absorption of carbonic acid by mortars	172

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07151-2 - A Practical and Scientific Treatise on Calcareous Mortars and Cements,  
Artificial and Natural

Louis-Joseph Vicat Edited and translated by John Thomas Smith

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

viii

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Pages.
31. Progress of carbonic acid in the various hydrates of lime. Analyses and remarks ... ..	173
32. Use of unmixed lime in buildings.—Composition of the Madras chunam ... ..	175

## NOTES ON CHAPTER VII.

33. Account of the use of arenas as pouzzolanas ... ..	177
34. Of the use of certain psammities as pouzzolanas ... ..	ib.
35. Use of pouzzolana by the Romans.—Dutch tarras ... ..	178
36. Observations of Count Chaptal on the action of sulphuric acid on some pouzzolanas ... ..	179
37. Experiment regarding the chemical inaction of lime towards quartz.—Ditto upon the inaction of hydraulic lime in the same circumstances ... ..	180

## NOTES ON CHAPTER VIII.

38. Account of some artificial pouzzolanas ... ..	182
39. Opinion of certain builders regarding the efficacy of the oxide of iron—invalidated by facts ... ..	183
40. Opinion of Colonel Raucourt, Engineer, upon the influence of the contact of the air in the calcination of artificial pouzzolanas.—The absorption of oxygen is not sufficiently established.—Investigation of the constituent principles of pouzzolanas separately mixed with rich lime.—Case in which it is impossible to overlook a chemical com- bination ... ..	ib.
41. Reverberatory furnace proposed for the calcination of pouzzolanas—its inconveniences—other forms ... ..	186
42. Experiments of M. Bruyère, Inspector-General of Roads, upon artificial pouzzolanas.—Repeated on a large scale by M. De Saint Leger ... ..	187
43. Experiment tending to prove that clays calcined in contact with the air do not absorb any gas.—The clays which are calcined in a close vessel are not acted upon by acids to the same degree as those calcined in the air ... ..	ib.



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07151-2 - A Practical and Scientific Treatise on Calcareous Mortars and Cements,  
Artificial and Natural

Louis-Joseph Vicat Edited and translated by John Thomas Smith

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

ix

No.	Pages.
44. Research into the influence of the admixture of pure potash or soda with the clays previous to their calcination, in reference to the energy of the artificial pouzzolanas produced ... ..	189
45. Notice of Mr. Martin's new Patent cement ... ..	191

## NOTES ON CHAPTER IX.

46. Explanation of the contradictions exhibited by various writings regarding mortars and pouzzolanas ... ..	191
47. Table of the composition of the various mortars and cements used by Mr. Smeaton ... ..	193

## NOTES ON CHAPTER X.

48. Exceptions offered by the poor limes in relation to proportions ... ..	194
49. Explanation of the influence of the various methods of slaking ... ..	ib.
50. The exception of the hydraulic limes explained ... ..	196
51. Different ways of viewing cements and mortars ... ..	ib.
52. With reference to their texture and preparation ... ..	197
53. A mode of slaking approved by trial on a large scale ... ..	ib.
54. The methods of fabrication and immersion approved, by adoption on a large scale in the foundations of the bridge of Charles X. at Lyons ... ..	ib.
55. Fatal instance of the use of lime imperfectly slaked ... ..	198
56. Explanation of the deterioration of some water-cements and mortars.—M. Petot's experiments ... ..	199
57. Cases of exception applicable to what has been said regarding the influence of time ... ..	201

## NOTES ON CHAPTER XI.

58. Experiment upon the influence of calcareous sand in comparison with granitic ... ..	201
59. Ancient examples, accidental or designed, in favour of the principles laid down regarding the influence of the coarseness of the grain in sands ... ..	202

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07151-2 - A Practical and Scientific Treatise on Calcareous Mortars and Cements,  
Artificial and Natural

Louis-Joseph Vicat Edited and translated by John Thomas Smith

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

No.	TABLE OF CONTENTS.	Pages.
60.	Ancient examples tending to prove the fatal influence of clay in mortars exposed to the weather ... ..	203
61.	Explanation of the varied effects of the different methods of slaking ... ..	ib.
62.	Unanimous opinion respecting mortars and cements mixed thin.—Means tried to effect kneading them very stiff ...	204
63.	Method employed at the canal from Nantes to Brest, to guard the hands of the masons from the action of the lime.—Precautions to be taken relative to the soaking the materials used in masonry ... ..	206
64.	The influence of slow drying upon the goodness of mor- tars known in Italy, and made use of in the fabrication of artificial stones ... ..	207
65.	Remarkable instance of the time which mortar of rich lime requires to harden.—Chemical comparison of various old and ancient mortars of excellent quality.—Mode of reducing the results of chemical analyses into technical language ... ..	209

## NOTES ON CHAPTER XIII.

66.	Observations upon certain cases of deterioration of cements removed from a damp situation to a dry one ... ..	212
67.	Compositions for the protection of stuccoes from the weather ... ..	ib.
68.	Effects of frost upon mortars and cements.—Difficulty of explaining them.—Usual mode of experiment.—Remarks on the decay of mortars in the mild climate of India ...	213
69.	Method proposed by M. Brard to distinguish substances liable to be affected by frost.—Application of that method to various mortars.—Brard's process does not answer with mixtures of this kind;—in respect to bricks and stones it may be of great service ... ..	216

## NOTES ON CHAPTER XIV.

70.	Poor success of Lorient's process applied to mortar consi- dered as a plastic substance.—Smeaton's remarks on ditto	219
-----	--	-----

TABLE OF CONTENTS. xi

NOTES ON CHAPTER XV.

No.	Pages.
71. Account of the English and Russian natural cements. Notice of a cement found in the Madras Presidency ...	220

NOTES ON CHAPTER XVI.

72. Particulars of the analysis of the cement of the Pyramid of Cheops, by Dr. Malcolmson ... ..	222
73. Observations upon certain calcareous incrustations ... ..	224
74. Examples of ancient mortars of great hardness ... ..	225

NOTES ON CHAPTER XVII.

75. Particulars of an experiment upon the solidification of the calcined sulphate of lime (Plaster of Paris) ... ..	226
76. Experiments upon the solidification of cements composed of rich lime, and artificial pouzzolana ... ..	ib.
77. Remarks upon M. Girard's "Notice sur de nouveaux mortiers hydrauliques" ... ..	228

---

T A B L E S.

Account of the manner in which the experiments were made. 234

TABLE No. 1.

Comparison of the qualities of various limes with the chemical  
 composition of the limestones from which they are derived... 237

TABLE No. 2.

Comparison of the hardness and absolute resistance of com-  
 pounds, resulting from the combination of water with various  
 limes ... .. 238

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07151-2 - A Practical and Scientific Treatise on Calcareous Mortars and Cements,  
Artificial and Natural

Louis-Joseph Vicat Edited and translated by John Thomas Smith

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

xii

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

## TABLE No. 3. (bis.)

	Pages.
The action of muriatic acid upon clays taken in different states, compared ... ..	239

## TABLE No. 3.

Comparison of the qualities of ingredients with their behaviour in regard to muriatic acid ... ..	240, 241
--	----------

## TABLE No. 4.

Comparison of the various artificial pouzzolanas with the Italian pouzzolana, tarras, and the aqua-fortis cement ... ..	242
--	-----

## TABLE No. 5.

Comparison to aid in establishing the reciprocal adaptability of the various limes to the different ingredients of mortars and cements ... ..	243
---	-----

## TABLE No. 6.

Hydraulic mortars and cements compared, in reference to the process of slaking made use of ... ..	244, 245
--	----------

## TABLE No. 7.

Comparison of the relative resistances of the various hydraulic mortars and cements, immersed in different states of con- sistency ... ..	246
---	-----

## TABLE No. 8.

Water-cements and mortars compared in reference to the dete- rioration which they undergo at their surfaces.—The quick- ness of set of different cements compared with the varieties of composition of these cements, and the resistance they ac- quired after one year's immersion... ..	247
---	-----

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07151-2 - A Practical and Scientific Treatise on Calcareous Mortars and Cements,  
Artificial and Natural

Louis-Joseph Vicat Edited and translated by John Thomas Smith

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

xiii

## TABLE No. 9.

Pages.

Quickness of set of various cements compared with the proportions and the hardness acquired after one year's immersion 248

## DOUBLE TABLE No. 10.

Absolute resistance of mortars, compared with that of the hydrates of lime which form their matrix.—Mortars compared in reference to the coarseness of the sand made use of 249

## TABLE No. 11.

Mortars taken from various buildings compared with mortars compounded for experiment from the same limes ... .. 250

## TABLE No. 12.

Mortars compared in reference to their proportions, and the mode of slaking ... .. 251

## TREBLE TABLE No. 13.

Mortars of rich lime compared in reference to the influence of manipulation.—Mortars compared in reference to the consistency given to the mixture of lime and sand.—Mortars compared in relation to the influence of desiccation ... .. 252

## DOUBLE TABLE No. 14.

Absolute resistances of various mortars compared in reference to the effect of beating.—Mortars and cements compared in reference to their specific gravity and their porosity ... .. 253

## TABLE No. 15.

Characteristics, composition, and absolute resistances of some Roman mortars from the South of France ... .. 254

Cambridge University Press  
 978-1-108-07151-2 - A Practical and Scientific Treatise on Calcareous Mortars and Cements,  
 Artificial and Natural  
 Louis-Joseph Vicat Edited and translated by John Thomas Smith  
 Table of Contents  
[More information](#)

xiv TABLE OF CONTENTS.

TABLE No. 16.

	Pages.
Comparison of the resistances of various compounds in reference to the proportions, and the coarseness of the substances introduced into the matter forming the matrix ... ..	255

TABLE No. 17.

Analyses of various old mortars ... ..	256
--	-----

---

INDEX ... ..	257
--------------	-----