

SLM131

Letter from Edward G. Tuckerman to Alexander Parris

[Letter is actually a printed advertisement addressed to Parris with a handwritten note from Tuckerman at the bottom. All handwritten text is indicated in bold type.]

LOWITZ'S
MASTIC OR FUSIBLE CEMENT

The Subscriber takes pleasure in introducing to public notice this article, as a material superior in quality to any Cement as yet known.

Qualities.

First. After breaking the Mastic Cement into small pieces, and dissolving it in an iron pot over a coal fire, and mixing with it two or three parts of sand or gravel, it is used like mortar, and will bind together hard substances, such as granite, brick, iron and other metals, as well as wood. After a quarter of an hour, the adhesion becomes so strong as to exceed even that of the English Tunnel Cement.

Second. This composition, after cooling one hour, is harder than brick, sand stone, or cement stone, although the latter may have been seasoned by years of exposure.

Third. This Cement is in the full meaning of the word, Water Tight; for a body coated with it the quarter of an inch in thickness, will be rendered impervious to water or moisture.

Fourth. Mastic Cement may be stored for many years in any place, and sent to any climate, without losing either in quantity or quality.

Fifth. The Cement may be melted over twice or three times, even after having been used for some years.

Applicability of the Cement.

First. In constructing new buildings near the river-side, where the ground is liable to inundation from spring tides or any pressure of water, the cellars can be preserved water-tight by laying a brick floor in Mastic Cement, but it must be left to the mason's judgment whether one, two or three layers of brick will sufficiently resist the pressure.

Second. For Cellars in old buildings, where the pressure of water frequently produced by high tides has injured the floors and walls: the masonry can be restored and completely preserved from future damage by water, vermin, etc. by covering the floors with brick laid in Mastic Cement, and carrying a one brick wall up on the sides as high as wanted, with the Cement.

Third. For foundations in general, it is highly advisable to use the Mastic Cement in a layer or two all around the building, to preserve the masonry as well as wood work.

Fourth. Cisterns and Tanks, when lined with a coat of this Cement, will preserve the water clean and good.

Fifth. In building Fortifications, it is used to preserve casements, which are covered afterward with earth, to prevent dampness from penetrating the walls, and to render the basement rooms dry and fit to live in.

Sixth. For Powder Magazines on land and in men-of-war, and for arsenals, to produce dry walls and floors.

Seventh. For Rail Roads. The wood used for the support of the iron rail, if covered with a thin coat of this Cement, will be preserved from decay.

Eighth. To fix iron clammers in rocks, instead of with lead.

Ninth. To bind sluice masonry with wood or rock.

Tenth. For general purposes, to wit, - Imitations of Marble floors, of all colors and forms - Casting Ornaments of all descriptions and colors - encasing iron, copper, lead and other metallic pipes, - a sure safeguard against corrosion and decay.

Certificate of One of the Engineers of the Croton Aqueduct

New-York, August 17, 1839

From experiments with the Mastic Cement made in my presence, the following qualities have been established: 1. That with joints less than one eighth of an inch, brick, stone and wood can be united with an adhesion exceeding the cohesion of brick and sand stone. 2. That the joints so formed, when the work is well done, are absolutely impervious to water or dampness. 3. That as a coating in layers of quarter to half an inch in thickness, it forms a surface impervious to water and moisture, in situations where not exposed to great changes of temperature.

[Signed] Horatio Allen.

Constantly on hand and for sale, in lots to suit purchasers, Mastic Cement in barrels, containing 3 to 400 pounds: Also - Asphaltum, natural and artificial, which can be used for Side and Garden Walks, Yards, Roofing, and street paving. Boilers and Tools will be let on moderate terms. All Orders promptly executed.

John Lowitz, Manufacturer
Office No. 2 Wall Street.

**Samples may be seen and any information obtained by application to the agent,
Edw[ar]d G. Tuckerman
No. 5 Donne Street. Boston**

[Envelope]

**Alexander Parris, Esq.
Architect
Boston**

[written in Parris's hand]

**Letter on Mastic or
Fusible Cement
1841**

[other scribblings and calculations appear on envelope]