I can give you no accompt of any thing to the Southward of 37. degrees; those few Ships, that have adventured to 38, reporting the Winds and Seas so raging, that none dare goe further.

Some considerations touching the variety of Slate, *together with a computation of the Charges in generall, for Covering Houses therewith; by Mr.* Sam. Colepress.

WHereas among the Materials for Building, that for *Covering* is not the least to be considered, among the kinds thereof our Contry-slate is not to be despised, and that as well for its *Statelinesse*, as *Permanency*; to which may be added its *Cheapnesse*. The *first* whereof needs no better Evidence, than the Esteem, the slated Houses in or about *London* (though there are many of them) generally meet with from all, that but take notice of them. For the *Second*, we have some sorts, which by the conjectures of the most experienced *Helliers* (or Coverors with Slat) have continued on houses severall hundreds of years, and are yet as firm, as when first put up. And for the *third*, the computation of Charges, annexed below, may give some hints, as easily to guess at the whole Charge thereby, as compared with Tiling, Leading, Boarding *&c.* (comparatis comparandis.)

I shall therefore the less scruple to offer some occasional Trials (though common ones, for ought I know,) whereby the firm and lasting goodness of any Slate may easily be experimented and without expence.

1. Take the thin cleft stone, slat or shindle, and so knock it against any hard matter, as to make it yield a sound, If the sound be good and clear, that sort of stone is not crazy, but firm and good. Or

2. If in hewing it does not break before the edge of the *Sects* (the hewing instrument of the Slatters) you may not much doubt of the firmness of the Slat. But

3. If after it hath been exactly weighed (and the accompt thereof laid by) it be put, and for 2. 4. or 8. hours left to remaine all under water in a vessel; and afterwards taken up

and wiped very clean with cloaths, if then it weigh more than before, 'tis of that kind, which imbibes water, and therefore not ſo fit to endure any conſiderable time without rotting the laths and timber.

4. Theſe Stones may be pretty well gueſſed at, whether they be of a cloſe or looſe texture, by their *Colour*: For the *overblackiſh Blew* is apteſt to take in water; but the *lighter blew* is alwayes the firmeſt and cloſeſt. To which may be added the *Touch*; for, a good ſtone feels ſomewhat hard and rough; whereas an open ſtone feels very ſmooth, and as twere, oily.

5. Place your Stone longways perpendicular in the midſt of a Veſſel of water (no matter, how ſhallow the water be, ſo it exceed halfe a foot depth;) and be ſure, the upper un-immerſed part of the Stone be not accidentaly wetted by the hand, or otherwiſe; and ſo let it remaine a day, or halfe a day, or leſs. If it be a good firme ſtone, it will not draw (as they ſpeak) water above half an inch above the level of the water, and that perhaps but at the edges only, the parts of which might be ſomewhat looſen'd in the hewing. But a bad ſtone will draw water up to the very top, be the ſtone as long as it will, all over.

As for the Charges of Covering Houſes with Slate, they may be thus computed.

	ſh.	d.
1000. of *Efford ſmall blew* at the ſhips ſide in Plimouth harbor	5	6.
1000. of *Efford large blew*	9	9.
1000. of *Can* pelmel	7	0.
1000. of *ſmall blew* of other Quarries	4	0.
1000. of *large blew*	8	0.

3000. of ſmall blew, accompted 2. Tuns in carriage by water.

1000. of large blew, 1. Tun.

3000. of ſmall will cover 1. *Poole* of work at the fifth pin plaine.

Every Poole of work is either 6. foot broad and 14 foot up, on both ſides, or 168 foot in length, and one in breadth.

3000 of large will cover 2. Pooles of plain work.

	ſh.	d.
Hewing of all ſorts of plain pelmell *per* 1000 ——	1 ——	6.
Pinning *per* 1000 8d: Pins *p* 1000: 8d —— ——	1 ——	4.

Three buſhels (*Wincheſter* meaſure) of good Lime will take 6. buſhels of freſh water ſand, and ſerves to lay on one Poole of work; though much leſs may ſerve the turn,

300 of lathes to every Poole of work.

1000 of Lath nailes to every 300 of Lathes.

An able workman may { lath 1. poole of work / lay on 2000 or more of ſlate / hew 1500 plaine / pin 4000 } by the day.

Chequer-work conſiſts in Angles, Circles and ſemi-circles &c. which requires no common skill, and time in hewing and laying.

It is worthy obſervation, that if a ſide-wall happen to take wett by the beating of the weather, or the like, when nothing elſe will cure it, our kerſeing with Slate (which is much uſed in the curious fronts of houſes, eſpecially in Townes) will quickly remedy it.

Some Obſervations

Concerning the odd Turn *of ſome* Shell-ſnailes, *and the* darting of Spiders, *made by an Ingenious Cantabrigian and by way of Letter communicated to Mr. I.* Wray, *who tranſmitted them to the Publiſher for the R. S.*

Sir, I Can deny you nothing, and you may doe what you pleaſe with the Notes I ſend you. You would know of me (you ſay) what I have obſerved concerning the *Odd Turn* of ſome *Shell-ſnailes* with us in England, and the *Darting of Spiders*.

I will tell you then of the *firſt*, that I have found two ſorts of them, eaſily to be diſtinguiſht one from the other, and from all beſides, becauſe the *Turn* of the wreaths is from the right hand to the left, contrary to what may be ſeen in common Snailes. They are very ſmall, and might therefore well eſcape thus long the more Curious Naturaliſts; neither of them much exceeding, at leſt in thickneſs, a large Oat-corne.