

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN P. COMLY, OF DAYTON, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN TREATING FLAX AND HEMP TO MAKE THEM RESEMBLE COTTON.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 34,619, dated March 4, 1862.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN P. COMLY, of Dayton, in the county of Montgomery, in the State of Ohio, have invented a new and Improved Mode of Cottonizing Flax; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof.

The nature of my invention consists in cutting the flax or hemp straw before it is broken, so as to separate the seed end from the residue of the stock and divide the fiber into equal, or nearly equal, lengths, suitable for spinning by ordinary cotton-spinning machinery, which will generally be from one to three inches, but may be of any other length required, after which the fiber is to be freed from the woody part by a picker or any known machinery used for separating the wood or straw from the fiber.

By this process the fibrous material is more readily cleaned, and at less cost, and with less waste than by other process heretofore used or known, and a better material is produced

by reason of the more equal or uniform lengths into which the fiber is divided and the more perfect separation of the seed ends from the residue of the stock.

It will be perceived that my invention relates entirely to the mode or process, irrespective of the apparatus or appliances required for its consummation. A detailed description of the mode of operation is hence deemed unnecessary.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

Cutting flax or hemp straw before it is broken, so as to separate the seed ends from the residue of the stock and divide the fiber into equal, or nearly equal lengths suitable for spinning by ordinary cotton-spinning machinery, as and for the purpose herein specified:

JOHN P. COMLY.

Witnesses:

H. W. SMITH,
JOHN INGRAM.