

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

CLEMENT KEEN, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR TO  
KEEN & CO.

## IMPROVED COVERING FOR FLOORS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 58,171, dated September 18, 1866; antedated  
September 2, 1866.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CLEMENT KEEN, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented a new and Improved Covering for Floors; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

My improved covering for floors consists of burlap or other equivalent textile fabric combined with paper, substantially as described hereinafter, so as to afford an economical and durable substitute for ordinary oil-cloths.

In order to enable others to make my invention, I will now proceed to describe the manner of carrying it into effect.

I take a coarse fabric—such, for instance, as the fabric known as “burlap,” which is used in the manufacture of ordinary oil-cloths, and the texture of which is such that there are open spaces or interstices between the weft and the warp. Other coarse and cheap fabrics may be used in carrying out my invention—such, for instance as sacking and coarse muslin and like fabrics which have no open spaces between the weft and warp, but in which the depressions and projections are prominent; although I prefer the burlap and kindred fabrics, for reasons which will be rendered apparent hereinafter.

The fabric having been selected, I take sheets of tough manila paper, or other paper having a hard and durable surface, and dampen the same, so as to reduce it to a semi-pulpy state, and, after coating it with paste or other cement, place it, pasted side down, on the fabric, to one or both sides of which the paper is applied. I then pass the papered fabric between pressure-rolls, or subject it to other pressure, which causes the paper to penetrate the interstices of the fabric. If the latter be burlap, the pasted surfaces of the paper on opposite sides will meet each other, and be connected together wherever the interstices occur; and if the fabric be of the character above alluded to—that is, a fabric with no open spaces, but with prominent depressions and projections—the pasted paper will penetrate the former, and will become, as it were, incorporated with the fabric. In either case the product will be a durable combination of paper and textile fabric, the paper serving to retain the strands of the fabric in an immovable position, the strands retaining such a hold of the paper that the latter cannot be separated therefrom.

The surface of the floor-covering thus produced may be ornamented by stenciling or printing, or painting in oil or water colors; and the ornamented surface may be varnished, or the paper may be printed or otherwise ornamented before applying it to the textile fabric.

While the floor-covering thus manufactured is as durable as ordinary oil-cloth, it is much cheaper than the latter. This is owing not only to the small cost of the materials used, but also to the fact that the floor-covering can be completed, ready for use, in as many hours as it takes months to make and dry ordinary oil-cloths fit for the market.

The floor-covering may be made during the process of manufacturing what is termed “couched” paper—that is, paper made in two sheets, united, while in a semi-pulpy state, by passing them between pressure-rollers, a partial felting of the two sheets taking place during this pressure. A roll of burlap or other fabric may be so arranged on the paper-machine that the fabric can pass between the two semi-pulpy and continuous sheets of paper, which, by the action of the pressure-rollers, are united to the fabric, little or no paste being required to effect the desired union.

Still another plan may be adopted for carrying out my invention. The burlap or other fabric may be passed through a trough containing water and pulp, the burlap taking up sufficient of the pulp to afford a coating, which is pressed into the interstices of the fabric by suitable rolls.

If paper be applied to one side only of the fabric the back may be coated with a cheap pigment or with boiled linseed-oil, to render it water-proof and available for awnings, &c.

I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

As a new manufacture, a floor-covering consisting of burlap, or other equivalent textile fabric, and paper or paper-pulp, combined substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CLEMENT KEEN.

Witnesses:

H. HOWSON,  
JOHN WHITE.